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Prayer Is Central To The Life Of Discalced Carmelite Nuns

As the Church celebrates the Year of Consecrated Life, The Catholic Register will be featuring the life and ministries of religious communities of men and women serving in the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown.



By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein

How many hours a day do the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Loretto spend in prayer?

“All day! Our whole life is prayer,” said Mother John of the Cross, prioress of the Monastery of Saint Therese of Lisieux, amused that someone would even pose the question.

When prompted to provide a more detailed accounting of how those hours are spent, Mother John noted that the nuns spend seven hours in communal prayer in the “choir,” the cloistered section of their chapel. These hours are accounted for by Mass and the canonical hours of the Divine Office.

The Carmelites also spend two hours in private, contemplative prayer every day, and that time can be spent in choir or in their own cell. “And we all make visits throughout the day to the Blessed Sacrament,” Mother John noted, adding “The choir is the center of our home. It is the bright spot that makes our house a home.”

But since January 12, that “heart” has been under repair, as the first extensive renovations to be made to the chapel since the 1960s have begun. Built in 1930, the chapel and choir were renovated to accommodate the liturgical changes of Vatican II, but now more extensive work is called for.

(Continued On Page 10.)

Photo Courtesy Of lorettocarmel.org/Used With Permission

CARMELITE NUN AT PRAYER: A Discalced Carmelite Nun prays quietly in the choir of the chapel at the Carmelite Monastery of Saint Therese of Lisieux in Loretto. The choir and chapel are now closed for renovations that will enhance the life of prayer of the Carmelite Nuns.



High Schools

Prayer

Open House

Lenten Devotions

Altoona: Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School will hold an Open House Sunday, March 22 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Open House is an opportunity for local families to learn more first - hand about Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School and its excellence in academics, student participation, athletics and community and tradition.

For further information regarding the Open House, contact admissions@bguilfoyle.org or (814) 944 - 3636.

Cresson: The Sister Servants of the Sacred Heart will hold all - day adoration and evening Lenten Devotions on the Sundays of Lent at their Province House Chapel, 866 Cambria Street.

Rosary at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by Lamentations (Gorzkie Żale) (in English) at 7:00 p.m. The devotions will include a sermon by a guest homilist, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and veneration of the relic of the Cross of Christ.



SOUPER BOWL: While the Patriots and Seahawks were preparing for the Super Bowl, Saint Benedict School, Carrolltown, students were collecting cans of soup for their “Souper Bowl Competition.” Students in grades Pre - Kindergarten through 8 collected 370 cans of soup for the Saint Vincent DePaul Society. The combined classes of Pre - Kindergarten students collected the most cans of soup per grade to win the competition. Students in the afternoon Pre - K 4 class are shown with their teacher, Gloria Demi. (Left to right) First row: Hayden Dibble, Michaela Wallen, Morgan Yeckley, Caitlyn Bishop, Olivia Walls, Joseph Kirsch. Second row: Levi Lanzendorfer, Amelia Bertram, Harrison Snyder, Gaven Farabaugh, Levi Server and Arianna Jasper.

**Anticipated Elementary Teachers (s)
Pennsylvania PK-8 Certification Required
Full Time, Part Time, Substitutes**

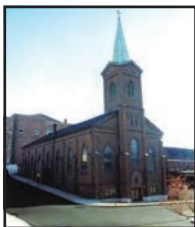
Position(s) potentially available across all eight counties of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown beginning of 2015-16 school year. All candidates must submit a letter of interest, resume, the PA Standard Application OR Diocesan Teaching Application (<http://www.dioceseaj.org/education-office>), college transcripts, PA Certification, three letters of recommendation (two professional, one from pastor), current (within one year) Act 151, Act 34, and Act 114 clearances, Act 168 Employment History Check, and completion of Diocesan Youth Protection Program.

Send complete Application packets to:

Ms. Jo-Ann Semko
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
Education Office
933 S. Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648



*In the heart of “Dutch Hill,”
a Lenten tradition continues . . .*



Lenten Seafood Buffet

Eat In or Take out

Featuring Weekly Chef’s Special

**Served at Saint Mary Parish
Memorial Hall 4th Avenue and 15th Street
Every Friday in Lent
(Except Good Friday)
4:30 - 7:00 p.m.**



**Adult - - \$11.00
Children Ages 3 - 12 - - \$5.00
Children Under 3 - - Free
Takeout Dinners - - \$8.00**



Voted the 2013 Altoona Mirror “Hometown Favorite”



FIGHTING HUNGER: Saint Patrick School, Newry, recently participated in the Fighting Hunger Challenge through Martin Foods. The students, with the help of parishioners, collected 261 boxes of cereal for donation to the Saint Vincent DePaul Society in Altoona, exceeding their goal of 100 boxes (88 were collected last year). The cereal will be distributed to help feed area children.

In The Alleghenies



THRIFT STORE: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak blessed the new Saint Vincent DePaul Society Thrift Store at 1202 Seventh Avenue, Altoona, during an open house Sunday, February 15. Located in the former Blair Candy building, the store is open Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Donations are accepted during those hours and additional volunteers are welcome. If interested in volunteering, call Janice at (814) 943 - 1981.



The faithful of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown have a unique opportunity to join Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and others from the Diocese in welcoming Pope Francis to Pennsylvania in September, during the World Meeting Of Families. For more details on travel options for this event, please see Page 5 of this edition, or consult www.dioceseaj.org.

Infant Of Prague Novena March 8 to March 16, 2015

St. Andrew Church, 1621 Ferndale Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15905

Novena Devotions (Mass) Each Evening at 7 PM
Confessions Each Evening After Devotions



*Ask The Infant For The Favor You Need
Mark Petition (s), Fill In, And Mail*

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom from an Addiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace of Mind | <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Marriage | <input type="checkbox"/> End To Abortion | <input type="checkbox"/> Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Help | <input type="checkbox"/> World Peace | <input type="checkbox"/> Return of Loved One(s) To God | <input type="checkbox"/> Pope's Intentions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Return To Sacraments | <input type="checkbox"/> Welfare of Parent: | <input type="checkbox"/> Peaceful Death | <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL INTENTIONS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Unity | | | |

Please Light A Candle For My Personal intentions. _____

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Point Of View

"Things where different when we were growing up!" the grey haired gentleman stated emphatically. "These young adults don't know the value of hard work and they surely aren't following any moral code," another man quickly added. Words from several older people of whom I had the pleasure of eaves dropping on during a recent lunch alone at a local restaurant. (No, I don't typically resort to eaves dropping but this time I could not resist!) Although, I was not entirely sure of the nature of the conversation, one thing I was positive was the fact my nerves were getting on edge. I am particularly sensitive to the comments I hear about the young adults of today, especially the youth in our church. Regarding conversations on our church's young adults, my gut reaction is to yell, "Stop! Let me tell you about some young incredible adults, who are not just the future of our church, they are the church and if our church is in their hands we are going to be more than okay!" Why, do I have such a gut filled emotional reaction? Because in the past several months I have encountered some of the most spirit-filled young adults who showed me that despite the darkness, there are lights, beacons of hope who are choosing to not live in the dark but are making a conscious and very unpopular choice to live above the culture and set their world on fire for our Faith, their God. Here is a small glimpse of my encounters which give me such hope.

