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ECUMENICAL PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: Bishop Michael L. Rhyne of the Allegheny Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (photo at left) was the homilist at the Ecumenical Prayer for Christian Unity Sunday, January 25, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. Pictured at right are the principal participants in the service (left to right) Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop - Emeritus Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa of the American Carpatho - Russian Orthodox Diocese, Bishop Rhyne and Reverend K. Joy Kaufmann of the Presbyterian Presbytery of Huntingdon.

God's Love Unites All Christians, Says Speaker

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

Bishop Michael Rhyne is the relatively new leader of the Allegheny Synod of the Evangelical Church in America.

But, he said the message of ecumenism has existed among Christians since the beginning of time, although discussing it

is more of a recent phenomena. "It wasn't so long ago that gatherings such as this didn't take place."

He reminded that as Christians "We have a lot more in common than what divides us for one main reason. We are all loved by the one God that made Heaven and earth."

Bishop Rhyne was the homilist at the annual Ecumenical Prayer For Christian Unity held

Sunday, January 25 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.

Also participating were Bishop Mark L. Bartchak of the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese; Bishop - Emeritus Joseph V. Adamec; Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, Ruling Bishop of The American Carpatho - Russian Orthodox Diocese; and Reverend K. Joy Kaufmann, General Presbyter, Presbyterian Presbytery of Huntingdon.

Bishop Rhyne said he was honored to be the guest homilist and thanked Bishop Bartchak for his kindness.

Bishop Rhyne spoke of the Gospel reading in which Jesus speaks to a Samaritan woman at the well and asks her for water. "You're probably wondering what this story has to do with ecumenism. This is a very significant story."

Bishop Rhyne explained that in those ancient times the

Samaritans weren't looked upon with much kindness. They were regarded as a lower class of people. The people of Galilee, Judea, and Israel saw themselves as something much different and superior. They accused the Samaritans of trying to worship their God.

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VFW PRIZE WINNERS: The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Saint Benedict post, awarded four students from Saint Benedict School, Carrolltown, the top prizes in an essay contest. The theme of the contest was "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans". Pictured from left to right are Eric Farabaugh, Delia Morchesky, Emily Cunningham and Mary Hoover.



YOUNG ARTISTS: Twelve students in grades seven and eight from Holy Name School, Ebensburg, will have their work displayed at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art Artists of the 21st Century Exhibit on the campus of Saint Francis University, Loretto. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Meagan Leahey, Marlee Howard, Lily Golden, Elisabeth Keim. Second row: Alexandra Boyles, Carly Clark, Jeremy Koenig, Jenna Bobroski. Third row: Caroline Ratchford, Evan Becquet, Samantha Rosenberger and Myia Hines.

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Adult Enrichment

Classes Scheduled

Johnstown: The Office of Adult Enrichment/Lay Ecclesial Ministry, announces the following schedule of classes:

"Saint Paul" - - Facilitator: Monsignor Robert Mazur. Location: Seton Suite, Cathedral, Altoona; Tuesdays: 1:00 - 3:30 p.m., February 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17.

Registration Fee: \$45.00 (Participants are asked to bring a Bible).

This six week course explores fresh insights into Paul's message of the Kingdom of God, its challenge to Roman Imperial Theology, and the Apostle's relevance for today. Participants will examine the growth of the early Church and the theological and cultural setting for Paul's writings in the early Church. This class provides an excellent opportunity for ongoing formation.

"Christian Prayer and Spirituality" (three locations) - - Fa-

Facilitator: Deacon Michael Russo. Location: Saint Patrick School Building, Johnstown; Tuesdays: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., March 10, 17, 24; April 7, 28; May 5, 12, 19.

Facilitator: Sr. Marilyn Welch. Location: Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Duncansville; Wednesdays: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., March 11, 18, 25; April 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6.

Facilitator: Deacon Chip Young. Location: Holy Spirit Parish, Lock Haven; Wednesdays: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., March 11, 18, 25; April 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6.

Registration Fee: \$35.00, Book Fee: \$20.00.

For Christians the term "spirituality" denotes the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the faithful which conforms them to Christ's self-offering to the Father. Although the process originates in Divine Life, it demands freewill cooperation of the creature. This dynamic transformation, which is the fruit of Christ's Paschal Mystery, draws believers from sin's moribund isolation, into love's communion. The purpose of

this course is to examine how this process has been made evident in Salvation History in the hopes that a better understanding of these workings might aid the participants' faith life, and enhance their study of theology.

"Church History" (two locations) - - Facilitator: Donald Gibboney. Location: Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Duncansville; Tuesdays: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., March 10, 17, 24; April 7, 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19.

Facilitator: Deacon Thomas Buige. Location: Saint John Vianney Parish, Mundy's Corner; Tuesdays: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., March 10, 17, 24; April 7, 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19.

Registration Fee: \$45.00.

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(Continued On Page 3.)

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 2.)

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Feeding The Hungry

Hollidaysburg: The Monastery Community Gardens, located at Saint Bernardine Monastery, has joined the Society of Saint Vincent DePaul in the fight against hunger. Both entities strive to provide food for the poor. The Food Donation Project at the gardens has grown and distributed thousands of pounds of fresh, organically grown vegetables to various charitable agencies over the last five years.

The Project is an all volunteer effort that serves the SVDP soup kitchen and food banks along with the American Rescue Worker's food bank, emergency shelters, nursing homes, other food charities and wherever a need arises.

To learn more, visit monasterygardens.weebly.com, or call Pat Trimble at (814) 942 - 8254.

Cresson: The keynote address delivered by Mount Aloysius College president Tom Foley to the Cresson American Legion Post on Veterans Day was selected for inclusion in the prestigious journal **Vital Speeches Of The Day**. Vital Speeches publishes 120 speeches per year by thought-leaders from around the world. President Foley's address, "Veterans Day Remembrance: Of Soldiers and Dreamers," appeared in an issue which contained 10 speeches, including recent remarks by President Barack Obama, British Prime Minister David Cameron, Australian Aboriginal leader Noel Pearson and the celebrated American writer, Ursula Le Guin.

(Continued On Page 6.)



SAINT NICHOLAS VISITS: The religious education students, grades 1 - 12 at Holy Spirit Parish, Lock Haven, enjoyed a Saint Nicholas Party on Sunday, December 14, 2014. The children enjoyed learning about the life of Saint Nicholas. The party was organized by the Faith Formation Committee. Teachers and Faith Formation Committee Members participated by playing games, singing Advent songs, doing various crafts with the children, and serving breakfast. Saint Nicholas, portrayed by parishioner Jim Billy, made an appearance and passed out goody bags, containing an orange, a chocolate coin and a candy cane, to all of the guests.



HONORED: Owen Wolf (left) and Matt Gormley (right), of Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, Altoona, were selected defensive and offensive MVPs at the Southern Alleghenies Football Coaches Association banquet at Richland Fire Hall, Sunday., January 25. BG's Justin Wheeler (center) was named Southern Alleghenies Football Coaches Association North Coach of the Year.