- I had the pleasure of meet-



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich
**Stories Of Some
 Incredible Young Adults**

ing with an engaged couple, who are not buying into the secular world's need for a big and fancy wedding but are choosing to buy second hand wedding clothes and will be hosting a very simple reception. They are doing this to save for a trip to Rome, for one reason, to have their marriage blessed by Pope Francis. I thanked God.

- Another married couple I met, who instead of listening to secular radio stations, decided to tune into Catholic radio, and by this choice have been moved by the Holy Spirit to learn more about Natural Family planning (NFP). Making a call to the Family Life office to learn about NFP, they have decided to courageously tell their doctor they will no longer be using artificial birth control, which they have been using for the last 12 years. They believe God has planned their bodies perfectly and has given them the knowledge to plan their families responsibly, the exact opposite of what our society encourages young adults to believe. I rejoiced!

- On another occasion, I sat behind a young man, about 16 years of age, who was praying the rosary during Eucharistic Adoration. When I genuflected to leave the pew, my eyes got a

glimpse of a book he was reading, it was titled, "Discerning a Vocation to the Priesthood." I smiled.

- While attempting to register my high - school aged children for a national summer Catholic youth conference, I was taken back, when the young adult on the other end of the line said, "I am sorry all of the registrations are sold out, in fact, the tickets sold out in nine minutes!" (Yes, you read this right, our youth are not selling out a music concert but rather are selling out a conference about our faith.) I am humbled.

Yes, our culture is dark and leads young adults down a very scary and hopeless path. But many other young adults, right here in our beautiful diocese, are following the straight and narrow path. They are on a Godly path, one lit by a passion for their faith, a trail they are not afraid to travel, for they know deep in their hearts; it's a journey they could never leave behind! Altoona - Johnstown Diocese, we are more than Blessed! Pray for our young adults, encourage them and never forget these beautiful people are not the future of our church, they are our Church. Thanks Be to God. Blessings!



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
**Another Day,
 Another Dowager**

I'll admit it: I have a thing for Dowagers.

Having written a few weeks ago about my admiration for the late Dowager Queen Fabiola of Belgium, this week I want to introduce you to my favorite Dowager of all time, Violet Crawley, Dowager Countess of Grantham, a character on "Downton Abbey."

Portrayed by the marvelous Maggie Smith, the Dowager Countess is the moral compass of "Downton Abbey." Her zingy one - liners are often the highlight of an episode, and more often than not express an uncomfortable truth that makes everyone sit up and take notice. Some of my friends and I engage in a friendly competition on Sunday evenings, seeing who can be the first to post that episodes best "Dowagerism" on Facebook. I won the contest on February 15.

Chiding one of her equally sharp - tongued granddaughters, Violet eyed her coldly and said "A lack of compassion is as vulgar as an excess of tears." No sooner had I posted that remark, when a friend responded "She sounds just like Pope Francis!"

Indeed, the Dowager Countess does sound an awful lot like our Holy Father. In the almost two years of his papacy, Francis has challenged us all to move beyond a sappy sentimentalism that cries crocodile tears over the plight of the poor, the neglected, the needy and the downtrodden, and to respond by putting compassion into action, and reaching out to make the world a better and brighter place for those who are suffering.

Pope Francis speaks often of a world in need of compassion, a concrete sharing in the plight of those less fortunate, a reaching out from one's own comfort zone to enter into the discomfort of another and to make their concerns one's own. Visiting a homeless shelter in Rome on May 21, 2013, the Holy Father said "To love God and neighbor is not something abstract but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, so serve Him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus."

The Holy Father practices what he preaches. He has had a section of the public restrooms in Saint Peter's Square turned into a shower room, where the homeless may come and bathe, receive a change of clothes and a bag of toiletries. The Pope knows how much society judges people by their appearance, so barbers and hairdressers are also on call for those needing their services, so that they can go back out, renewed and refreshed and in a better position to find employment, permanent lodging, or simply a place to eat.

The compassion that Pope Francis preaches and practices is based on love and patience, a theme he spoke of at the February 14 consistory when he created 20 new Cardinals. Quoting Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, which includes the famous words "Love is patient, love is kind," Pope Francis said such loving patience means "being able to love without limits, but also to be faithful in particular situations and with practical gestures. It means loving what is great without neglecting what is small."

I think the Dowager Countess would agree, and might sum it up quite pithily by saying "Dry your tears and get your hands dirty!" - a "Dowagerism" that would serve us all well to reflect on and live by in Lent and in all the days to follow!

Pope - Emeritus Benedict Has No Regrets, No Doubts About Decision To Retire, Says Aide

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Retired Pope Benedict XVI has never doubted or regretted his decision to resign, knowing it was the right thing to do for the good of the church, said Archbishop Georg Ganswein, prefect of the papal household and personal secretary to the retired pope.

"The church needs a strong helmsman," and Pope Benedict was keenly aware of his own waning strength while faced with such a demanding ministry, the archbishop said in an interview published Feb. 12 in the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*.

Two years after Pope Benedict's historic announcement Feb. 11 to step down as supreme pontiff, Archbishop Ganswein said the retired pope "is convinced that the decision he made and announced was the right one. He has no doubt."

"He is very serene and certain in this: His decision was necessary and made 'after having repeatedly examined my conscience before God,'" he said, citing words from the pope's Feb. 11, 2013, announcement.

Pope Benedict had told a stunned audience of cardinals assembled for an ordinary public consistory that "I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry."

Archbishop Ganswein said in the interview that Pope Benedict was aware of his "duty not to look out for his own self but for the good of the church."

The pope spelled out the

precise reasons for his decision, the archbishop said, and "all the other considerations and hypotheses are wrong," including assumptions that the pope's resignation was not valid or had not been done in full freedom.

"Hypotheses cannot be based on things that are not true and totally absurd," Archbishop Ganswein said. "Benedict himself said he made his decision with freedom, without any pressure, and he assured his 'reverence and obedience' to the new pope."

The archbishop said doubts about the validity of the resignation and subsequent election of Pope Francis stem from a lack of understanding of the church.

Also, the option for a pope to resign is explicitly written in the Code of Canon Law, which says a pope may step down as long as the decision is made freely and is "duly manifested."

Archbishop Ganswein said Pope Benedict, who will turn 88 in April, is still following the prayerful, quiet life he wanted to dedicate himself to upon his retirement.

Like his namesake, St. Benedict -- the father of Western monasticism -- the retired pope "has chosen a monastic life. He goes out (in public) only when Pope Francis asks him to; as for the rest, he does not accept other invitations," said the archbishop, who lives with retired Pope Benedict in a renovated monastery and has been his personal secretary since 2003.

Archbishop Ganswein told the newspaper that in addition to the pope's usual routine of prayer, reading, keeping up with correspondence, receiving visitors, watching the evening news and walking in the Vatican Gardens, he has been playing the piano much more often: "Mo-



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

POPES EXCHANGE GREETINGS: Pope Francis greets his predecessor, Pope - Emeritus Benedict XVI at the Vatican Saturday, February 14.



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

EMERITUS - POPE AND AIDE: Pope - Emeritus Benedict XVI greets a Cardinal Saturday, February 14 at the Vatican, during a consistory at which Pope Francis created 20 new Cardinals. Behind the retired Pope is his personal secretary, Archbishop Georg Ganswein, who also serves Pope Francis as prefect of the papal household.

Archbishop Ganswein said that Pope Benedict was aware of his "duty not to look out for his own self but for the good of the Church."

zart especially, but also other compositions that come to mind at the moment; he plays from memory."

The only health issues, the archbishop said, are "every now and then his legs give him some problems, that's all." The pope, who has had a pacemaker for several years and uses a cane, still has an incredibly sharp mind, the archbishop added.

When asked what Popes Benedict and Francis might have in common, Archbishop Ganswein said that while their ways of expression are very different, the one thing they share is "the substance, the content, the deposit of faith to be proclaimed, promoted and defended."

Diocesan Faithful Invited To Join Bishop In Greeting Pope In Philadelphia



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

POPE FRANCIS GREETES NEWLY MARRIED COUPLES: Pope Francis greets newly married couples during his general audience in Paul VI hall at the Vatican Wednesday, January 28. Marriage will be one of the topics addressed when the pontiff visits Philadelphia in September for the World Meeting Of Families. The diocesan faithful are invited to travel to the meeting with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak.



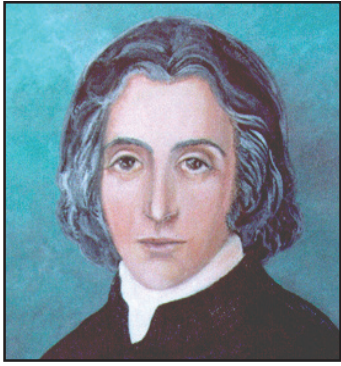
The faithful of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown have a unique opportunity to join Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and others from the Diocese in welcoming Pope Francis to Pennsylvania.

The World Meeting of Families will be held September 22 - 27. Pope Francis has announced that he will travel to Philadelphia for the final days of the gathering September 25 - 27. Detailed plans for the Holy Father's visit are not yet finalized, but he is expected to participate in events including the Festival of Families on September 26. A Papal Mass is scheduled for September 27. Both the Mass and the Festival of Families will take place on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and will be open to the public.

The Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown is offering two pilgrimage options for individuals and families who want to be in Philadelphia during the Pope's visit. The first package is open to adults and families and includes round - trip bus transportation, a three-night hotel stay, some meals, and Mass with Bishop Mark. Pilgrims will depart from Altoona - Johnstown on September 25 and return on September 28.

The second package is open to young adults ages 18 - 25 (no children and youth) and includes round - trip bus transportation, lodging, some meals, and Mass with Bishop Mark. The young adults will depart from Altoona - Johnstown on September 25 and begin their journey home late September 27 or early September 28.

Full details and registration forms for both packages are available on the Diocesan website at www.dioceseaj.org. Registration and an initial non - refundable deposit are due as soon as possible. Reservations are limited and on a first come, first serve basis.



A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840



CNS Photo/Octavio Duran

MURAL DEPICTS ARCHBISHOP ROMERO: A mural depicting Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero is seen in 2005 outside the San Salvador hospital where he was killed while celebrating Mass, March 24, 1980.

Decades Of Debate Conclude As Pope Declares Archbishop Romero A Martyr

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- After decades of debate within the church, Pope Francis formally recognized that Salvadoran

Archbishop Oscar Romero was killed "in hatred of the faith" and not for purely political reasons.

Pope Francis signed the decree Feb. 3, recognizing as martyrdom the March 24, 1980, assassination of Archbishop

Romero in a San Salvador hospital chapel as he celebrated Mass.

The decree clears the way for the beatification of Archbishop Romero.

Archbishop Romero's sainthood cause was opened at the Vatican in 1993, but was delayed for years as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith studied his writings, amid wider debate over whether he had been killed for his faith or for taking political positions against Salvadoran government and against the death squads that were operating in his country. As head of the San Salvadoran Archdiocese from 1977 until his death, his preaching grew increasingly strident in defense of the country's poor and oppressed.

Pope Benedict XVI told reporters in 2007 that the archbishop was "certainly a great witness of the faith" who "merits beatification, I do not doubt." But he said some groups had complicated the sainthood cause by trying to co-opt the archbishop as a political figure.

Seven years later, Pope Francis -- the first Latin American pope -- told reporters that "for me, Romero is a man of God." However, he said at the time, "the process must go ahead, and God must give his sign. If he wants to do so, he will."

During his general audience Jan. 7, Pope Francis quoted words that Archbishop Romero had spoken at the funeral Mass

of a priest assassinated by Salvadoran death squads: "We must all be willing to die for our faith even if the Lord does not grant us this honor."

Although not seen as exercising any pressure to move the cause forward, St. John Paul II made it a point of praying at Archbishop Romero's tomb in the San Salvador cathedral during visits to the city in 1983 and again in 1996.