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Point Of View

I silently laughed to myself and closed my eyes, for the two year old child in the pew in front of me was doing his best to see how many shades of red his parents face could turn before Mass began. For it was not the throwing of his matchbox cars, that bounced off of the older gentleman's shoe in the pew in front of them that called for his stern reprimand by his father, rather it was that very awkward moment, when in his very excited toddler voice he turned to the person behind him and proudly announced he was wearing his new Sponge Bob underwear that made his parents run for cover.

I laughed so hard that Sunday I almost needed to dismiss myself from Mass, for I knew if couldn't control myself from laughing, I too may have been the second in line for a stern reprimand. How I love moments like this! Of course, I don't enjoy these occasions for the sake of seeing two grown adults composure slowly melt into a puddle of total embarrassment but I adore these occurrences for they are real, unplanned and totally the very special holy moments I am almost positive makes God laugh.

Taking a toddler to Mass, is really in itself an example of a form of martyrdom, a dying of oneself for the sake of bringing our children to Christ. It is not only the task of wiggling them in their clothes, coats and shoes to get them ready for Mass, that leaves parents exhausted but it is the nervous, tension laced silent



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich
Surviving Mass With A Toddler: A Special Kind Of Martyrdom

prayers uttered for their children's behavior throughout the liturgical celebration, that leaves them scurrying for an afternoon nap.

Parents bringing their little ones to Mass is not always easy. In fact, without a doubt, the easier thing to do would be to stay at home. But, for all of those parents, who are willing to take the risk of bringing your children to God, no matter what they may do or say, I applaud you! For it is in these very moments of parenthood you are laying your very self down for the sake of another and more importantly doing it for the sake of our Faith. You are willing to stand the dying to self, even sometimes the mocking and jeers, because you know it is better to present your children God risking the humiliation, then taking the easy road out by leaving them at home.

Jesus said bring the little children to me. He didn't say bring only the most perfectly well behaved, very attentive, non-disruptive children, perfect little angels to him. He said bring the children to me and that is what many overly tired, well in deserve of a month's rest do every Sunday morning. God is

surely proud and so should every member of our faith community when they see these parents in church with their children, for these parents have probably sacrificed more of themselves that morning for another, modeling true dying to self, than any other person in the church.

And for those who have the fortune to witness the hysterical nature of children at mass, considered yourself blessed, for that baby's parents is showing you a real, everyday example of a modern day martyr. Instead of rolling your eyes or giving the "look" take the time to say hello and offer a word of encouragement. Applaud them for their sacrifice and never forget that when you look into the eyes of a tired and very embarrassed parent you are also looking into the soul of a modern day Saint. These parents may never be canonized or mentioned in Church history but they are the ones who are more than willing to sacrifice themselves and their reputations for a noble, eternally rewarding cause, the sake of bringing their children to Christ. "Let the little children come to me, do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Blessings!



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
Waging War On Books

The teaser on the front page of the Nation and World Section of my Sunday morning newspaper was like having an arrow run through my heart: "Libraries Ransacked," it read, "Islamic State Destroys Thousands Of Books."

The Associated Press story about the destruction of books in Iraq summed up succinctly what the war on books is all about: "When Islamic State group militants invaded the Central Library of Mosul earlier this month, they were on a mission to destroy a familiar enemy: other people's ideas."

With thousands of people dying in conflicts in the Middle East and around the world, it might seem shallow of me to be so upset by the destruction of inanimate objects, like books. Most assuredly, the deaths of countless men, women and children is a tragedy to be deplored. But the wanton destruction of books is also a most devastating atrocity. After all, books and people have so very much in common.

A book, like a person, is rooted in the past. Each one of us is a product of our ancestry - - the people of past generations who gave birth to the people who gave birth to us. Books have the very same sort of genesis. Thinkers from one generation to the next pass along their wisdom, share their ideas, spawning new thoughts, new concepts and new ways of looking at things, that must find expression. The publication of a new book is like the birth of a person: the bringing forth of new life from what has gone before.

Every person, with their feet planted in the present moment, and with their roots sunk firmly in the past, also stands on the very brink of the future - - each person is a bridge to tomorrow and beyond. So, too, with books. Reading something today may well lead better and brighter days ahead. As with people, the potential is always there. That potential must be nurtured and allowed to blossom.

Those who would destroy books are seeking to destroy a most basic human right: the right to think. They would cut off all routes to knowledge, all paths of self expression, all channels for dialogue and debate. They would reduce humankind to a mindless rabble or a race of numbskulls. They would make us all as blinded and blinkered as they are.

Book burning was a favorite terror tactic of Hitler and his Nazi thugs. Like those waging a war on books today, the destruction of the printed page went hand in hand with the destruction of scores of human lives. But, we all know how successful their war was. Maybe that's why today's terrorists want to blot out all records of the past. They don't want us to know that history just keeps repeating itself. They don't want us to know that the record of their ultimate defeat has already been written.

Without books, we wouldn't know that. Those waging the war on books want to make sure we never do.



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

POPE ACCEPTS REPLICA OF LIBERTY BELL: Pope Francis accepts a replica of the Liberty Bell from Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter as Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput looks on during the pope's general audience in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican March 26, 2014. A delegation of government, religious and community leaders from Pennsylvania was meeting with Vatican officials to plan the September 22 - 27, 2015, World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

Diocese Offers Papal Visit Pilgrimage

The Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown is pleased to announce a Pilgrimage to Philadelphia for the Papal Visit September 25 - 28, 2015. Join Bishop Mark Bartchak and other faithful from around the Diocese as we welcome Pope Francis to Pennsylvania.

The Diocese is proud to offer two package options. The first package is open to adult individuals and families. The second package is open to young adults ages 18 - 25 and does not include children.

Both packages include round trip bus transportation, lodging, some meals, Mass with Bishop Mark, an indoor refuge, and other amenities.

Reservations for both packages are limited and on a first come, first serve basis. Reservations and an initial non-refundable deposit are due by February 19. For full details and a reservation form, please visit the Diocesan website at www.dioceseaj.org. Prices listed reflect the cost of the pilgrimage based on full busses. If we have less pilgrims, there may be a small upcharge. We reserve the right to change the itinerary.



For full details and a reservation form, please visit the Diocesan website at www.dioceseaj.org.

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 3.)

Foley's speech recounted the experiences of an uncle who was killed in the Second World War and reflected his own experiences as a volunteer in Belfast, Northern Ireland during its "Troubles."

The kernel of President Foley's talk was clear, timeless as war itself, and universal—"War is about winning and losing. Someone wins and someone loses. War is also about how even as we win, we are leaving behind—losing—something of ourselves." His remarks were published in the January 2015

Vol.1 issue of **Vital Speeches Of The Day.**

Instructor Certified

Cresson: Jeffrey R. Sunseri, MS, instructor of Information Technology at Mount Aloysius College has been notified by Global Information Assurance Certification (GIAC) that he has achieved their prescribed level of expertise to be accredited as a Certified Forensic Examiner (GCFE). This credential is an industry standard and reflects high-level focus on computer forensics enabling the certified professional to conduct digital



CONTRIBUTION: Larry Savino (center), Northwest Savings Bank Regional Vice President of Commercial Lending, recently presented a contribution to the Second Century Fund through the PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. Joining Savino at Hollidaysburg Catholic School were Monsignor Stanley Carson (left), Elaine Spencer (principal, right) and several students. Scholarships will benefit students in Blair, Cambria, Centre and Clinton Counties. Business owners interested in diverting their tax dollars to support local Catholic schools are encouraged to contact the Second Century Fund at (814) 695-5577 or at www.secondcenturyfund.org.