During his first visit, he told people gathered in the cathedral, "Within the walls of this cathedral rest the mortal remains of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, a zealous pastor whose love of God and service to his brothers and sisters led to the very sacrifice of his life in a violent way as he celebrated the sacrifice of forgiveness and reconciliation."

When Pope John Paul returned 13 years later, he told the people that he wanted to pray again at the tomb of Archbishop Romero, "brutally assassinated while he offered the sacrifice of the Mass." The pope said he was pleased that the archbishop's memory "continues to live among you."

An official decree of martyrdom removes the beatification requirement of a miracle attributed to the candidate's intercession. Generally, a miracle after beatification would still be needed for canonization.

The same day that Pope Francis formally recognized Archbishop Romero's martyrdom, he also signed a decree recognizing the martyrdom of two Polish Conventual Francis-

cans and an Italian missionary priest who were murdered by Shining Path guerrillas in Peru in 1991. Franciscan Fathers Michal Tomaszek and Zbigniew Strzalkowski and Father Alessandro Dordi, a diocesan priest from Bergamo, were killed in separate incidents in August 1991.

Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

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

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


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

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

+ + +



Kindly send information about favors granted to:

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




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135 W. Pitt Street
Bedford, PA
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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis
Life Enriched By Children

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Children are a blessing, not a burden, and are a sign of the confident hope of a couple and of society, Pope Francis said.

"If a family that has been generous in having children is looked upon as a burden, something's wrong," he said Feb. 11 at his weekly general audience.

"The generation of children must be responsible," as Blessed Paul VI wrote in his encyclical "Humanae Vitae," the pope said. "But having more children cannot be looked upon automatically as an irresponsible choice. What is more, not having children is a selfish choice."

Continuing a series of talks about the family, Pope Francis said birthrates are a clear indication of the optimism and hope of a couple and of the society in which they live.

A society that pressures people not to have children, "that considers them a concern, a burden, a risk, is a society that is depressed," he said, pointing particularly to European countries with declining populations because of their low birthrates.

"Life is rejuvenated and energies are increased when life multiplies," he said. "It is enriched, not impoverished!"

"Think about this," he said. "Children are the joy of the family and of society. They aren't a problem of reproductive biology or another way of self-realization. Even less are they a possession of their parents. No! Children are a gift. Understand?"

"Children are a gift," he said. "Each one is unique and unrepeatable."

Departing from his prepared text, Pope Francis told the estimated 11,000 people in St. Peter's Square that he was one of five children. "I remember my mom would say, 'I have five children. Who's my favorite? I have five children like I have five fingers. If you slam this one, it hurts. If you slam that one, it hurts. All five would hurt. All are mine, but they are all different like the fingers on my hand.'"

"A child is loved not because he or she is beautiful or has this quality or that one. No," he said, parents love their children because they are their children.

Being a son or daughter is an experience of unconditional love, he said, because "children are loved even before they are born." Pope Francis said he is always moved when a pregnant woman "shows me her belly and asks for my blessing. These babies are loved even before they come into the world. This is love."

People love their sons and daughters "before they have done anything to deserve it, before they can speak or think, even before they are born," he said. "Being sons and daughters is a fundamental condition for knowing the love of God, who is the ultimate source of this authentic miracle" that is new life.

Children, who rightly hope to make the world a better place, must do so without "arrogance" and always with respect for their parents, he said.

The fourth commandment asks children to "honor thy father and mother," he said. "A society of children who do not honor their parents is a society without honor."

Pope Francis ended his talk asking parents to pause in silence to think about their children and asking everyone to think about their parents "to thank God for the gift of life."



ONE MORE TIME: Holy Cross Parish, Spangler, celebrated the induction of new members of the Holy Name Society in 1960.

Lent has a way of sneaking up on all of us each year. It can be especially hard if you've recently lost a loved one.

On Ash Wednesday two years ago, shortly after my wife died of uterine cancer, I was determined to get to Mass and receive the ashes on my forehead. But as I drove closer to church, thoughts of the annual reminder, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return," were just too much for me.

I drove to the cemetery where Monica is buried and prayed and cried there. Later that morning, I was still wishing I had been able to get to Mass and receive the ashes when I headed to the assisted-living facility/nursing home where Monica's mother and my mom lived.

As I walked onto the nursing home floor where my mother was being cared for, the chaplain, a nun, gave me a big, smudgy thumbs-up from down the hallway. She was distribut-



Your Family

By Bill Dodds
Lent After The Death
Of A Spouse

ing ashes to the residents. Would I like to receive them?

I was close to tears, an oh-so familiar sensation.

Yes!

And to receive Holy Communion?

Yes, yes, yes!

I realized that on a day when I couldn't get to church and to the Eucharist, Christ and his church came to me.

I went on to have lunch with my mom and to spend some time with my mother-in-law in her apartment. On my way home, I stopped by an electronics store and bought a PlayStation 3 video game console.

I started that Lent with a new toy, something that was out of keeping with the penitential season, a little silly for someone my age, out of character for me, and a wonderful distraction. A way to call a "timeout" from the overwhelming thoughts, emotions and necessary tasks associated with the death of a spouse.

Those 40 days were, without a doubt, a time of prayer and a time of reflection on life and death. But it was also a period of long walks, grief-support group meetings and hours playing video games. (Again and again saving the world from space aliens or earthly monsters!)

It was a challenge that, at the time, seemed completely impossible.

I'm telling this story for those who have recently lost their loved one, for those who would like to mark this Lent as they have in the past but just can't.

God knows. God understands. God is with you. Right here. Right now. Be kind to yourself. Be patient. And, sometimes, be pleasantly surprised.



CNS Photo/Mike Crupi, Catholic Courier



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
What About John's Gospel?

Q. I must confess first to a bias, because John the Evangelist is my baptismal patron saint, but I have always wondered why -- in the A, B and C cycles of scriptural readings for Sunday Mass -- the rotation includes only the Gospels written by Matthew, Mark and Luke. (Milwaukee)

A. Prior to the Second Vatican Council, the same readings were used every year for the Sunday Masses. The first reading was usually from one of the epistles, and the Gospel readings were most often taken from Matthew or John, less frequently from Luke and only rarely from Mark.

The bishops present at Vatican II declared that "the treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's word," (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, No. 51).

The result is the Lectionary as we have it today, with a three-

year cycle of Sunday readings. Year A uses for the most part the Gospel of Matthew; in year B, the Gospel of Mark (the shortest of the Gospels) is used, along with Chapter 6 of the Gospel of John. Year C uses Luke's Gospel. In all three years, the Gospel of John is read during the Easter season.