St. Peregrine Shrine

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

Saint Peregrine is the Patron Saint of Cancer Sufferers.

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

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

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

Please remember my intentions at the Shrine:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Intention: _____

investigations and manage incident responses. Sunseri's certification will benefit Mount Aloysius College students majoring in Information Technology, Criminal Justice and Forensic Accounting.

Sunseri's post - graduate study in this specialized area of Information Technology ensures his professional proficiency in collecting and analyzing data from Windows computer systems. It reflects his ability to conduct investigations and analysis of data breaches, intrusions and persistent threats. The education leading to the GCFE certification also delves into understanding anti-forensic techniques, and building and documenting advanced digital forensic cases for law enforcement.

The GCFE certification is for information security, legal and law enforcement professionals with a need to understand computer forensic analysis. The certification focuses on core skills required to collect and analyze data from Windows computer systems. GCFE certifies that these professionals have the expertise to conduct typical incident investigations including e-Discovery, forensic analysis and reporting, evidence acquisition, browser forensics and tracing user and application

activities on Windows systems. This type of evidence is commonly collected by investigators in both criminal investigations and civil cases, and is also used in auditing.

Sunseri has been with Mount Aloysius College since 1998 as a Systems Support Analyst. He has been promoted consistently at the College, first to Systems Support Administrator and then as System Administrator before being moved to his faculty position in 2012.

Sunseri earned both the associate of science in micro-computer science and the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology at Mount Aloysius College. He earned the Master of Science in Business Continuity Management from Norwich University.

In addition to his GCFE, Sunseri is credentialed as a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), and as a Certified Organizational Resilience Specialist (CORS). He is a member of the Epsilon Pi Phi Honor Society.

Sunseri is a 14 - year veteran of the U.S. Army and the Pennsylvania National Guard Infantry where he served as a mechanized infantry and infantry team leader. He resides in Gallitzin.

Prayer

Valentine Get - Away

Portage: "Life Centered On Christ," a Valentine's Day get - away for married couples is being sponsored by the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at Sacred Heart Spirituality Center, 1872 Munster Road, on Saturday, February 14.

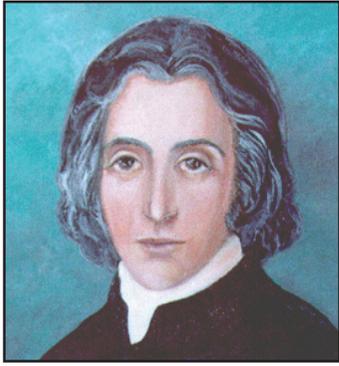
The day is for married couples looking for a chance to renew themselves spiritually and to embrace their married state with greater energy and joy.

The program will last from 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and will include conferences, prayer, Mass, and dinner and movie.

The suggested donation is \$20.00.

Register by Wednesday, February 11 by contacting Sister Jacinta Miryam at (814) 505 - 2290 or sisterjacinta@gmail.com.

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A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

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

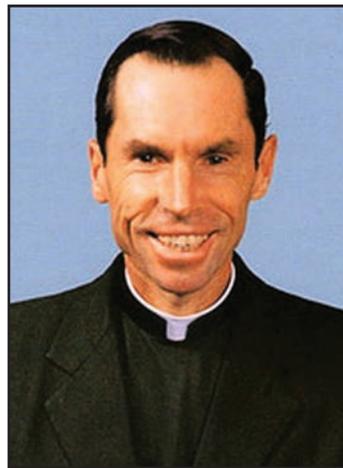
Washington D.C. - Born Priest Named Venerable

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- As a boy growing up in his native Washington, Aloysius Schwartz dreamed of becoming a missionary priest and serving the poor.

As a man, Msgr. Aloysius

Schwartz did just that, founding an order of religious sisters, the Sisters of Mary who joined him in bringing an education, housing and job training to thousands of orphans and street children, and hospitals for the poor in South Korea and the Philippines, work that expanded to Mexico before he died of Lou Gehrig's disease in 1992 at the age of 61.



**VENERABLE
ALOYSIUS SCHWARTZ**

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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newspaper.

"If we simply open our hearts and let God speak to us, wonderful things can happen," he added.

Msgr. Schwartz's legacy lives on the Boystown and Girlstown programs that the Sisters of Mary continue to operate in South Korea, the Philippines, Mexico, Brazil and Guatemala, where they are serving 25,000 poor children. Over the years, those programs started by Msgr. Schwartz and continued by the Sisters of Mary have had 100,000 children graduate and go on to become priests, sisters, teachers, doctors, engineers and accountants, among many careers, after having once been orphans or street children.

In a 1987 interview with the **Catholic Standard**, Msgr. Schwartz said, "As the Spirit leads, I will follow."

Five years later, as he was paralyzed from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease, the priest supervised the building of a new outreach center for children in Chalco, Mexico, and he wrote two books about his work and the spirituality underlying it. Msgr. Schwartz told a freelance journalist just before his death that he wanted his epitaph to read simply, "He tried his best for Jesus."

The son of Louis and Celia Schwartz, the future priest was born in 1930 and grew up in a strong Catholic family with six siblings. He was baptized, received his first Communion, first confession, and confirmation at Holy Name Church in Washington, where he also graduated from the parish school.

Father Michael Briese, now Holy Name's pastor, noted that Msgr. Schwartz was also an altar server there.

"He lived a blessed life, a holy life, and now Father Al is remembered here at Holy Name Parish and throughout the whole church," the pastor said, noting that the parish has a small display in the back of the church devoted to telling the story of Msgr. Schwartz's life and legacy, and the parish bulletin there has a section each week encouraging people to pray for his cause of canonization.

In general, the verification of a miracle attributed to his intercession is required for beatification, and a second such miracle is required for canonization.

Currently, the cause of canonization for another native Washingtonian -- Mary Virginia Merrick -- the founder of the Christ Child Society who died in 1955, is currently underway. Cardinal Wuerl initiated her cause with a decree in 2011, and it is currently in the diocesan phase, with her extensive writings being reviewed.

Msgr. Schwartz was ordained as an archdiocesan priest in 1957 at St. Martin of Tours Church in Washington by Bishop John McNamara.

While studying as seminarian in Louvain, Belgium, Aloysius Schwartz served the poor in Paris during school breaks. A visit to the shrine of the Virgin of the Poor in Banneux, Belgium, inspired him to dedicate his future priesthood to the Virgin of the Poor and to serving the poor.