John's Gospel stands out among the four in that it is more deeply theological and sometimes pastorally difficult, which would help to explain why it is not used in the Sunday Lectionary as often as the other three. (Several passages, for example, seem particularly polemical with regard to the Jews.)

Some Scripture scholars do feel, though, that the readings from John are underrepresented in the present version of the Lectionary used at Sunday Masses -- e.g., John's accounts of the call of Philip and Nathanael and of Christ's post-resurrection appearance to Mary Magdalene are not used at all.

Oswald
Of Worcester
Died 992
Feast-February 28



Descended from a Danish military family, Oswald was educated by an uncle who was the Archbishop of Canterbury, in England. He was a Canon at Winchester Cathedral before becoming a priest and Dean there. After continuing his studies and becoming a Benedictine in France, he returned to England and was named Bishop of Worcester in 961. He founded monasteries, promoted scholarship, established a great musical tradition in Worcester, replaced secular canons with monks, and also administered the Diocese of York from 972 until his death. Devoted to the poor and revered for his sanctity, Oswald died after washing and kissing the feet of 12 poor men, his annual Lenten custom.

Q. Recently a close friend of mine died at the age of 77. He was very active in the church, involved in several parish ministries and outwardly seemed always happy, enjoying a near-perfect life. I did know that he had some family, health and business problems, but most people didn't have even a hint of that. He was universally respected and revered.

To my great dismay, his persona was dismantled by our pastor, who said in his funeral homily: "(Name omitted) recently came into my office and opened his heart, telling me that he had physical, emotional, psychological and family problems. Who could think that this man who was always smiling -- friendly and ready to help everyone -- had so many serious issues?"

I was shocked that a priest would reveal private conversation and saddened that my friend's shining armor was tarnished for no reason. No one wanted to hear anything but the best about this beloved friend and brother. Did our pastor overstep his bounds and the vow of confessional privacy when he stepped on my friend? (City of origin withheld.)

A. First (and foremost), your last sentence mentions "confessional privacy." I am quite certain that nothing your pastor said in his homily had been revealed to him in the context of your friend's confessing his sins.

When the homilist mentioned the man's "problems," he probably meant to praise him for carrying himself with apparent joy even while dealing internally with such difficulties. Your question does serve, though, as a valuable caution for priests. Before delivering a homily, a priest ought always to imagine how his words might be received by people in the pews.

Funeral homilies demand a particular delicacy. If the issues the deceased dealt with are common knowledge, a reference might be proper; if, however, the congregation is largely unaware of such matters, they are best left unmentioned.



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
Welcoming A Child Of God

I recently attended the baptism of my first grandchild, 3-month-old Charlotte. I must say, Charlotte is adorable. So, with that impartial assessment out of the way, I offer some reflections that Charlotte's baptism brought to mind.

My parents were in a huge hurry to baptize us. It was the before the Second Vatican Council, when people feared that an unbaptized child would go to "limbo" if he or she died.

It worried my dad, and so, barely out of the hospital, my mom planned our baptisms, as well as the family receptions that followed, complete with linens and the good silver. These days, for most Catholics, limbo hardly fits the concept of a merciful God.

The beautiful words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church describe this sacrament as we should see it: "Holy baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit ... and the door which gives access to the other sacraments."

That's powerful stuff -- "the gateway to life in the Spirit."

Baptism, by the church's definition, anticipates for Charlotte a life of grace. It initiates her into the Christian community. It prepares her to be a follower of Christ, destined to live for the kingdom of God. It opens a beautiful door.

These words are my favorite part of every baptism ceremony: "And when Christ returns may you go out with all the saints to meet him."

I think of Charlotte, walking someday with the community of believers to meet Jesus.

Years ago, I attended the baptism of a child in foster care through a Catholic agency in our Alaskan city. The foster mother desired his baptism. He was sick and destined to die soon. Yet the priest at her parish was concerned with bureaucratic details.

He wanted the birth mother found to provide consent, a nearly impossible mission. A priest at the chancery quietly intervened. Bring him to the regular Friday chancery Mass, he told the foster mom. My husband, who worked for the archdiocese, was the godfather; the foster mom, the godmother. There wasn't a dry eye in the conference room, filled with chancery employees.

"In the eyes of the world, this child means very little," the priest told us that day. "But in the eyes of the church, this child's life is very important."

All baptisms are touching. Charlotte's was moving to me, as she is named for my mother, and wore the baptismal gown my mom made for me so many years ago.

Yet, of all the baptisms I've witnessed, the long-ago baptism of that little boy at the chancery may have been the most powerful of all, as a community to whom he was a stranger welcomed him as a child of God.

Nuns Find Chapel Renovation A Good Metaphor For Lenten Renewal, Change, Conversion

(Continued From Page 1.)

The Carmelites announced at Christmas - time that the chapel and choir are "in need of much repair to plaster ceilings, flooring, pews and woodwork, as well as walls and stained glass windows. There is also much cleaning and refurbishing to be done," according to a statement on the monastery's website, lorettocarmel.org.

Interviewed at the monastery on Friday, February 13, one month into the renovation project, Mother John said the community has, for the past month, been praying in a temporary chapel "in a small upper room in the monastery that we are calling 'Little Saint Joseph's Chapel.'

"We couldn't move the big statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel from our choir to the temporary chapel, so we put the statue of Saint Joseph between the seats of the prioress and the subprioress. He is the patron of this project. It's certainly been quite an experience!"

And the experience of praying in such close quarters, in close proximity to the Blessed Sacrament "has been so inspir-

ing!," said Mother John. "On the day we moved, the priest said 'You're all in the front row now! This is really togetherness!,' and the first time we gathered there for Mass I found myself thinking 'I could reach out and touch Father's vestment. That's how close I am.' And the very next day, the gospel was about the woman with the hemorrhage who reached out and touched the tassel of Jesus' cloak. It was very moving."

But at the end of this month, the nuns will be making another move, into another temporary chapel in a portion of their recreation room. They're making the move for a very good reason: two young women are coming to Loretto to try their vocations at the Carmelite Monastery.

Mother John of the Cross said it is prayer that is drawing these young women to Carmel, as prayer has drawn women to the Loretto monastery for over 80 years.

(Continued On Page 11.)