After his 1957 ordination, Father Aloysius Schwartz began serving as a diocesan priest in Busan, South Korea, where he was shocked by the condition of thousands of street children left orphaned and destitute following the Korean War. He founded the Sisters of Mary in 1964, and they joined him in establishing and operating Boystown and Girlstown programs for children in South Korea, work that later expanded to the other countries where the sisters continue to serve.

The priest, twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and once for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, said in the **Catholic Standard** interview that his greatest honor came in serving "my kids."

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The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

Women Hand On The Faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Why is it that mostly women are the ones who hand down the faith generation after generation, Pope Francis asked.

"Quite simply because it was a woman who brought us Jesus. It's the path Jesus chose. He wanted to have a mother" and chose to come to the world through Mary, the pope said Jan. 26 during Mass in the chapel of his residence, the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

The pope's homily focused on the day's reading from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy (1:1-8) in which the apostle highlights Timothy's "sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice."

"It's one thing to hand down the faith and another thing to teach things about the faith. Faith is a gift. Faith cannot be studied," he said. "Yes, you study the contents of the faith to understand it better, but you never come to faith by studying."

"Faith is a gift from the Holy Spirit, it is a present that goes beyond any kind of training," he said, according to Vatican Radio.

Handing on the faith is "the beautiful work of mothers and grandmothers," or sometimes it comes from an aunt or a domestic helper, the pope said. "We need to reflect on whether women today are aware of this obligation to transmit the faith."

Once a person receives the faith, he said, they also must recognize the need to safeguard it, protect it from becoming weak and "empty pagan chitchat" or "meaningless worldly small talk."

If people are not vigilant in living out their faith concretely every day, "the faith weakens, it gets watered down, it ends up being a culture: 'Yes, well, yes, yes, I am a Christian, yes' -- it's just a culture," he said.

Or else it becomes just another collection of facts or information, he said. "Yes, I know everything about the faith very well, I know the catechism very well," he said, imitating what someone who sees faith only as knowledge might say.

What matters is "how do you live your faith? That is why it is important to revive this gift every day, to make it come alive," the pope said.

People should not be ashamed of their faith, hiding it, letting it become "wishy-washy" or not "living it with total commitment," he said. Cowardice hurts the faith because it doesn't let the faith "grow, go forward, become great."

Echoing St. Paul, the pope said God did not give believers cowardice or embarrassment, but "a spirit of power, love and prudence" or self-control.

Prudence is "knowing that we cannot do everything we want," he said; it means seeking ways to share the faith with care.

"Let us ask the Lord for the grace to have a sincere faith, a faith that does not compromise according to whatever opportunities crop up. A faith that I seek to rekindle every day or at least that I ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle it and that way offer great fruit."



ONE MORE TIME: A 1991 photo shows the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at Saint Patrick Parish, Newry. Wednesday, February 11 is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

"O Mary, Seat of Wisdom, intercede as our Mother for all the sick and for those who care for them!"

Pope Francis offers that prayer near the end of his message for this year's World Day of the Sick, to be marked Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

And, he continues, "grant that, through our service of our suffering neighbors, and through the experience of suffering itself, we may receive and cultivate true wisdom of heart!"

Caregivers and care-receivers -- through those distinct and often difficult vocations to which God calls them -- have the opportunity to grow in wisdom and grace. But it isn't easy.

You know that if you are a caregiver. Or a care-receiver.

What you might not know as a caregiver is why, at times, it seems your care-receiver, your loved one, is making it hard for you to provide that care.

As a social worker, my late wife Monica frequently came across that situation. The family member -- the spouse, the adult child -- just couldn't understand why his or her loved one was digging in those heels and refusing to ... whatever it was.

Later, when we began the Friends of St. John the Caregiver, she would give talks about looking at "caregiving from the care-receiver's point of view."

When conflict arises, what



Your Family

By Bill Dodds

Looking At Caregiving From The Care - Receivers Point of View

can you do? As you make your decisions, it's helpful if you keep in mind these guidelines:

1) Encourage and allow independence.

A part of growing to adulthood is accepting, and sometimes demanding, independence. An illness or mental deterioration can mean the chipping away of that personal freedom. A goal for you as a caregiver is to delay or to minimize that erosion. Your role is to offer assistance that helps your loved one remain as independent as possible.

2) Whenever possible, let your care-receiver be in control.

It's human nature that we want to be in the driver's seat when it comes to our own lives. Giving up control, or having it snatched from us, can make us angry and frightened.

3) Remember, each of us has a God-given right to self-determination.

We were created to make choices. We were given free will. This means that in day-to-day living, your loved one has the right to determine what his or her life will look like. To do

this or to do that.

That's fine in theory, but complicating the issue in the real world of caregivers and care-receivers is the fact that, sadly, at some point your loved one's ability to make safe decisions may begin to fail. He or she may begin to choose what is dangerous or unhealthy or may lapse into self-neglect.

That's not a valid excuse for you to decide on your own that your loved one is incompetent and to take over all decision-making for him or her. It's better for you, and your care-receiver, to ask for a professional geriatric assessment, to help objectively evaluate the situation.

On the Web: More on a care-receiver's point of view

For the first of a three-part series of videos go to: <http://tinyurl.com/care-receiver>.

That information is available in a printable-flier format at: www.catholiccaregivers.com/fliers.html. The same material is available for free by mail by calling the Friends of St. John the Caregiver at 1-800-392-5646.



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
The Length Of Eulogies
At Funeral Masses

Q. I have just watched Mario Cuomo's funeral on television and I noticed that his son Andrew, the current governor, gave a 40-minute eulogy. I was wondering what the Catholic guidelines are with regard to eulogies at funeral Masses. (Albany, New York)

A. Andrew Cuomo's eulogy at his father's funeral has prompted a number of questions from Catholics. It has also created a certain awkwardness for parish priests, who are called upon daily to minister to grieving families while remaining faithful to the liturgical guidelines of the church.

The general rule is clear: Eulogies at Catholic funerals are discouraged. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (the rubrics that serve as a preface to the large red book that the priest reads from at the altar) says simply in No. 382: "At funeral Masses there should usually be a short homily, but to the exclusion of a funeral eulogy

of any kind."

The Order of Christian Funerals (published by the Vatican in 1989), however, gives an option that allows a balance between what is proper and what is pastoral. Section No. 141 of that document restates the prohibition of eulogies: "A brief homily based on the readings should always be given at the funeral liturgy, but never any kind of eulogy."

But further on, the same document (No. 170) allows that: "A member or friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased before the final commendation begins."

The reason for limitations on eulogies has to do with the nature and purpose of a funeral Mass. The liturgy should be focused on the promise of eternal life and the eventual hope of reunion. It is not meant to be a canonization of the deceased.