Photos Courtesy Of lorettocarmel.org/Used With Permission

CHAPEL RENOVATION: On January 12, an extensive renovation of the chapel at the Carmelite Monastery in Loretto began. The pews have been removed from the public chapel (top photo), and the nuns have moved out of their cloistered choir to a temporary chapel within the monastery. The work includes the cleaning of all limestone surfaces (bottom photo), and the repair of plaster ceilings, flooring, pews and woodwork, as well as the walls and the stained glass windows. The Discalced Carmelite Nuns say they find the renewal and renovation of their chapel, built in 1930 and last renovated approximately 50 years ago, to be a good metaphor for the renewal all Christians are called to in Lent.



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TEMPORARY SANCTUARY: This is the altar in “Little Saint Joseph’s” the temporary chapel where the Loretto Carmelite Nuns have been praying since January 12, and which they will occupy before moving to another temporary sanctuary at the end of the month.

(Continued From Page 10.)

“We’re all called to a deep intimacy with the Lord,” Mother John reflected, “but for some, there is a persistent, imperative invitation from Him: ‘Come -- Draw closer.’ We don’t want to wait for the next life to live that life of love and praise. We want to start living it right now, by making a total donation of self.”

A Carmelite monastery, Mother John said, witnesses to the truth that “God is. We are not a teaching order. We are not

a nursing community. We are here because God is, and He is worthy of our love and our all.

“That is what these young girls feel. They are experiencing a call to go deeper into reality than what the world can offer them. They see the truth that what the world offers is less. What they’re looking for is to draw closer to the center. That’s what these girls are searching for. They’re coming here to authenticate that call.”

Mother John of the Cross said that when the workmen are

done for the day, the Sisters will peek into the empty choir and chapel to see how the work is progressing, and that they are eager to get in and start cleaning and sweeping up the mess that is left behind. Yet, in the upheaval that has come from tearing this beloved space apart, she and her community see a powerful metaphor for what is taking place in the wider community during the Lenten season.

“So many people have said to us ‘Your chapel is beautiful. It’s so peaceful, so lovely,’ and it is. But when you start looking beyond the surface, when you

start looking more deeply, you see the cracks in the bricks, the deterioration of the flooring, the dust of the years and the faults in the structure.

“During Lent, God calls us all to look deeper -- to look beneath the surface and to look into our souls,” she said.

“Lent is a time of change and conversion. The life of a Christian,” she pointed out “is a constant renewal.”

The Carmelite Nuns are “renewing the beauty of our chapel by going deeper and fixing things, but that’s what we’re all always trying to do, individually



Photo Courtesy Of lorettocarmel.org/Used With Permission

WATER DAMAGE: From floor (left) to ceiling (right) water damage has marked the over 80 - year - old chapel and choir of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of the Monastery of Saint Therese of Lisieux in Loretto.

Faith - Based Activities

(Continued From Page 16.)

Jesse Manibusan is the guest speaker and Swope said this is one speaker our young people shouldn’t miss.

Also, the annual Catholic Life Conference will be held on October 17 at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson.

The National Catholic Youth Conference will be held on November 19, 20 & 21 in Indianapolis, and Swope is already excited. “Everyone had such a really great time two years ago. It’s an amazing event

to experience.” All the information on the trip can be obtained through local parishes and the Catholic High Schools.

“We really have a lot planned for the young people in our diocese. I hope they get an opportunity to take advantage of these experiences.”

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Executive Director

At Valentine's Day Ceremony, Pope Says Becoming A Cardinal A Call To Greater Love

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In a Valentine's Day ceremony to create 20 new cardinals, Pope Francis offered a meditation on Christian love and, especially, what it means for those who guide and minister in the church.

"The greater our responsibility in serving the church, the more our hearts must expand according to the measure of the heart of Christ," he said Feb. 14 during the consistory, a prayer service during which he personally welcomed 19 churchmen into the College of Cardinals.

The 20th new cardinal, 95-year-old Colombian Cardinal Jose Pimiento Rodriguez,

retired bishop of Manizales, was unable to attend the ceremony and was to receive his red biretta -- a three-cornered hat -- and his cardinal's ring in his homeland.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI attended the ceremony, sitting in the front row of St. Peter's Basilica alongside the already existing members of the College of Cardinals.

Pope Francis' meditation at the ceremony focused on the famous passage about love from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (13:4-7), which begins: "Love is patient, love is kind."

(Continued On Page 13.)



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

NEW CARDINALS EXCHANGE GREETINGS: New French Cardinal Dominique Mamberti, prefect of the Apostolic Signature, and new Cardinal Soane Mafi of Tonga exchange greetings after they were made Cardinals by Pope Francis during a consistory in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Saturday, February 14. The Pope created 20 new Cardinals.



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

EMBRACES ETHIOPIAN CARDINAL: Pope Francis embraces new Cardinal Berhaneyesus Souraphiel of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, after presenting a red hat to him during a consistory in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Saturday, February 14. The 20 new Cardinals created at the ceremony come from 18 nations, including three that have never had a Cardinal before.

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FIRST FROM HIS COUNTRY: New Cardinal Arlindo Gomes Furtado of Santiago de Cabo Verde, Cape Verde, carries his scroll after receiving his red biretta from Pope Francis during a Saturday, February 14 consistory at the Vatican. The new Cardinal is the first from the island nation off the coast of West Africa.

(Continued From Page 12.)

“All of us, myself first,” should be guided by St. Paul’s words, he said, because every Christian ministry “flows from charity, must be exercised in charity and is ordered toward charity.”

The patience Christian love calls for, he said, is a call to

catholicity. “It means being able to love without limits, but also to be faithful in particular situations and with practical gestures. It means loving what is great without neglecting what is small.”

St. Paul says love is “not jealous or boastful” and truly being neither, the pope said, “is surely a miracle of love since

we humans -- all of us, at every stage of our lives -- are inclined to jealousy and pride since our nature is wounded by sin.”

Not being “irritable or resentful” can be a challenge for a pastor, especially when dealing with other clerics, Pope Francis told the new cardinals.

“Charity alone frees us” from the temptation of snapping

at others and, especially, from “the mortal danger of pent-up anger, of that smoldering anger which makes us brood over wrongs we have received,” he said. “This is unacceptable in a man of the church.”

St. Paul’s statement that love rejoices over what is right, the pope said, means “those called to the service of governance in the church need to have a strong sense of justice, so that any form of injustice becomes unacceptable, even those which might bring gain to himself or to the church.”

The new cardinals and all Christians, he said, can find a synopsis of their calling in St. Paul’s affirmation that love “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Christians, the pope said, should be “persons always ready to forgive; always ready to trust, because we are full of faith in God; always ready to inspire hope, because we ourselves are full of hope in God; persons ready to bear patiently every situation and each of our brothers and sisters, in union with Christ, who bore with love the burden of our sins.”

The 20 new cardinals come from 18 nations, including three -- Cape Verde, Myanmar and Tonga -- that had never had a cardinal before. Only one of the cardinals works in the Roman

Curia: French Cardinal Dominique Mamberti, head of the Apostolic Signature, the Vatican’s highest court.

With the creation of the 20 new cardinals, the College of Cardinals expanded to 227 members, 125 of whom are under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

In their first official act as cardinals, the new members of the college attested to their support for Pope Francis to proceed with the canonization of three women:

-- Blessed Jeanne Emilie De Villeneuve, the French founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

-- Blessed Mary Alphonsine Danil Ghattas, the Jerusalem-born founder of the Dominican Sisters of the Holy Rosary of Jerusalem, the first Palestinian religious order.

-- Blessed Mariam Baouardy, a Melkite Catholic member of the Discalced Carmelites. She was born in 1846 in Ibillin, in the Galilee region of what is now Israel, and died in Bethlehem in 1878.

The pope announced the canonization ceremony will be held May 17 and also will include the canonization of Italian Blessed Maria Cristina Brando, founder of the Oblation Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.



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'Jupiter' Ascends To Unintentionally Hilarious Heights

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Heavenly bodies -- human and alien -- collide in spectacular fashion in "Jupiter Ascending" (Warner Bros.), a 3-D science-fiction romp through the cosmos.

Written and directed by Lana and Andy Wachowski, cre-

ators of The "Matrix" trilogy, the film is an action-packed, mythology-laden mash-up of several classic fantasy films, most notably "The Wizard of Oz."

Instead of Dorothy Gale, we have Jupiter Jones (Mila Kunis), who leaves her drab Chicago home for a grand galactic adventure, guided by a hunky alien, Caine (Channing Tatum), a human-wolf hybrid with pointy ears.



CNS Photo/Warner Bros.

JUPITER ASCENDING: Channing Tatum and Mila Kunis star in a scene from the movie "Jupiter Ascending." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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A half - hour of local Church news and features

Jupiter finds herself not in Oz but on distant worlds controlled by the royal House of Abrasax. Following the death of the matriarch, three children vie for control of the entire universe. The ruthless elder son, Balem (Eddie Redmayne), conspires against his sister, Kalique (Tuppence Middleton), and playboy brother Titus (Douglas Booth).

In this profoundly non-biblical account, Earth was seeded by the Abrasax eons ago. It now serves as a source of raw material for a magical elixir which keeps the aliens eternally young. In other words, humans are being harvested for food, a la "Soylent Green."

"Life is an act of consumption," cackles Balem.

So where does our heroine

fit in? Jupiter, although born of human parents, is somehow the heir to the entire shebang, thanks to some reincarnation mumbo-jumbo.

We discover this early on when Caine's buddy, an astute beekeeper aptly named Stinger (Sean Bean), sees thousands of bees swarm around the young woman.

"Bees are genetically disposed to recognize royalty," Stinger notes. "Bees never lie."

And how. So Jupiter is swept away by Caine and becomes a pawn in the Abrasax power struggle. This damsel in distress has two goals: Save Earth, and return home to her family in Kansas -- er -- Chicago.

If this all sounds confusing, and more than a little silly, it is, and much of the film is unintentionally hilarious. The Wachowskis may have strong opinions about industrial might, the abuse of power, and the plight of the individual, but these all get lost in the ether.

The film contains intense but bloodless sci-fi action, partial rear nudity, some innuendo, a benign view towards egg donation, and occasional crude and profane language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

March 1 -- Deacon Michael Russo, newly - appointed Director of the Permanent Diaconate, will talk about his new responsibilities and his vision for the future.

March 8 -- Three Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School students will discuss the school's new on - line newspaper and test out their interviewing skills on Bishop Mark.

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Work Begins On Washington's Museum Of The Bible

By Nate Madden
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- On a gray and overcast morning in Washington, just a short walk from Capitol Hill, construction work began on a museum intended to promote engagement,

**May
They Rest
In Peace**



**Sister Beatrice Orient
C.S.J.**

Sister Beatrice orient, 84, died, Sunday, February 8, at Villa Saint Joseph in her 67th year as a Sister of Saint Joseph of Baden.

The daughter of John J. and Catherine S. (West) Orient, Sister Beatrice entered the Congregation from Saint Agatha Parish, Bridgeville. For twenty years Sister Beatrice ministered as a teacher in the Dioceses of Altoona - Johnstown, Greensburg and Pittsburgh. She also served in the clerical department at Quigley High School, as a tutor at the Beaver County Rehab Center, and as an aide in the Motherhouse infirmary.

From 1980 until the present Sister Beatrice volunteered in various ministries in the Motherhouse while faithfully visiting the elderly, and the sick and dying, including the residents of Villa Saint Joseph.

Sister Beatrice is survived by nieces, nephews and cousins.

The funeral mass for Sister Beatrice Orient C.S.J. was celebrated Wednesday, February 11 in the chapel of Saint Joseph Convent, Baden. Committal was in the Sisters' Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Sisters of Saint Joseph Memorial Fund, Saint Joseph Convent, 1020 State Street, Baden PA 15005.

education and discussion of the Bible.

The 430,000-square-foot museum will feature a 200-foot LED screen on the lobby ceiling, displaying a set of rotating images from Israel, Rome and Spain.

It also will have a facade modeled after various printed manuscripts of the Bible,

**Sister Anita Marie Zubay
C.S.J.**

Sister Anita Marie Zubay, 84, died Sunday, February 8, at Villa Saint Joseph in her 57th year as a Sister of Saint Joseph of Baden.

The daughter of the late Martin and Mary (Cedzo) Zubay, Sister Anita Marie entered the Congregation from Saint Martha Parish in Leechburg. For more than thirty-five years Sister Anita Marie ministered as a teacher in the Dioceses of Altoona - Johnstown, Greensburg and Pittsburgh, and in Ohio. Following her years in education, Sister Anita Marie served on the Congregational Archives staff from 2000 - 2008.

In 2008 Sister Anita Marie became a resident of Villa St. Joseph due to her declining health.

Surviving is a brother, Martin of Hyde Park, and four sisters, Theresa Zubay, Anne Zubay, and Martha Zubay of Hyde Park, and Elizabeth Scott of Leechburg, two nephews, one great niece, and two great-nephews.