Apollonia
Died circa 249
Feast - February 9

A middle-aged deaconess in Alexandria, Apollonia was martyred there when mobs roamed the streets torturing and killing Christians. Her death was described by Saint Dionysius of Alexandria in a letter to the Bishop of Antioch: "Next they seized the wonderful old lady Apollonia, battered her till they knocked out all her teeth, built a pyre ... and threatened to burn her alive unless she repeated after them their heathen incantations." She refused and jumped into the fire on her own. Saint Augustine later said she must have been directed in this by the Holy Spirit. The patron of dentists, Apollonia is also invoked for toothaches and gum disease. U.S. dental societies and journals have taken her name.

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The ritual's guidelines envision that such family remarks be brief (coming at the end, when the priest is waiting to pray over the casket), and many dioceses publish specific instructions on length.

In Syracuse, New York, for example, guidelines say: "If permission is granted for a eulogy to be given at the Mass, only one person should speak on behalf of the family and the remembrance should be well-prepared, written and limited to no more than three minutes in length."

The reason for limitations on eulogies has to do with the nature and purpose of a funeral Mass. The liturgy should be focused on the promise of eternal life and the eventual hope of reunion. It is not meant to be a canonization of the deceased.

Instead it is a tribute to the merciful love of Christ and to the victory over death won by Jesus, together with the prayerful plea that the merits of that victory be extended now to the person being prayed for.

Even the most liberal interpretation of the church's guidelines would never permit a 40-minute eulogy. (In the view of more than a few observers, Andrew Cuomo's speech came across as the centerpiece of the ceremony and overwhelmed everything else that the Mass stood for and sought to teach.)

Interestingly and somewhat prophetically, in a 2009 column posted on the New York Archdiocesan website, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan observed that at funerals "the eulogy should be brief, rarely if ever more than three or four minutes; at times the eulogies go so long they overshadow the Mass."

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

The funeral liturgy is a tribute to the merciful love of Christ and to the victory over death won by Jesus, together with the prayerful plea that the merits of that victory be extended now to the person being prayed for.



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
Finding A God Of Mercy
Through Prayer

When my youngest child was 4, I re-entered the workforce after spending time at home raising three children.

Even though I started as a part-time employee, I felt pressured. I was uneasy with myself, often stressed, and during that first year back at work, a family medical crisis added to my lack of peace.

What saved me that year, and what makes that year so memorable, was taking part in what's called the 19th annotation of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. A moms' group in my parish arranged participation in this prayer retreat through a local Jesuit retreat house. We met at the parish, so convenient for me, and the moms arranged the meeting time so that it fit into my work schedule.

Looking back, I realize how God worked in my life to make that happen. Margot Patterson, writing in **National Catholic Reporter** in 2001, says the exercises, as they're called, have "been called a school for freedom, a work of teacherly genius and a powerful tool for conversion."

But what exactly are the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola? First, St. Ignatius was the founder of the Jesuits, and he formulated a program of meditation, prayer and contemplation, which for many centuries was performed during a silent retreat that lasted for 30 days. This is what people refer to when they talk about the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola or the exercises.

The length of time alone would rule out most of us out of taking advantage of them. Fortunately, over several years, the exercises have been adapted in ways that make it possible for busy people to experience the retreat over a period of months. These exercises can take place in the midst of our active lives and are called the 19th annotation.

Do you remember when Pope Francis was interviewed very early in his papacy and was asked, "Who are you?" His answer: "I am a sinner." But he didn't stop there, indeed he added something very joyful and Ignatian. He said, "I am a sinner whom the Lord has looked upon." A sinner, yet loved deeply by God, and God's love is much stronger than our failings. That's a lesson right out of the exercises.

I think it has taken me 20 years since I first made the exercises to really accept that God loves me -- and I'm still working on it.

In theory, I always believed God loved me. The catechism tells me that and Scripture certainly does. But somewhere in my religious education, I came to see a judgmental God, a God who kept "grocery lists" of my sins and loved me with a conditional love. When I was good, God loved me, but I was never good enough.

But through the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, I felt liberated. I felt as if I'd met the real God, the one who is like the prodigal son's father -- always looking down the road and hoping to see us coming, over and over again.

Our group met weekly, with a facilitator, to discuss what we were individually hearing in prayer. Each day, we prayed alone, led by meditations we were given. It was the first time in my life when I really established a set time and schedule for prayer. That in itself was liberating.

In a sense, the exercises taught me not just to pray but to better understand the God to whom I prayed and who prayed through me.



Photos By Bruce A. Tomaselli

VISITS SAINT ANDREW SCHOOL: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak made a Catholic Schools Week visit to Saint Andrew school in Johnstown on Thursday, January 29. Students representing their presented gifts to Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, the priests and deacons that minister to them. Pictured (photo at left are, left to right) First row: Nick Jeffreys, third grade; Leah Gruss, eighth grade; Aden Burkhart, fourth grade; Arontay Henningcamp, fourth grade; and Lillian Cypher, fourth grade. Second row: Conventual Franciscan Father Karl Kolodziejski, pastor of Holy Family Parish, Hooversville; Bishop Bartchak; Father James F. Crookston, rector of Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown; and Father Angelo J. Patti; pastor of Saint Andrew Parish. The students presented the clergy with spiritual bouquets and boxes of candy. Following Mass Bishop Mark joined the students for lunch in the school cafeteria, where he explained the symbolism of his pectoral cross to (left to right) Sierra Shane and Emma Straka.

Additional photos of Catholic Schools Week activities may be found on Page 12.

Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministries Schedule of Classes

~Day Classes~

St. Paul

Seton Suite, Cathedral, Altoona

Facilitator: Rev. Msgr. Robert Mazur-Tuesdays 1:00-3:30 PM

February 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17

Registration Fee: \$45 (please bring a Bible)

Christian Prayer and Spirituality

St. Patrick School Building, Johnstown

Facilitator: Deacon Michael Russo-Tuesdays 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

February 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19, (Wed.) March 25; April 9, 30

Registration Fee: \$35, Book Fee: \$20

~Evening Classes~

Christian Prayer and Spirituality (3 locations)

St. Patrick School Building, Johnstown: Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 PM

March 10, 17, 24; April 7, 28; May 5, 12, 19

St. Catherine of Siena, Duncansville: Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 PM

March 11, 18, 25; April 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6

Holy Spirit Parish, Lock Haven: Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 PM

March 11, 18, 25; April 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6

Registration Fee: \$35 Book Fee: \$20

Church History (2 locations)

St. John Vianney, Mundy's Corner

St. Catherine of Siena, Duncansville: Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 PM

March 10, 17, 24; April 7, 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19

Registration Fee: \$45

Registration forms and course information can be found online at www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry or by calling Marybeth at (814) 361-2000 or email mheinze@dioceseaj.org. All are welcome!



LEADERS: Leaders attending the School Choice Rally at Saint John the Evangelist School in Lake-mont, Altoona on Thursday, January 29 included (left to right), Sister of Charity Donna Marie Leiden (diocesan director of education), Senator John Eichelberger, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and Jo - Ann Semko (assistant diocesan director of education).

Rally For School Choice

(Continued From Page 16.)

In his remarks introducing the rally, DeGol said that 1,625 students, 36 percent of all those enrolled in the Diocese's Catholic schools, received \$1.4 million in tuition assistance from the EITC, through the Second Century Scholarship Fund.

EITC allows business owners to redirect their tax dollars

to educational ventures like the Second Century fund.

Bishop Mark spoke of his hope that "EITC will be expanded, and that school choice will be available as a right to all in our Commonwealth."

Also attending the rally were State representatives John McGinnis and Judy Ward.

"I want to thank those of you who are in government for

listening to the message we want to share with you," Bishop Mark told the legislators.

The Bishop spoke, too, of his gratitude to "all in our local communities - - parents, pupils, business leaders and our diocesan family - - who work together to promote school choice.

"You, and our schools," he said, "have a place in my prayers."

Christian Unity Rooted In God's Love

(Continued From Page 1.)

"The Lord was ridiculed for eating their food and drinking their water. Not only that, he was seen speaking to a woman in public in the middle of the day, which was unheard of in those times and was forbidden," Bishop Rhyme said.

"But, Jesus is showing us something here. He is showing us that He really does love everyone despite our shortcomings or our station in life. Jesus loves you and forgives you your sins no matter what. Jesus is that good. He cares about you no matter what you do."

We must think about how we make decisions and define others, Bishop Rhyme cautioned. "We need to remember that we are all children of God."

He said when we define how others are not like us we are just trying to make ourselves feel superior. "Jesus says that we are much more connected than we think through the waters of Baptism."

God is fully aware of the divisions we put between ourselves and our religious traditions. "We should all ask for forgiveness," Bishop Rhyme said, "because in the center of every Christian tradition is Jesus Christ."

Dialogue between Christian denominations has opened up in the last several years. "Church," he said, "is one place where we can stand together. We are called together to share His mercy and forgiveness. When we understand that, it begins to break down the walls."

Bishop Mark thanked all who participated in the Vesper Service including the priests, deacons, religious and laity in attendance. He also thanked Nina Tedeschi, organist and choir director and the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Choir. Renee Clemens served as cantor; and Christina Michael was the psalmist. Both are members of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.



CELEBRATING GOD'S GIFT OF LIFE: "Celebrating God's Gift Of Life," was the theme of a prayer service at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, on Wednesday, January 21, the eve of the annual March For Life. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak (left photo) presided and greeted worshippers after the service. Local pro-life leaders (right photo) Tom Forr (left) and his wife, Pat (right) were joined by their daughter, Marita (center) at the service.

Bishop: Celebrating Life Means Accepting God's Will, And His Joyful Surprises

**Photos And Text
By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein**

Celebrating God's gift of life means a willingness to accept God's will, and the joyful surprises He sometimes sends us, said Bishop Mark L. Bartchak.

The Bishop made that point at a prayer service with the theme "Celebrating God's Gift Of Life," Wednesday, January 21 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The service was held on the eve of the annual March for Life in Washington DC, and included a blessing for those who would be traveling to the nation's capitol for the March.

A not-so-joyful surprise, several inches of snow in the first of a series of winter storms to hit the area, limited the number of worshippers who attended the event to a mere three dozen, but those who were there heard Bishop Mark reflect upon events in the life of an elderly lady and her family which powerfully illustrated his thesis about God's will and God's surprises.

Bishop Mark spoke of a woman in her late 80s who in the

late Fall was hospitalized, close to death, but who later rallied. She spent a month in the hospital, a month in a rehabilitation facility, and was then transferred to a Catholic nursing home. "Her family was challenged to deal with end-of-life issues," the Bishop explained, noting that the lady had for a long time had in place plans for this transition in her life, which were in accord with Church teachings, and which reflected her wish that she and her family should accept God's will for her.

"Are you thinking of giving up?," the Bishop said someone asked her. The lady replied "No, but if God wants me, I'm ready."

Helping her to rally was the news that one of her granddaughters was to soon give birth to her first child. "It lifted the old lady's spirits to know she would become a great-grandmother again," Bishop Mark said.

An ultrasound scan had shown the young couple that their unborn child would be a boy, according to the Bishop. A boy's name was selected, a nursery had been prepared and decorated for a baby boy, and after less than four hours of labor,

Bishop Mark said, the young mother delivered a healthy baby girl.

"Was there a mistake?," the new parents were asked. The Bishop said they replied "No, not a mistake. Only a joyful surprise."

Those stories, one of the end of life and one about a new life coming into the world show what we mean when we pray "for a greater appreciation of and respect for the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death," said Bishop Mark.

Pope Francis, Bishop Mark said, has pointed out that "reason alone is sufficient enough for recognizing the value of each human life," but that "where reason leaves off, faith makes us appreciate what God has done, and what a great gift He has given us in the gift of life."

Lack of that appreciation, the Bishop said, is a violation of God's rights, and an attack on God's dignity. In praying for a greater appreciation of all human life "we bless the God of all, because God is a part of it all," Bishop Mark stated.

"It is good for us to give witness to the fact of how awe-

some it is to put our faith in the God who loves us, a God of surprises, said the Bishop. "Our witness can and does have an impact. Our witness leads to an appreciation of God's many surprises."

"And if you don't believe me," Bishop Mark said, "I will introduce you to my nearly 89-year-old mother, who was ready to go if God wanted her, and to my niece and her husband, who give thanks to God for the joyful surprise of their daughter."



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Photos By Tony DeGol

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak visited Saint Rose of Lima School, Altoona, on Wednesday, January 28. Following a prayer service, he enjoyed breakfast with the students (photo at left) and then was presented with a Saint Rose fleece jacket and a t - shirt (photo at right) by the fifth grade class.



Photos By Tony DeGol

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BELLEFONTE: Bishop Mark enjoyed lunch and conversation with students at Saint John the Evangelist School in Bellefonte on Wednesday, January 28. Father George Jakopac (back, right), pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, joined the Bishop and students for lunch. During his visit, Bishop Mark chatted with the Kindergarten students (photo at right). The students were dressed in outfits or uniforms that reflect a career option they might choose when they are older. While visiting the school, Bishop Mark participated in a school - wide career assembly that included the Bishop and the parents of students describing their profession.



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Merton At 100: Still Inspiring People To Get Closer To God

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- When Trappist Father Thomas Merton addressed persistent racism in his writing during the 1960s, his message seemingly reached into the future.

Appealing to society to recognize that all people are children of God, Father Merton questioned practices that prevented African-Americans from achieving full equality and called for the end of discrimination in all forms.

It was just one of the priest's stances on important social issues, encompassing race relations, militarism and war, consumerism and the burdens posed by technology.

Father Merton's concerns are as pertinent today as they were when he wrote about them half a century ago, said Paul M. Pearson, director of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky, on the eve of the centennial of the Trappist's birth, Jan. 31, 1915.

"He speaks to us because everything he has to say is as applicable now as when he wrote it," Pearson told Catholic News Service from the center, which serves as a research center and the repository of nearly all of the late Father Merton's poems, essays, correspondence and notes.

"Those social issues he addressed, I think he would be horrified that we're still dealing with them, that nothing has changed," Pearson said.