The funeral Mass for Sister Anita Marie Zubay was celebrated Friday, February 13 in the chapel of Saint Joseph Convent, Baden. Committal was in the Sisters' Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Sisters of Saint Joseph Memorial Fund, Saint Joseph Convent, 1020 State Street, Baden PA 15005

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



CNS Photo/Courtesy Smith Group JJR

MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE: This architectural rendering shows how the Museum of the Bible planned for Washington will look. Opening in 2017, the eight-story, 430,000-square-foot museum is being designed by the lead architect group that created the International Spy Museum, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, and the soon-to-open National Museum of African American History and Culture.

stained-glass windows from Germany, and a top-floor, glass-enclosed promenade that will offer "some amazing views" of the National Mall and the Capitol, according to project director Brian Flegel.

"D Street and the area around it are going to be getting a bit of a 'facelift'" as a result of the construction, Flegel told the media Feb. 12 at the groundbreaking while showing proposed designs of the eight-story, \$400 million museum.

It also will have an environmentally sustainable "green roof," a "biblical garden" and a "Foods of the Bible" restaurant, which will be "inspired by the bazaars and markets of the Middle East."

The site of the museum is a historic warehouse near the Federal Center and just two blocks south of the National Mall.

Architectural plans call for restoring the exterior of the building, originally built in the 1920s as a refrigeration warehouse for the District of Columbia, and gutting the interior to build the museum's various features. It is scheduled to open in November 2017.

"This is a museum dedicated to one book," Cary Summers, museum president, told

reporters. "It's the most widely sold book in history, most debated book in history and most banned book in history. It's the one that has the most controversy of any book in history and it's also the book that has impacted the world more than any single piece of literature that's ever been written.

"People ask why we do this. We believe that it's such an important part of our daily life that we should focus our time and efforts so that other people can be engaged with the Bible, just as we are."

Summers said the museum "will engage heavily with the academic side of the study of the Bible, as well as the scholarship side, which we will have a whole wing devoted to" as well as whole floors dedicated to "the impact of the Bible, the history of the Bible, and the narrative or stories of the Bible."

Most research and scholarship done at the museum will be done by the Green Scholars Initiative, its research arm, which currently has "a select group of senior research scholars from academic institutions around the world who are conducting primary research" on ancient artifacts and manuscripts.

The exhibits will feature

pieces from several different libraries around the world, as well as the museum's own private collection. The Museum of the Bible currently boasts "the largest private collection of biblical manuscripts and artifacts" on earth, according to Summers.

"We have collected over 44,000 items over the past several years" said the chairman of the board, Steve Green, which includes "dead sea scrolls fragments, Gutenberg portions, and papyrus fragments" among others.

Green, who also is the president of Hobby Lobby, said that he hopes the museum will be a way for all people to learn about and engage with the Bible, regardless of faith or theological expertise.

"We would like all people to come and learn about a book that has impacted our world," he told reporters adding that "it's a book that's had a huge impact. It's been loved, and it's been hated. We just want people to come and learn about it."

When asked if the museum's goal was to bring people to Christianity, he answered that "we would hope that people would consider what the book has to say ... if it's compelling, then that's a decision they can make on their own."

When questioned about concerns that it would have a specific religious or denominational agenda, Summers assured the media that the museum is taking a "very nonsectarian approach" to its development, which includes "many different Jewish, Catholic and Protestant groups."

In addition to working with Catholic groups, the museum also has a "very strong working relationship" with the Vatican Museums and the Vatican Library, according to Summers. "We've had two of our moving exhibits on display there. They've loaned us items and vice versa. We also have some of their people involved with us as advisers to this museum."

"It's very exciting to see this project getting started," Green said.

Faith - Based Activities For Young People, Families Being Planned By Youth Ministry Office

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

If you're looking for some faith - based activities for your child to participate in throughout the year you need look no further than the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese.

"We have a lot planned and we're continuing to develop other activities for our young people," said Francine Swope. Swope is the director of Youth Ministry, Religious Education, and Sacramental Preparation for the Diocese.

The first big event is Junior High Youth Day, which will be held on Sunday, March 15 at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg. The keynote speaker, back by popular demand is Will Smith, who Swope says the kids really enjoyed last year. "He's not Will Smith the actor," she laughed, "but his message resonates well with the students. They all loved him the last time he was here.

"He has a wonderful way of connecting with young people as he shares his life and faith stories." Smith, from the Greensburg Diocese, is also an accomplished musician and uses music to present his message to the kids.

The theme of this year's day is: "Rejoice In the Lord Always." Swope said the mes-

sage being presented to the six through eighth - graders says that, "No matter what is going in our lives, good or bad, Jesus loves us and He will always be at our side." Smith wrote a song, "Rejoice in the Lord Always," especially for the Youth Convention.

"I really encourage parents and grandparents to invite their young people to participate in this great faith experience," Swope said.

The day features games and events with which the kids always have a good time. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will celebrate the closing Mass. "The Planning Team and I have an enjoyable day planned," Swope added.

Persons can register for the event by contacting their parish director of Religious Education or Catholic School principal.

Swope and her committee continue to develop plans for the popular annual summer camps Zacchaeus and Timothy.

Camp Timothy, for students in grades 10 - 12, will be held June 21 - 25 at Camp Sequanota in Jennerstown.

Camp Zacchaeus designed for newly graduated seniors, will hold two sessions. The first is July 19 to the 24, followed by second session; July 26 to 31. They, too, will be held at Camp Sequanota in Jennerstown.

"The kids leave always having had a great time. They



JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH DAY: Junior High students from Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Cresson, posed with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak at Junior High Youth Day held March 23, 2014. Almost 300 youngsters took part in last year's event. This year, the program will be held Sunday, March 15 at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg.

enjoy making new friends with persons from around our eight - county Diocese they wouldn't normally get to meet," Swope said. "There are always some great lasting friendships that develop at the camps."

Persons can pick up registration brochures for the camps at the Youth Ministry Office located at the Diocesan offices at 933 South Logan Boulevard

in Hollidaysburg or it can be downloaded from the diocesan web site at www.dioceseaj.org.

The annual Catholic Faith Day will be held on Sunday, June 28 at DelGrosso Amusement Park in Tipton. Information on the purchase of meal tickets and all - day Ride 'N Slide passes will be forthcoming and on the diocesan web site. In addition to all of the park activi-

ties, the day will feature a Mass with Bishop Mark. L. Bartchak and a diocesan picnic.

Although it's early in the year plans are being developed for the annual Senior High Youth Convention (SHYCON) to be held at Saint Francis University in Loretto.

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