Researchers and theologians suggest that Father Merton's social concerns stemmed from a deep spirituality and an unending quest to find God. Some consider him a mystic and believe he deserves to be declared a doctor of the church. St. John XXIII and Blessed Paul VI were among church leaders who regularly turned to his writing for inspiration.

Merton was born in Prades, France, near the border with Spain. His parents -- American-born mother Ruth and New Zealand-born father Owen -- were artists. Ruth Jenkins Merton died when Merton was 6; Owen died nine years later.

His challenging childhood and his upbringing and visits to various locales, including France, Italy, New York (after his mother's death) and England shaped the young Merton as much as his gradual discovery of the love of God after years of an unsettled, and at times promiscuous, life as a young adult.

Merton entered the Trappists -- formally the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance -- in Gethsemani, Kentucky, Dec. 10, 1941, three years after being baptized in the Catholic Church. He found the structured and prayer-filled life of a monk appealing. The monastery was a place where he could think about life -- and contemplate the presence of God.

Father Merton's massive autobiography, **The Seven Storey Mountain**, an assignment from his superior who recognized his desire to be a writer,

raised his profile among people searching in their lives. Originally published in 1948, the year before Father Merton's ordination, the work has sold more than 1 million copies and has been translated into more than 15 languages, according to the Thomas Merton Center.

A prolific writer, Father Merton over the course of 20 years wrote hundreds of poems, dozens of essays, thousands of letters and numerous books. He is acknowledged by scholars and theologians as perhaps the most influential Catholic author of the 20th century.

"He's a wonderful writer and poet. He gives you the sense that God is present, God is close and God walks with us," said Christopher Pramuk, associate professor of theology of Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Today, decades after his Dec. 10, 1968, death from electrocution in Bangkok while on pilgrimage to better interfaith understanding with Eastern religions, Father Merton's works continue to be studied; new books reprinting his letters and essays continue to be published.



CNS Photo/Merton Legacy Trust And The Thomas Merton Center At Bellarmine University
TRAPPIST FATHER THOMAS MERTON

In cities around the world, groups of Merton devotees through the International Thomas Merton Society meet for silent prayer and discussion of the Trappist's works.

"He was the one who took contemplation and contemplative prayer out of the monastery," said Ursuline Sister Donna Kristoff, coordinator of the Cleveland chapter, one of 39 in the U.S. and eight overseas. "He

was one of the first ones to show that this is basic Christian practice, that all people need to learn to sit quietly, to find solitude and peace to find God within."

(Continued on Page 15.)



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These are some of the remarks from camper evaluations: It was AWESOME!; It was so much fun and all the people there were so nice and caring!; I had a great time and my friends should come next year! It was so amazing—felt like a second home.; Best time EVER! Most spiritual I've ever felt!; It was the best week of my summer!; It was a wonderful week and I recommend all kids go! I got to meet Bishop Mark!

Don't miss your opportunity!

Now Showing

'Black or White' Aims To Start Conversation On Race

By Mike Nelson
Catholic News Service

BEVERLY HILLS (CNS) -- It is not an overtly "religious" film. Other than a brief funeral scene inside of a church early in the film, there is no mention of God, or of a particular faith or religion.

And yet, "Black or White" is, according to its makers and stars, clearly a film that addresses what might be called "faith-based" values and behaviors --- the importance of family, the need for compassion and forgiveness, the power of love, and the call to respect and value one another.

In "Black or White," inspired by true events in the life of writer-director Mike Binder, a biracial child named Eloise (Jillian Estell) is the subject of

a court custody battle between her white paternal grandfather, Elliott (Kevin Costner), with whom she has spent her life, and her black maternal grandmother, Rowena (Octavia Spencer). Both grandparents love Eloise deeply and, in fact, get along relatively well with one another.

But Elliott, a successful attorney living in an affluent Los Angeles neighborhood, believes that Eloise is better off living with him, though he has just suffered the loss of his wife, with whom he has raised Eloise after the girl's mother (Elliott's daughter) died while giving birth.

Rowena, a successful businesswoman and matriarch of a large extended family living in South Los Angeles, believes Eloise is better off surrounded by loving aunts, uncles and cousins.

The battle is complicated by the sudden appearance of

Eloise's absentee father, Reggie (Andre Holland), trying to overcome a history of drug addiction that fires Elliott's determination to keep Eloise with him. But Elliott's own struggles with alcohol, and his temper, threaten to undermine his efforts.

"Ultimately," said Spencer at a Jan. 21 news conference in Beverly Hills to promote the film, "these people have to figure out what is best for the child, not what's best for themselves."

And, said Binder, it is important to note that "neither Elliott nor Rowena do anything that is not right for the child, even as they disagree with one another."

The process of determining "what is best" provides a number of what Binder called "come to Jesus" moments for all of the central adult characters in the film, as they are forced to deal with their own attitudes about race and lifestyle, even as they question one another's motives.

"Part of the human condition is being able to empathize with someone we don't know, someone whose life experience is different from ours," said Costner, like Spencer ("The Help") an Academy Award winner ("Dances With Wolves").

And that's where Elliott struggles.

"The world Rowena provides is a world that Elliott doesn't completely understand," said Costner. "He's just afraid of it, afraid of South Central. He knows his own world and he thinks his fence and his alarms will keep Eloise safe."

Costner, who as co-producer helped arrange financing for "Black or White" when its prospects for getting made were in doubt, said that his involvement was decided when the first page of the script "started to sing," and every page thereafter told him "I wished I'd have written this."

"As actors, we have a chance to say things that make an impression on people, in a way that sticks with them forever," he said. "And that made me nervous, because I knew I had to get it right. I knew what was at stake."

Spencer said that Costner's determination to "get it right"



CNS Photo/Relativity

BLACK OR WHITE: Kevin Costner and Jillian Estell star in a scene from the movie "Black or White." The movie aims to "start the conversation" on race, and while not an overtly religious film, its creators and stars say it addresses what might be called faith-based values such as the importance of family, the need for compassion and the power of love.

was both inspiring and evident throughout the entire cast and crew during the making of "Black or White."

"To see the preparedness and team spirit during the making of this film made this a magical experience for me," she said with a smile.

Viewers, said Spencer, may well feel conflicting emotions for both Rowena and Elliott, that there is no clear hero or villain in the film.

"Whether you're with Elliott and against Rowena, or if you're with Rowena and against Elliott, by the end of the movie, if you can't find your way to the middle, there's something wrong," she said.

That theme of addressing conflict with an eye to the future, said Binder, could well be a metaphor for what is taking place in the country, especially since "Black or White" appears at an especially key moment in

America's discussion of race relations.

"In this film," he said, "there are two families who have a lot of grudges that they've got to let go of, for the sake of this little girl. Well, when you look at what is going on in our country today, it seems to me that whatever we do, whatever we believe, we've got to make sure that we teach our kids how to come together and resolve our disagreements and our issues for the sake of our future generations."

His own life experience -- helping raise his deceased sister-in-law's biracial child with the father's family in two distinctly different neighborhoods -- motivated the making of "Black or White."

"I wanted to do a piece about where we go forward in race relations in this country," he explained. "This film, hopefully, will start those kinds of conversations that we need to have."

Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

February 15 - - Father Richard Tomkosky, pastor of Saint John the Baptist Parish in New Baltimore, offers ideas for a more spiritually enriching Lenten season.

February 22 - - On this Rite of Election Sunday, meet a person seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

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

May They Rest In Peace



Father William Beaver O.S.B.

Benedictine Father William Beaver, a monk of Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, died Thursday, January 15. He was 85.

Father William was the former pastor of Saint Bernard Parish, Hastings.

A native of Pittsburgh, Father William made his career in the United States Air Force, and was ordained a priest in 1985.

Surviving is a sister, Mary Beaver Adlesic of Sharpsburg.

The funeral Mass for Father William Beaver O.S.B. was celebrated by Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki in the Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica on Saturday, January 24. Committal was in Saint Vincent Cemetery at the Archabbey.

Sister M. Elizabeth Daher C.S.F.N.

Sister Mary Elizabeth Daher, 86, died Thursday, January 8 at Our Lady of Loreto Convent at Holy Family Manor, Pittsburgh, in the 66th year of her



religious life as a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

The former Juliette Daher was born July 4, 1928 in Lansing MI.

Sister Elizabeth served as a medical technologist and supervisor of medical technology at the former Mercy Hospital, Altoona. She also serve as a health care coordinator, and in pastoral care.

She is survived by a brother John and wife, Judi, of Lansing, and by nieces and nephews.

The funeral Mass for Sister M. Elizabeth Daher C.S.F.N. was celebrated in the chapel of Holy Family Manor on Monday, January 12.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth, 310 N. River Road, Des Plaines IL 60016.

of prayer, rooted in the tradition of Carmelite Spirituality, who actively engage in ministerial labors in the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese. The day will include communal prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, time for personal discernment and an opportunity to meet members of the Carmelite Community of the Word and explore their ministries.

For more information about this event, to discuss your faith journey, or to register for this event, please contact: Vocation Director Sister Margie McGuire at (814) 472 - 9457 or Vocation Co - Director Sister Linda LaMagna at (814) 942 - 574.7 You can email inquiries to margiemc12@gmail.com.

The Carmelite Community of the Word is online at www.ccwsisters.org, and on Facebook.

Merton At 100

(Continued From Page 13.)

Christine Bochen, professor of religious studies at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, and a founding member of the international Merton society, has edited the Trappist's work for publication. She has found the "richness of his personality" evolving over his two decades of writing.

"What is absolutely fascinating to me is that he could see what so many could not," Bochen said. "He's withdrawn in a sense, living in a monastery in rural Kentucky, but he could read what the Second Vatican Council called signs of the times. He had a deep wisdom and understanding of what was happening in the world."

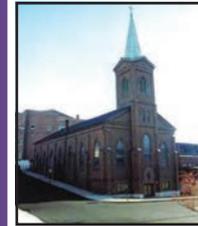
In New Zealand, Merton followers planned to commemorate the Trappist's birth

with a Jan. 31 pilgrimage across Christchurch.

Charles Shaw, who works in the Catholic Education Office of the Diocese of Christchurch and is a member of New Zealand's chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society, told CNS the daylong observance

will take participants to sites important to Father Merton's heritage. Silent and public prayer was to be offered at Carmelite Monastery of Christ the King, Christ's College and Waimairi Cemetery where several Merton family members are buried.

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 Ash Wednesday and 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"



In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 6.)

Vocations

Discernment Day

Gallitzin: As part of the celebration of the Year Of Consecrated Life, the Carmelite Community of the Word Sisters are offering a Day of Discernment Saturday, February 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the CCW Incarnation Center, 394 Bem Road.

The Carmelite Community of the Word is an Institute of Diocesan Rite, primarily women



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TRIDUUM IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

February 8-10, 2015

Sunday

Adoration - 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM

5:00 PM - Praise and Worship

Holy Hour with the Rosary

Exposition and Benediction

of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday

Adoration from 4:00 - 7:00 PM

7:00 PM - Mass

Tuesday - Adoration from 4:00 - 7:00 PM

7:00 PM - Mass with Anointing of the Sick

Guest Homilist - Father Matthew Reese

Confessions Sunday evening at 6:00 PM

Confessions Monday and Tuesday at 8:00 PM

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

2700 Broad Ave Altoona





SCHOOL CHOICE RALLY: State Senator John Eichelberger and Bishop Mark L. Bartchak (left photo) and other audience members join in applause for the choir of students from Saint John the Evangelist School, Lakemont, Altoona, who entertained the group gathered for a School Choice Rally Thursday, January 29, at the Lakemont school.

Parents, Students Rally For School Choice

**Photos And Text
By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein**

Traveling with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak to local observances of Catholic Schools Week, Tony DeGol, diocesan Secretary for Communications said he has witnessed “students who are engaged in and in love with our Catholic schools.”

There was plenty of love for Catholic Schools at one such observance, a School Choice Rally held Thursday, January 29 at Saint John the Evangelist School in Lakemont, Altoona.

Bishop Mark addressed the over 70 persons in attendance. Joining him at the podium were

State Senator John Eichelberger, Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School senior Clarice Spencer, and Erin Eisenberg, the mother of a student at the Lakemont School.

School Choice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is largely made possible by the state’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC), which in the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese funds the Second Century Scholarship Fund.

Mrs. Eisenberg spoke of her gratitude for the EITC funds, noting “What would we have done without it?”

She spoke of her gratitude for the educational opportunities afforded her son at Saint John

the Evangelist School. “Here, Ryan is truly a member of a family. All of the teachers and staff know him and every student by name. Our older students care for and actively mentor the younger ones.”

The small size of classes at Saint John’s “is a real plus,” she stated. “Our teachers have more time to teach,” she said, adding that Ryan, who has some special learning needs, receives personalized attention “allowing him to experience much more success than he might have done in a public school. Here, his needs are accepted as blessings.

“None of this would have been possible without EITC funding,” she said.

Senator Eichelberger lauded the role Catholic schools play in building strong, value - driven communities in Pennsylvania, and told how impressed he was by the behavior of the Bishop Guilfoyle football team after they won the state championship.

“There was some unsportsmanlike behavior on the field after the game, but the kids from Bishop Guilfoyle acted like proper gentlemen. They were sportsmanlike and very Christian in their response. That’s the result of a comprehensive education,” the Senator reflected. “They absorbed the values and the religious ethic they’ve been taught, and that’s a real testa-

ment to them, to their teachers and their coaching staff, and to everyone at Bishop Guilfoyle.”

The Senator spoke of two world views that drive the question of education in Pennsylvania. “One world asks ‘How much is it going to cost?’” he said. “The other asks ‘What about the children? What about their future? What about our communities.’ That’s the group you represent,” he told those attending the rally.

“You are doing such a tremendous job for the communities of Pennsylvania,” he added.

(Continued On Page 10.)

PERIODICAL RATE MAIL

The Catholic Register

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Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown**