

# The Catholic Register

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## Kevin Nester Is Diocese's Newest Deacon



**NEW DEACON:** Deacon Kevin Nester (second from right), is pictured following his ordination on Saturday, May 16, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Also pictured (left to right) are: Deacon Michael Russo, director of the Permanent Diaconate; Nester's wife, Penny; and Bishop Mark L. Barthchak.



**LAYING ON OF HANDS:** Through the laying on of hands, Bishop Mark L. Barthchak ordained Kevin Nester a permanent deacon on Saturday, May 16.

### Photos And Text By Bruce A. Tomaselli

Being called to serve the Church "means that your ministry as a deacon is not a question of one work or another. It involves being called, being chosen, for many tasks," reminded Bishop Mark L. Barthchak.

The Bishop spoke at the ordination of the newest deacon in the Diocese of Altoona - John-

stown, Kevin Nester. The Rite was held on Saturday, May 16 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.

Bishop Mark also reminded that being chosen could mean that a "ministry may not be your favorite; may not be what you think you are especially good at; and it may not be what is fulfilling for you.

"The Rite of Ordination reminds you how you are to respond," said the Bishop. "From

this day forward you will be a servant to all

-- "by proclaiming the Gospel;

-- "by assisting at the altar by preparing the sacrifice and distributing the body and blood of Christ to believers;

-- "and by performing works of charity."

Deacon Nester and his wife, Penny, are members of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Huntingdon, and reside in Alexandria.

Currently, he serves as co-chair - person of the Social Concerns Committee at Most Holy Trinity Parish, and is a co-leader of the Queen of Peace parish Prayer Group. He has served as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, lector, acolyte and master of ceremonies. He is a Second Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. Deacon Nester is employed by GHD, a consulting engineering firm.

"According to Scripture all of us, including Kevin Nester," explained Bishop Mark, "are to respond to God's word with our ears and with our feet." He told the story of a little girl who was repeatedly called by her mother. Her exasperated mother finally asked her if she heard her calling. The little girl responded that she did with her ears, but not her feet.

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**TRANSFIGURATION:** Celebrating First Holy Communion at Transfiguration Parish, Conemaugh, were (left to right) Louise Brezovic (director of religious education), Logan Heinlein, Father Robert Hall (pastor) and Sydney Heinlein.



**ALL SAINTS:** All Saints Parish, Boswell, celebrated First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 3. Father Martin Cingle is pastor and Tabitha Bosworth was the catechist.



**SAINTS CYRIL AND METHIDIUS:** Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, Windber, celebrated First Holy Communion on Saturday, April 25. Taking part were (left to right) First row: Nicholas Russo, Celena Saucedo, Kallie Kuposko, Aiden Constantino. Second row: Violet Bunk (director of religious education), Father George Gulash (pastor) and Deacon Thomas Papinchak. Dolores Novak was catechist.



**SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON:** Celebrating First Holy Communion at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Windber, on Saturday, April 25 were (left to right) First row: Kyler Anderson, Jordyn Bobak, Summer Campbell, Maggie Manippo, Sydney Reed, Katelynn Hrivnak, Noah Hrivnak. Second row: Violet Bunk (director of religious education), Deacon Thaddeus Janisko, Father George Gulash (pastor), Joanne Kot (catechist), Kathy Trusch (catechist), Ryan Grohal and Nathan Grohal (server).

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

\_\_\_\_\_

# In The Alleghenies



**CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Altoona, celebrated First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 12 and Confirmation on Thursday, May 7. Pictured in the top photo are (left to right) First row: Mara Kirkpatrick, Joshua Warmath, Chance Myers, Emily Myers, Courtney Irwin. Second row: Betsy Eger (catechist), Ava Iapalucci, Emily Koller, Larissa Little, Leo Dangler, Evan McAulley, Ethyn Hanley. Third row: Jennifer Crawford (catechist), Marvin Dufrene, Katelyn Eckels, Nicholas McCloskey, Randy Grove, Mason Slep, Alexander DeGennaro, Christian Lraia (co - director of religious education). Fourth row: Nathan Kerr, Matthew Cowan, Hannah Crawford (servers), Deacon Michael Anna, Monsignor Robert Mazur (rector), Father John Slovikovski (in residence) and Father Dennis Kurdziel (parochial vicar). Shown in the bottom photo are (left to right) First row: Jean Koury (director of religious education), Alexandra Conrad, Hannah Crawford, Nicole Wall (Our Lady of Fatima Parish). Second row: Father Slovikovski, Tevin Grove, Katarina Flores, Cassandra Hall, Amber Genua, Michael Sarbo, Father Kurdziel. Third row: Tristan Brown, Colin Welteroth, Noah Leberfinger, Darren Hall, Benjamin McConnell. Fourth row: Monsignor Mazur. Not pictured: Sophia Griffin and Evan Lingafelt.



**SAINT JOHN GUALBERT:** Celebrating First Holy Communion at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral Parish, Johnstown, were (left to right) First row: Levi Giffin, Gretchen Miller, Damien Byer. Second row: Nancy Sottile (catechist), Father James Crookston (pastor) and Heather Jezeskie (Sacraments coordinator).



**GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT:** Taking part in the announcement of a major gift to Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy (SJCA), Boalsburg on Monday, May 18 were (left to right) Sister of Charity Donna Marie Leiden, director of education, Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown; Rob Thomas, President, Board of Trustees, SJCA; Bishop Mark L. Bartchak; Christopher Chirieleison, principal, SJCA.



## High Schools

### Record Gift

**Boalsburg:** Officials at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy (SJCA) announced Monday, May 18, an historic gift that represents a significant investment

in the future of the school.

Principal Christopher Chirieleison reported receipt of the largest gift in the school's history through a significant pledge from SJCA parents Robert and Alice Thomas. The gift is one of the largest received by a Catholic high school in the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown. This con-

tribution is in support of both the Building for the Future capital campaign and the school's new Robert and Alice Thomas Family Student - Life Center. Thomas is President of Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy Board of Trustees, and President & CEO of Vantage Investment Advisors, LCC of State College, PA.

The Building for the Future campaign will ask trustees, parents, friends, foundations and community members to invest in the future of the only Catholic college-preparatory high school in Centre County. Since opening in 2011, SJCA has grown to serve 120 students in grades 9-12 and is projecting enrollment of 135 students for 2015 - 2016. This campaign will support the new 16,000 square-foot Student - Life Center, upcoming classroom renovations, and an endowment that will help secure Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy's future. The new Student-

Life Center will host PIAA athletic events, as well as liturgies, assemblies, theatre productions, dances, and other gatherings.

"This donation builds upon the generous investments of several other trustees and community leaders who recently made significant contributions and pledges to support the exciting vision that has been established for SJCA" said Chirieleison.

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## Point Of View

As she turned to lock the door, my heart ached. For I knew closing this door, meant not only a goodbye but also an ending of a beautiful story. As we walked down the sidewalk my thoughts wandered in many directions. Everything inside of me did not want to leave this place, for if I left, it meant a piece of my heart would forever stay behind. Having the courage to keep walking instead of looking behind was very painful. Knowing deep inside of me this place would leave forever footprints in my heart comforted my weary soul.

Going with my mom, back to her homestead, after the passing of my grandmother was not easy, in fact, quite heartbreaking. For this beautiful home, was not only a house but a gathering place for our family's hearts. For it is within this home, our large families gathered for Sunday meals, celebrated holidays and a place that cousins met to share endless summer days. This home was the place where large homemade cooked meals and scrumptious desserts were always prepared and left on the counter, with an open invitation to come and share. A place that Sunday school songs were taught to young and old alike and scripture verses memorized.

Grandma's home was a refuge from the world, a resting place where all who came to share a story or tell of an adventure, a gathering place for all to dwell. My grandmother's home is full of memories, full of family, full of love. Boy, I am surely going to miss this place!



## Family Matters

By Amy Kanich  
Thank You, Grandma

Being the director of Family Life for our Diocese, I am often asked about the needs of families today. What is the one thing that can help keep families healthy and whole? What can families do to stay close and connected? Although, I can quote many theologians, restate philosophies and use fancy language to impress upon people the latest research and opinions, the very truth is I think the answer may be simpler than most experts believe.

I believe one of the answers to having healthy and whole families is to have them create more time in their life to intentionally connect with the members of their immediate and extended family. Families today need to be intentional about connecting with other family members to truly appreciate the very gift of family itself. So how can we live and love our families intentionally? Being intentional means we purposely cooperate to plan our family's time together, allowing it to take priority over any outside commitments or volunteer service. Being intentional means attending family functions, even if it requires us to courageously say no to other outside engagements. Being intentional means

showing up at the door during good times and bad and it means deliberately choosing to forgive and work through misunderstandings or hurts that threaten to divide members against each other.

Being intentional also means recognizing no families are perfect but realizing God chose each member of the family to be an important part of the larger family and that understanding itself is perfect enough. Families are God's gift for us as we journey through this life together. Family ties strengthen, grow and protect with time spent together, a God given bond that shall never be broken. In words taken straight off of one of my grandma's walls in her home,

"Having a somewhere to go is Home, having someone to love is Family, having both is a Blessing!"

Thank you Grandma, for time well spent here on earth showing by your beautiful example how to love the Lord and each other. The love and time you gave me, I will never forget. Your love, just like the memories of our time together as a family at your home, will be forever permanently etched on my grateful heart! I love you!

Blessings!



## Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein  
Mothers Love Us!

Before you start moaning and groaning at the plethora of First Holy Communion and Confirmation photos in this issue, gentle reader, let me tell you about two recent phone calls I received here at **The Catholic Register** office.

On the day our May 18 issue was delivered, the phone rang in the late morning, and a young man's voice came on the line. "Is this the Catholic newspaper? How can I get another copy of it? Ours came this morning and my brother's Confirmation picture was in it, but, it, uh, got, uh messed up. Can I get it online? Can you mail me one? Can I pick one up?" I answered his questions as best I could, but he cut the conversation short by saying "Thanks for that information. You've been real helpful. Goodbye."

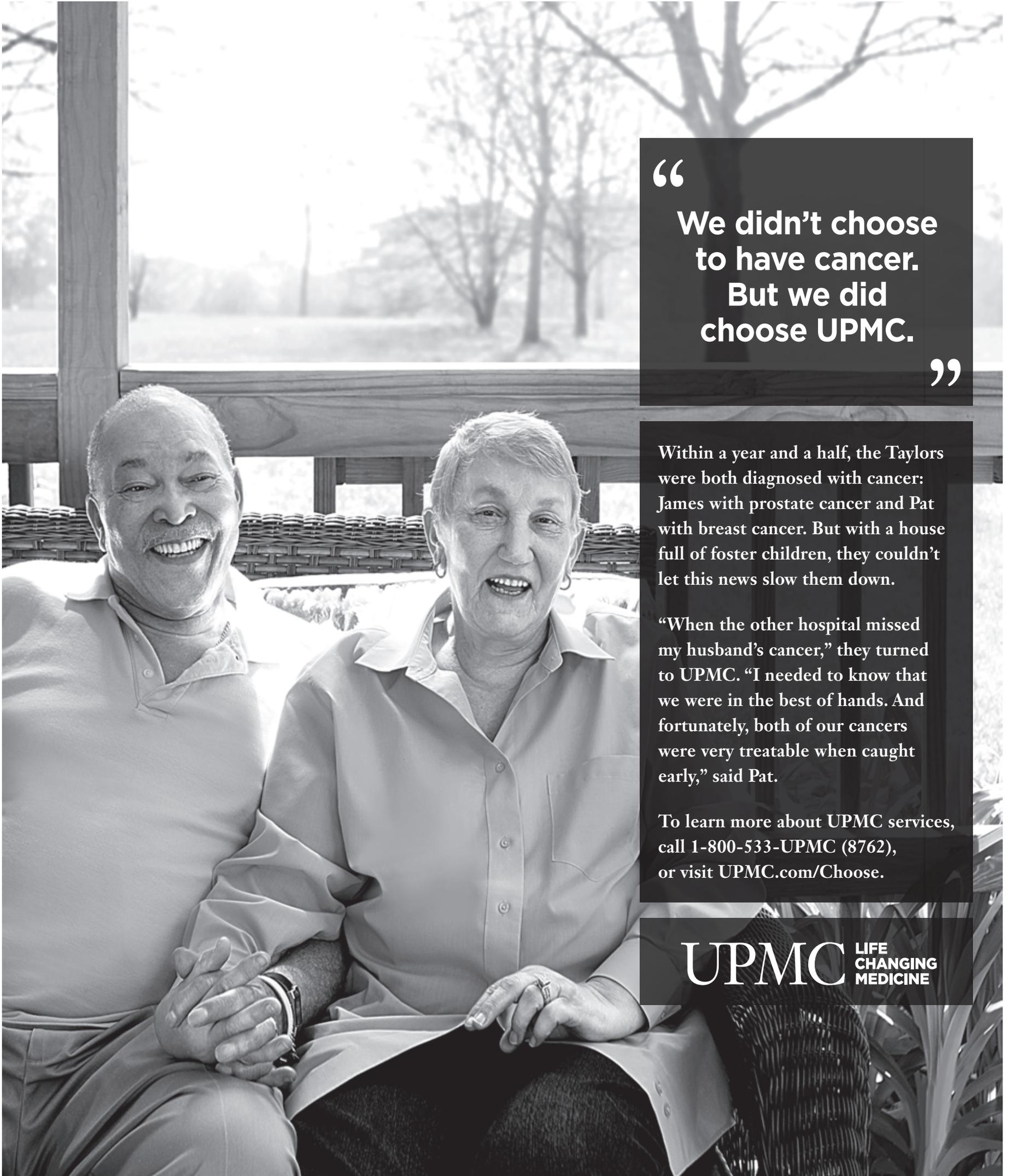
The phone was barely back on the hook when it rang again. This time, it was a woman speaking. "Hello. Did my son just call you about getting another copy of the paper? Ours came this morning, and my younger son's Confirmation picture was in it, but my other son was goofing around and tore it up. How can I get another copy?" I took her name and address, a replacement copy went into the mail at the beginning of the next week, and I had a good laugh!

Sometimes, my friends in the Catholic press community laugh at our paper because we print First Holy Communion and Confirmation pictures. They scoff too at the fact that we do not have an aggressive online presence. Well friends, laugh and scoff all you want. That mother who called didn't want to go online to see her son's picture. She wanted to see his Confirmation picture in print, in a real newspaper - - something she could hold in her hand and perhaps cut out and paste in an album or a scrapbook.

Having pasted innumerable clippings into scrapbooks over the years, and having folded away countless newspapers and magazines for future reference, I can easily understand where the good lady on the phone was coming from. We feel connected to one another when we see a loved one's name and face in print. We have the sense of transcending space and time when we are able to clip something out and file it away for future reference. We like to go back and look again at the things that delighted us the first time we saw them. Old fashioned? Yes, but never out of date. That longing to be connected is hardwired into our DNA. We long to belong and to be noticed. A newspaper helps us achieve that.

Face it friends, **The Catholic Register** is an unashamedly old - fashioned newspaper, put together by two old - fashioned journalists. Bruce Tomaselli used to work at, and I grew up on **The Portage Dispatch**, a hometown newspaper that printed photos and news stories about anyone and everyone in the Mainline community. Fancier, more up - to - date journalists would laugh and scoff at the **Dispatch**, but that paper nurtured a sense of community among all of us who read it. That's just what the two of us have tried to do for the 29 years we've been at the **Register**. When someone calls to get a copy of the paper because their kid's picture is in it, I have the feeling that we're succeeding.

And so long as all the Moms out there like us, I think we'll be okay!



“

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# In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 3.)

“We are extremely grateful for this support which assures our community, teachers, staff and parents that we’re pursuing an important and unique mission at SJCA, and it speaks to the potential that remains yet to be tapped.”

For more information about the campaign or the Robert and Alice Thomas Family Student-Life Center, please contact Christopher Chirieleison at (814) 808 - 6118.

## Prayer

### Retreat, Devotions

**Cresson:** The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart Of Jesus announce several retreat and devotional opportunities.

A semi - private retreat for young women considering religious life will be offered at Sacred Heart Convent, 1872 Munster Road, Portage, June 9 - 12.

On Sunday, June 7, the Sisters and the Knights of Columbus will hold a Corpus Christi Procession (no Mass) at 2:00 p.m. beginning from the Provincial House Chapel at 866 Cam-

bria Street. Girls age 5 - through First Holy Communion are welcome to assist in presenting flowers to the Lord in the Monstrance. Boys the same age are invited to be in an honor guard. An ice - cream social in the dining room at John Paul II Manor will follow.

A triduum in anticipation of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart will be held Tuesday, June 9 through Thursday, June 11 at the Provincial House in Cresson. The chapel will remain open all day for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be prayed at 3:00 p.m., the Rosary at 6:30 p.m., and Sacred Heart Devotion with Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

On the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, June 12, Mass at 7:00 a.m. will be followed by all day exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. At 7:00 p.m. there will be a Solemn Mass followed by a procession and consecration of the family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

For further details on the retreat and any of the devotions, contact Mother Jacinta Miryam at (814) 505 - 2290 or sisterjacinta@gmail.com.



**OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART:** Confirmation was celebrated by Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Portage, on Saturday, April 11. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Alexis Wozniak, Samantha Boreck, Katie Nolan, Courtney Harbaugh, Carmelite of the Word Sister Nancy Spence (Confirmation director). Second row: Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Andrew Draper (pastor), Luke Dividock, Bennett Falvo and Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Joseph Janiszkeski (parochial vicar). Not pictured: Jon Cordwell.



**SAINT JOSEPH PARISH, PORTAGE:** Saint Joseph Parish, Portage, celebrated Confirmation on Saturday, April 11 and First Holy Communion on Saturday, April 18. Pictured in the top photo are (left to right) First row: Samantha Wright, Alexa Lavery, Hannah Shaffer, Sumer Slebodnick, Isabella Sikora - Warner, Carmelite of the Word Sister Nancy Spence (Confirmation Director). Second row: Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Andrew Draper (pastor), David New, Ian Koenig, Cody Zdunczyk and Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Joseph Janiszkeski (parochial vicar). Pictured in the bottom photo are (left to right) First row: Anthony Lawrence, Mykenzie Stager, Payton Smith, Kateri McCool, Eva Sossong, Luke Herald. Second row: Louis Kordish (server), Payton Noll, Melinda Harker, Lyndsey Castel, Katelyn Klein. Third row: Father Joseph, Steven Klein, Father Andrew, Trae Kargo, Zachary Hodge, Ethan Hodge and Sister Nancy (director of religious education).

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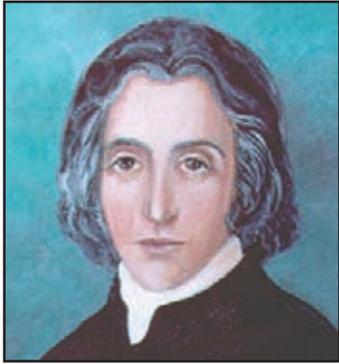
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# A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

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

### Four Saints Canonized

By **Cindy Wooden**  
Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Declaring four 19th-century women religious saints, Pope Francis said they are models for all Christians of how faith, nourished in prayer, is expressed concretely in acts of charity and the promotion of unity.

The new saints, proclaimed during a Mass May 17 in St.

Peter's Square, included two Palestinians -- Sts. Marie-Alphonsine, founder of the Rosary Sisters, and Mary of Jesus Crucified, a Melkite Carmelite -- as well as French St. Jeanne Emilie de Villeneuve and Italian St. Maria Cristina Brando.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was present at the Mass, as were Melkite Patriarch Gregoire III Laham and Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem.

Abbas had a 40-minute pri-

vate meeting with Pope Francis the day before the canonization Mass. The Vatican said the two expressed pleasure that their representatives had finalized the text of an agreement on "essential aspects of the life and the activity of the Catholic Church in Palestine, to be signed in the near future."

They also spoke about the need for a resumption of direct talks in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, the Vatican said. "Finally, with reference to the conflicts that afflict the Middle East, and in reaffirming the importance of combating terrorism, the need for interreligious dialogue was underlined."

Pope Francis gave Abbas a medallion depicting the "Angel of Peace" and said he hoped Abbas would be that angel of peace for his people.

Peace and understanding were also key elements in Pope Francis' homily during the canonization Mass the next morn-

ing. Speaking about St. Mary of Jesus Crucified, the pope said, "Her docility to the Holy Spirit made her a means of encounter and fellowship with the Muslim world. So, too, Sister Marie-Alphonsine Danil Ghattas came to understand clearly what it means to radiate the love of God in the apostolate, and to be a witness to meekness and unity. She shows us the importance of becoming responsible for one another, of living lives of service one to another."

The faith of Christians today, the pope said, is firmly linked to the testimony of the Apostles who witnessed the resurrection and to those who have passed on the faith.

"Like the apostles," he said, "each one of Christ's followers is called to become a witness to his resurrection, above all in those human settings where forgetfulness of God and human disorientation are most evident."

The four women saints, the pope said in his homily at the canonization Mass, were shining links in the chain of witnesses to Christ's resurrection, offering their testimony not primarily through their words, but through their actions of love.

"This love shines forth in the testimony of Sister Jeanne Emilie de Villeneuve, who consecrated her life to God and to

the poor, the sick, the imprisoned and the exploited, becoming for them and for all a concrete sign of the Lord's merciful love," he said.

St. Maria Cristina Brando, he said, "was completely given over to ardent love for the Lord. From prayer and her intimate encounter with the risen Jesus present in the Eucharist, she received strength to endure suffering and to give herself, as bread which is broken, to many people who had wandered far from God and yet hungered for authentic love."

The witness of the four women, Pope Francis said, should prompt all Christians to examine the strength of their own witness to Christ. "Am I capable of 'sowing' in my family, in my workplace and in my community, the seed of that unity which He has bestowed on us by giving us a share in the life of the Trinity?"

### 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:  
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# Word of Life



## The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

### Parents, Come Out Of Exile!

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Parents must not exclude themselves from their children's lives and, despite what some "experts" may say, they must take an active role in their children's education, said Pope Francis during his general audience in St. Peter's Square May 20.

"It's time for fathers and mothers to come out of their exile -- because they have exiled themselves from their children's education -- and to fully assume again their educational role," he said.

Continuing a series of talks about the family, the pope said its "essential characteristic" is its "natural vocation to educate children so that they grow in responsibility for themselves and for others."

But, faced with numerous experts who tell them how their children should be raised, many parents have withdrawn their involvement in their children's education, and this is "very grave," he said.

"Critical' intellectuals of all types have silenced parents in a thousand ways to defend the younger generation from the damages -- real or imagined -- of education in the family," he said. "The family has been accused, among other things, of authoritarianism, favoritism, conformism and affective repression that generates conflict."

The result is a "divide between families and society, between families and schools," he said.

"The educative partnership between society and family is in crisis because mutual trust has been undermined," the pope said.

Tensions and disagreements between parents and teachers are a symptom of the crisis, he said, and children bear the brunt of it.

He also spoke of the multiplication "of so-called 'experts,' who have taken over the role of parents, even in the most intimate aspects of education," convincing parents their only role is to "listen, learn and adapt."

Parents then "tend increasingly to entrust to the 'experts' even the more delicate and personal aspects of their children's lives, setting themselves off alone in a corner," he said.

In trying to demonstrate how "things have changed," the pope told a personal story about when he said a bad word to his fourth-grade teacher, who promptly called his mother. When his mother came to school the next day, she made him apologize to the teacher and then disciplined him when he got home.

Today instead, he said, parents will reprimand a teacher who tries to discipline their child.

The pope said it is obvious the current situation is "not good" or "harmonious," since it tends to put families and schools in opposition rather than in collaborative relationships.

In addition, he said, "puzzled by the new demands made by children" and the complexity of life, many parents are "paralyzed by the fear of making a mistake."

"Educating children is difficult for parents who see them only in the evening when they return home tired from work," he said. "It is even more difficult for parents who are separated, who are weighed down by their circumstances."



**ONE MORE TIME:** Pictured is the 1962 First Holy Communion class at Holy Family Parish in Colver. The pastor was Father Alphonsus B. Jagminas, and the teachers were the Sisters of Saint Joseph from Holy Name Parish in Ebsenburg. Holy Family Parish was marking the 50th anniversary of its foundation in 1962. This photo appeared in a commemorative booklet to mark the anniversary.

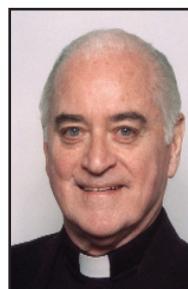
In today's secular climate, it isn't easy to guide teens along paths that will lead them to happier lives. Where do you begin talking to them about some of the potential problems they might face or the situations others might force them into?

From drugs to sex, there's an array of situations facing teenagers in various settings, not just school. But how do you approach some of these topics that seem tough to bring up to teens?

One thing I'd suggest is that you might find it easier to engage your teenager in discussions where you can teach them how to ask the right questions. But keep in mind that parents and teachers also need to be aware of habitual behavior patterns so as to set a good example. If you don't set a good example, it's harder to speak to them with credibility.

To begin to tackle some of the concerns about the situations your teenagers might be facing, grab one topic at a time and work through it using dialogue. You can apply the same technique to other topics.

An important topic on the minds of parents these days is addiction. How do you bring up that topic to teens? You might start by asking them if they know anything about addiction. They likely already know that addictions of every kind lead to a compulsive dependence on a substance or a behavior, and that these behaviors or dependence



## Spirituality For Today

By Father John Catoir  
Using Dialogue



CNS photo/Michael Alexander, *Georgia Bulletin*

on a substance can eventually destroy a person.

Ask whether they know of anyone who died because of an addiction to drugs or alcohol. Ask how available drugs are to them. Are their friends or other peers using drugs?

You may hear something that might surprise you. But keep in mind that imparting knowledge calmly is a good way to train a teen to take responsibility for his or her own happiness. It's important that they learn to choose how they will

deal with peer pressure.

I ran a drug and alcohol rehab for a few years, called Eva's Village in Paterson, New Jersey, and I learned a lot about people with addictions. Sometimes one addiction tends to lead to another. And once you get on a slippery slope, the road can easily lead to disaster.

Encourage teens that if they want to be happy, and live an honorable life, they need to pray for wisdom, to be graced with good intentions and perseverance.

# THE INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

*For The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown*

VOL. 15 NO. 1

Summer 2015

## Foundation Marks Anniversary

In June 2015 the Independent Catholic Foundation will celebrate its 25th Anniversary. It all began as a prayerful dream and vision in 1989 by two Johnstown business men, Frank Pasquerilla and James Saly, with full support of then Bishop Joseph V. Adamec. Bishop Joseph had expressed his desire for the involvement of laity in projects such as this. The Foundation has grown to become an organization with 230 individual endowments that are valued at almost \$25 million in assets. All parties involved with the Foundation felt that it was very important to become a separate legal entity; so in 1991 the initial Board of Directors was seated and the Foundation was established with seed money from some of its original directors.

The charter of the Foundation is one of a 501(c)(3) public charity. In the early years there was a fundraising effort known as the "Blue Ribbon Panel." This helped the Foundation by securing 30 or 40 contributors who in some cases made one time donations and others multi-year. Early operational money was secured through a loan from the Diocese which over time was fully repaid.

Ongoing capital needs at the high schools, as well as, the need to address the elementary school finances were all original considerations. As a result, there are endowments in place for all of the high schools, as well as endowments for elementary schools.

As the Foundation mission grew, the ministries of Catholic Social Services (now known as Catholic Charities), Sisters of Mercy, and St. Vincent DePaul, became important funds within the Foundation. There is also a Seminarian Endowment Fund created by the Knights of Columbus and some college scholarships, most notably from Tyrone's St. Matthew Parish.

After the foundation actually began, office space was rented in Duncansville with a payroll staff of one-person. The paid director utilized volunteer labor, as well as, part-time help. In 1998, the Foundation returned to a shared office space on the Diocesan campus and at that time the Executive Director's duties combined with the diocesan stewardship director. This helped to conserve the financial resources of the Foundation.

The early goals were for continuing growth and to be self-sustaining. 2008 marked the return of its Executive Director being a Foundation employee and no longer affiliated with the Diocese. They moved their office off-site shortly thereafter. In March 2013, the Independent Catholic Foundation moved to their current location in Altoona. This move was to accommodate the need for more space. Still with only one full time employee and part-time administrative and accounting support, the Foundation continues to grow, prosper and offer financial support to many Diocesan ministries. Guided by the 18 member Board of Trustees, the Foundation continues to serve donors by matching their philanthropic vision to the people, programs, ministries, and institutions that best serve their hope for a better community.

*Note: This article was compiled using information from a presentation by long serving trustee Mark Thomas. This article was first published in 2010 to coincide with the Foundation's 20th anniversary. It has been updated with current information.*

## *From the President and Executive Director*

A good friend of ours said "As with great comedy, timing is everything". We could not agree more with his sentiment of "timing". As we write this note, we are getting ready to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Foundation's incorporation, are "knocking on the door" of \$25 million under management in our investment portfolio, have 230 separate endowments and have surpassed \$25 million in total assets. In 2010 when we celebrated our 20th anniversary we had \$14.1 million in assets under management in 165 separate endowments; over \$10 million in growth in those 5 years. What a blessing to be associated with the Foundation at this "time". In those same five years, we have offered a total of \$3,380,824 in support to the

various ministries of our diocese. We continue to be guided by dedicated Trustees and a hard working Finance and Investment Committee. Our funds are enjoying investment growth while we are assured they are invested according to our Catholic values. This success has allowed us to offer grants to all parishes (see related article) and support other ministries through our marketing efforts. We are humbled by this success and pray that God continues to smile on our efforts. We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and trust it provides insight on how you can remember your parish or favorite Catholic ministry in your estate planning. Please feel free to contact our office or any Trustee to discuss how we may be of service.



*President Dino Persio, Esq. and Executive Director Bill Hiergeist reviewing a recent investment summary*

*Dino S. Persio, Esq., President  
Bill Hiergeist, Executive Director*

## FOUNDATION GRANTS

Last winter, the Foundation offered a \$500 grant to any parish who requested it. This program being used as a marketing effort, asked only that the parish would publicize the grant, how it was used, and from where it came. Over 40 parishes, or about 50% of the diocesan parishes, requested the funds. One of the best uses (at least one of the best stories) involves buying a cabbage slicer! The pastor related that the annual Lenten fish dinners are quite a money-maker for the parish, and coleslaw is a big part of the dinner. He went on saying “the group is too frugal to buy shredded cabbage, so they cut it by hand which takes a long time. A slicer will sure help with that!” Many of the pastors sent a note of thanks.



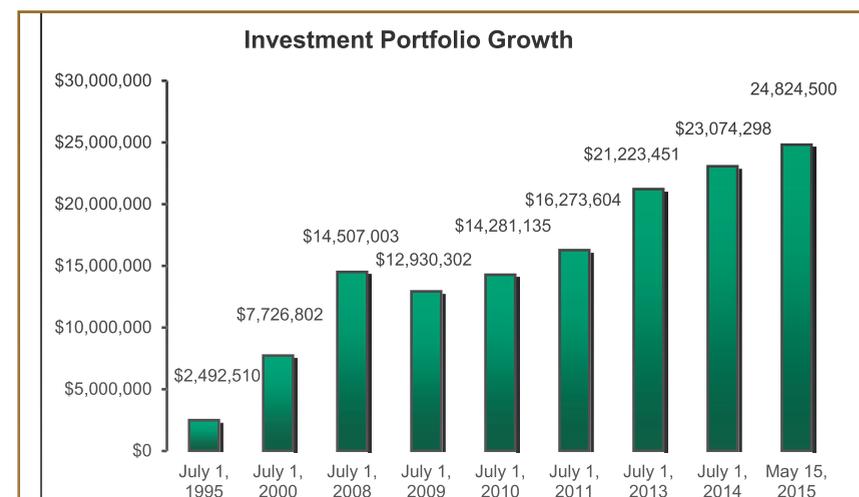
Past President Vince Barbera delivering a check to Fr. Daniel O'Neill pastor of St. Peter Parish, Somerset

### A sampling of their comments:

- “A feasibility study for the parish worship sites”
- “Refurbishing our stained glass windows”
- “A pilgrimage to the Basilica in Baltimore for our confirmation candidates”
- “Help pay for our new organ for the church”
- “We’re going to rehabilitate and restore our outdoor Stations of the Cross”
- “We’re going to upgrade our sound system and this will sure help”
- “I have so many things in mind; I need to ask for the help of the Finance council”
- “This will help pay for upgrades to the Church’s heating plant”
- “We’ve been wanting to add a railing on the alter steps, this will help”

## FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO ACHIEVE TREMENDOUS GROWTH

Citing several years of record contributions and above average market returns, the Foundation is celebrating a milestone; reaching almost \$25 million of assets under management. “We continue to add endowments at about one per month, and of course with the endowments comes the money” noted Bill Hiergeist, Executive Director. “We are flattered that more people are coming to us when they want to remember their faith in estate planning and philanthropic activities” Hiergeist continued. Last fiscal year (ending June 30, 2014) there was a record setting almost \$2 million in contributions and as of May 30 of this fiscal year the Foundation has received over \$1.4 million in contributions to new and existing endowments. Several endowments held by the Foundation have been named as beneficiary of estate gifts, the receipt of which will soon substantially increase assets and thus support for the affected endowments.

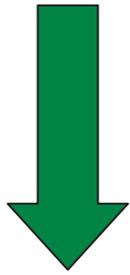


## A NOTE TO PASTORS

The Independent Catholic Foundation is guided by 18 lay men and women. By June 2016 we will have 4 Trustees retire from the board because of term limits. We are looking for lay individuals who you think would be able to contribute to our good works. Many Trustees have supported the Foundation financially but there is no obligation to do so; all Trustees do support us with their prayers and involvement. They would be asked to

attend 4 Trustee meetings per year, usually held in Altoona. They are also required to be practicing Catholics and active members of their parish. We have committees that guide our finances, marketing, communication and outreach efforts. If you know someone who you think would be a good candidate, please let us know. We are especially interested in candidates from counties other than Blair, Centre and Cambria.

## Foundation Lowers Fees



It is a standard and common practice for foundations to charge a fee to manage the assets under management. This is a necessity so the foundation can carry on its mission and have the necessary funds to pay for expenses it incurs. These expenses include the everyday costs of rent, office expenses, postage, fundraising expenses, and of course employee expenses. Since the Foundation was founded 25 years ago, the fees have been 1 1/4% per year, assessed at 1/12 of that per month. This fee is equal to, or less than peer institutions. Beginning with the

last quarter of this fiscal year (April-June 30, 2015), and going forward, the fees were lowered to 1% per year. This change was recommended by the Finance Committee and unanimously approved by the full board at their April meeting. "This 20% reduction in fees will mean each endowment grows faster and thus will have more funds to support its respective ministry" commented Finance chair Tony Kaminkar; "I'm happy that our success has allowed us to do this", he continued.

## Donor advised funds:

These are individual endowments created with provisions for the person(s) or family who created the endowment to determine where the annual distribution goes. The recipient or beneficiary may change each year, or there may be multiple beneficiaries with each distribution. A donor advised fund offers the opportunity to easily create a low cost, flexible method for charitable giving as an alternative to direct giving or the costly and cumbersome private family foundation. Donors receive maximum tax advantages with the administrative duties and expenses passed on to the holder of the endowment (ie: Independent Catholic Foundation), and the donor may remain anonymous if they choose to do so. Beneficiaries of the annual distribution must be approved by the Board of Trustees and must align with the teachings of the Catholic Church. The Foundation Gift Acceptance Committee encourages contributions of \$25,000 or more to begin a donor-advised fund, but will consider minimum gift/pledge levels of \$10,000 with limits to the number of beneficiaries required annually.

### Types of Donor-Advised Funds

#### *Permanent Endowment:*

These are permanently restricted with an annual distribution as determined by the Trustees; all endowments within the Foundation have the same percentage distribution. Principal cannot be distributed, except as required by law. The Foundation is advised by the benefactor each year who the beneficiary of the annual distribution will be and the Foundation mails out the checks.

#### *Provisional or Temporary Endowment:*

An Endowment is created that allows the interest (annually) and up to and including 50% of the original principal to be distributed. This has all of the tax and expense advantages to the donor as a permanent endowment. There are stipulations in place for minimum distributions and timing of same. Additionally, there may be provisions made for different administrative fees.

The details of each situation may vary. For more information, please contact the Foundation office.

## Bishop Guilfoyle Class of 1978 Scholarship

In the summer 2013 edition of this newsletter, we announced the Bishop Guilfoyle Class of 1978 scholarship. This scholarship benefits a graduating 8th grader from a catholic elementary school in Blair County who will attend BGCHS; the scholarship provides \$500 to an incoming freshman. We celebrated the classes' generous initiative because of the fact they created this scholarship sooner after graduation than any other class of any of the Diocesan Catholic High Schools. They have continued to add additional funds to the scholarship endowment. In the photo class members and others are shown at their "Zumbathon" held last winter to raise additional funds for the scholarship. The class hopes to raise additional funds so they can add an additional scholarship. Nominations for this scholarship are submitted by the elementary schools and the winner is chosen by the scholarship selection process at BG. The selection criteria states "the candidate shall exemplify Christian spirituality and service, academic proficiency and personal accountability". Additional donations can be sent to the Foundation office earmarked for "BG Class of 1978 scholarship"



**"Planned Giving is the only way people can support their favorite cause that brings them tremendous satisfaction yet has no impact on their lifestyle other than improve it."**

*- Wayne Olson*

### FOUNDATION SEEKING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Foundation is seeking applicants for the 2015 Welge Scholarship. This scholarship provides financial assistance to worthy parishioners who are entering their junior or senior year of college and are a member in good standing of a Roman Catholic Parish in Blair County excluding Tyrone. The Welge Endowment Scholarship was established in 1995 to honor Adelaide G. (Heverly) Welge. Information and applications are available at [www.icfdaj.org](http://www.icfdaj.org). Applications should also be available at the offices of our Blair County parishes; the application needs to be signed by the applicant's pastor. Questions should be directed to the Foundation office at 201-2080 or via e-mail at [Bill@icfdaj.org](mailto:Bill@icfdaj.org). Deadline for submission is June 7th.

### ANNUAL AUDIT

The Foundation's annual audit for fiscal year 2013-2014 was completed by the accounting firm of Young, Oaks, Brown & Company. It was presented as a "clean audit with no comments". Please visit our web-site at [www.icfdaj.org](http://www.icfdaj.org) to view their report. If you have any questions, please contact the Foundation office at (814) 201-2080 or via E-mail at [Director@icfdaj.org](mailto:Director@icfdaj.org)

### *Please Note*

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

### THE STATE OF PA HAS MADE YOUR WILL FOR YOU!

There is no law that says you have to have a will or estate plans. But every state has laws already in place that dictate the distribution of your assets if you die without written instructions. Will your loved ones receive what you hope they will? Additionally, there are extra costs incurred by your estate if you die without written instructions. Please see our web-site at [www.icfdaj.org](http://www.icfdaj.org) and visit the "Planned Giving" pages under "Giving Opportunities" from the home page. If you would like information mailed to you, please fill out the coupon below. You will receive the information in the mail, no one will call you unless you request a personal phone call. Our address is found below.

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

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

### For more information:

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

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

All inquires are held in the strictest confidence.

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



## Question Corner

**By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Old Testament Saints;  
Retirement For Priests**

**Q.** Figures from the Old Testament are never referred to as saints. Were there no saints in those days? (Albany, New York)

**A.** Your question is an excellent one, and the answer is a bit complex. It is true that, in the Catholic Church, Old Testament figures have not been formally canonized and given the title of "saint." I suspect that this has to do with the historical process by which that title came to be assigned.

In the earliest centuries of the church, only those who had been martyred for their faith were commemorated liturgically on their anniversaries. St. Martin of Tours, who died in 397, was probably the first nonmartyr assigned a feast day. Since then sainthood has generally been ascribed to people who provided outstanding examples of lives modeled after the teachings of Jesus (which would exclude those who lived before Christ).

Does that mean that we cannot pray to Old Testament fig-

ures or seek their intercession? By no means. The word "saint" is commonly taken to mean someone who followed the will of God and is now in heaven. Surely, Moses and Elijah are safely there, since they appeared with Jesus on Mount Tabor at the Transfiguration.

Catholic churches of the Eastern rite (Greek or Byzantine, for example) do, in fact, celebrate specific feast days for Old Testament figures: Joshua and Moses, Daniel, the seven Maccabee brothers, etc.

The "Roman Martyrology," a compilation of those honored as saints includes such notable Old Testament figures as Isaiah, Abraham and King David. The Catechism of the Catholic Church also has this to say in No. 61: "The patriarchs, prophets and certain other Old Testament figures have been and always will be honored as saints in all the church's liturgical traditions."

So, the great figures of the Old Testament, though never

formally canonized by the Latin-rite church, are worthy of our devotion and our imitation.

**Q.** With all due respect to my Catholic faith, there is one thing that I question. Many, many devout Catholics have contributed over the years to special collections for the benefit of retired priests. After all these collections and all the beautiful retirement homes for priests that now exist, shouldn't we be doing more instead for the poor? The very ones who have contributed to build these homes cannot afford the comfort and the luxury that priests now enjoy. (Schriever, Louisiana)

**A.** As a diocesan priest for 49 years who will soon face retirement, I took a particular interest in your question -- and I almost wish that things were as you describe them. In fact, most dioceses do not have retirement homes for their priests, and following retirement (in our diocese, it has been optional at 70, mandatory at 75) a priest is on his own financially.

Some priests may have inherited a family home, but that is by far the exception. Most retirees wind up renting an apartment.

The monthly retirement stipend from our diocese (for those retiring at 75) is \$1,900. If a priest has contributed to Social Security over the years (some opted not to), he is eligible for a second monthly check -- but since his lifetime earnings were minimal, that check is generally not substantial. Retirees, if their health is good, might also help with Masses at a parish, for which they would receive a stipend. From this income, a retired priest is responsible for his expenses -- rent, food, transportation, extraordinary health costs, etc.

These figures would tend to show that most retired diocesan priests, while not living in poverty, don't live in luxury either. And yes, I would agree with you that our primary fundraising efforts should be on behalf of the truly poor, who may not have enough to live anywhere at all.



## For The Journey

**By Effie Caldarola  
Using Our Hands  
As Christ Would**

In April, a devastating earthquake hit Nepal. Once again, as in similar tragedies, we saw news of folks desperately searching the rubble for survivors. We've seen this before -- and the poorer the country, the more frequently you see people actually using their hands to scrape away at debris and tumbled buildings.

I had a daughter traveling in Asia when the earthquake occurred, and although I was certain her itinerary hadn't taken her to Nepal yet, I anxiously awaited word. It's hard to get news out of China, where she was traveling, as Facebook and Google are largely banned, and calls and texts are prohibitively expensive.

I was glad to finally hear that my daughter was still in China and was, perhaps, more shocked than I was at the devastation in a place she had planned to visit. Temples she would have seen now are in ruin.

Perhaps because of this personal connection, even though a tenuous one, I thought of those folks who searched in panic and terror for their loved ones, desperately clawing at the earth with their hands to save someone dear to them.

Many people have written reflections about hands. Each of us has hands that are uniquely ours. I looked at my hands this morning and imagined how they would look after hours of trying to make dusty remnants yield someone I loved. Envision the cracked nails, the scrapes and cuts, the grime, tragedy's impact traced on each bloody finger.

St. Teresa of Avila wrote some early famous words about hands: "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours."

Looking at my hands as the hands of Christ makes me aware of all the good -- and some bad -- I've done with my hands. It makes me aware that maybe I need to give more hugs, more literal and figurative pats on the back. I need to bake more cookies for other people, extend my hand with more enthusiasm during the exchange of peace at Mass, applaud a little more vigorously.

As we age, our hands betray our years in ways the rest of the body can sometimes conceal. Have you ever noticed someone who has skin pulled tight from numerous plastic surgeries, not a wrinkle to be seen on a taut and Botoxed face? But if you get a glimpse of the person's hands, no matter how manicured and pampered, you see the years displayed there.

My grandmother had severe osteoarthritis, and the fingers of her hands were wildly disfigured, at least they seemed that way to a child. Imagine my grief when, as a relatively young woman in her 40s, arthritis began to attack my hands. I told the doctor about my grandmother and he said, "Someday you will have hands just like your grandmother."

When he left the room to find information for me, I stared out at the rain, the vision of the parking lot blurred by raindrops running down the window and by my tears.

My hands have gotten worse with the years, but they aren't grandma's hands yet. But if it comes to that, I'll accept it because my hands are part of my story. They tell of my heritage, they tell of my labor. My hands have held and comforted three babies, embraced teenagers, and now have cuddled a grandchild.

They have planted flowers in rich earth, typed out reams of words, wiped away many tears. Today, I'll try to use my hands lovingly and pray for those whose hands were bloodied in the search for those they loved.

Marcellinus  
and Peter  
Died circa 304  
Feast ~ June 2



Marcellinus was a priest and Peter an exorcist in Rome's Christian community. They were arrested and imprisoned during a persecution by Emperor Diocletian. In prison, they converted many people, including their jailer and his family. They were condemned to death and beheaded, supposedly in secret, in a nearby wood. But their executioner disclosed the deaths after his conversion. Pope Saint Damasus I wrote an epitaph for their tomb, over which Emperor Constantine later built a church in which he buried his mother. This pope also reported that he learned the details of their martyrdom from the executioner himself. Marcellinus and Peter are among the saints named in the Roman Canon of the Mass.



**VESTING:** With the assistance of his wife, Penny, Deacon Kevin Nester assumes the vestments of his new ministry. Mrs. Nester is shown adjusting her husband's stole.

**SUPPORTIVE FAMILY:** Deacon - Elect Kevin Nester (left), is pictured with several of his family members during his ordination Mass. Pictured (from left to right) are: his wife, Penny; niece Rebecca Nester; brother, David Nester; and David's wife, Margaret.

## Nester Ordained May 16

*(Continued From Page 1.)*

The Bishop said that Deacon Nester now has a responsibility to take an active role in the ministry of the Church. "The Rite of Ordination says "that in your exercise of this ordained

ministry you are to do God's will generously." He continued that it is not your will and you should discern God's will by trusting and obeying your superiors.

"As Pope Francis so often reminds us, we are especially

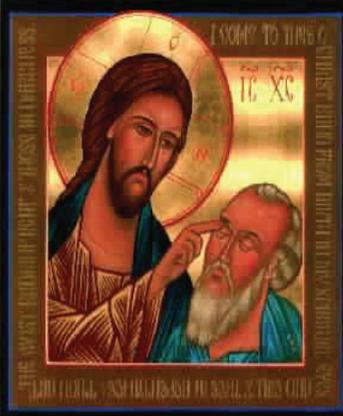
accountable to the poor and needy. Your response is to be generous. To be generous means to recognize that there is so much to do and sometimes it is not convenient for you to do it; but it is to be done in the image and according to the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Last October, Pope Francis talked about the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we receive through Baptism and Confirmation. Said Pope Francis, "A charism is more than a talent or personal quality. It is a grace, a gift that God gives through the Holy Spirit. These gifts, while granted to individuals, are discovered and acknowledged within the wider ecclesial community.

"As a sign of God's super-abundant love for His children,



**SIGN OF PEACE:** Deacon Kevin Nester receives a fraternal sign of peace from Bishop Mark L. Bartchak at the Saturday, May 16 ordination Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona.



### HEALING MASS

**Monday**  
**June 1, 2015**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Fr. Bill Kiel**  
**CELEBRANT**

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they are rich and varied, yet each is meant to serve the building up of the Church as a communion of faith and love."

Bishop Mark said Deacon Nester has been blessed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Baptism and Confirmation. To Deacon Nester, he said, "Today, you are blessed through the Sacrament of Holy Orders as you

are made a deacon. I know you are honored to have been called to receive this Sacrament and to assume the Ministry of Deacon.

"The truth is that we are all honored today by your saying yes to God's call to be a deacon, and by answering that with your ears and your feet and your heart."



**COUPLES HONORED:** Two married couples received the Prince Gallitzin Cross Award this year. Pictured at left with Bishop Mark are Don and Judy Beeler of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Altoona. Pictured at right are Carol and Ed Shields of Saint Anne Parish, Davidsville.

## Ten Receive Gallitzin Cross

(Continued From Page 16.)

Arnone, a life-long member of Saint Patrick Parish, was cited for his involvement in a variety of ministries dating back to his childhood. He was also thanked for encouraging the vocation of his son, Father Leo Arnone, pastor of Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Cresson.

Baker was honored for service in liturgical and social ministries at the Hollidaysburg parish. The Beelers, fourth generation members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish were recognized for their work in strengthening family life in the parish community.

Sister Marietta Therese has served at All Saints Catholic School since 2005 and was honored as a good example of living consecrated religious life. Harker, a member of Saint Rose of Lima Parish for 55 years was recognized as someone "who never lets someone in need go by," as evidenced by his commitment to the Saint Vincent DePaul Society.

Seymour's service to the parish and Diocese includes translating many of the important documents in the Cause of the Servant of God Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin. Mr. and

Mrs. Shields were cited as parishioners who motivate others to be involved in parish life, and Spargo as someone who goes above and beyond her call of duty as parish secretary to minister in a variety of settings, including the catechetical apostolate.

During the dinner, DeGol recognized the 34th anniversary of priestly ordination of Bishop

Mark, celebrated on May 15, and the 28th anniversary of episcopal ordination of Bishop - Emeritus Joseph V. Adamec on May 20.

Bishop Mark noted that through the intercession of Father Gallitzin, vocations in the Diocese are strengthening, and that a potential of seven men could be enrolled as seminarians in September.



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**SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA:** Celebrating First Holy Communion at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, Windber, on Sunday, May 3 were (photo at left, left to right) First row: Laurel Bean, Dillan George, Stone Manges, Carissa Weld. Second row: Olivia Vogel. Third row: Dolores Novak (catechist), Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Roderick Soha (pastor) and Violet Bunk (director of religious education). Confirmation was celebrated on Sunday, May 17. Pictured at right are (left to right) Abigail Hanley, Michael Spinos, Nicole Fuschino, Michael Tokarsky, III, Autumn Toki, Robert Verostick and Rachel Campitell.

**Wednesday, July 15 is the deadline for submitting First Holy Communion, Confirmation, May Crowning and Graduation photos for publication in The Catholic Register. No exceptions will be made to this deadline. Submissions may be made to [tstein@dioceseaj.org](mailto:tstein@dioceseaj.org) or [btomaselli@dioceseaj.org](mailto:btomaselli@dioceseaj.org), or may be mailed to The Catholic Register, 925 S. Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg PA, 16648.**



**OUR LADY QUEEN OF ANGELS:** Celebrating First Holy Communion at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish, Central City were (top photo, left to right) Benedictine Father Jeremiah George Lange, Layne Mincek, Carly Pongrac and Jonathan Bihun. Celebrating Confirmation were (bottom photo, left to right) Mark Harkcom, Emma Spinelli, Father Jeremiah George, Amy Hammer and Jordan Kachur.



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**SAINT BARTHOLOMEW:** Celebrating First Holy Communion at Saint Bartholomew Parish, Wilmore on Sunday, May 10 were (left to right) First row: Chelsea Bednar, Owen Gouse. Second row: Rowan Vinglas, Caroline Golden, Bella Bal. Third row: Devon Woomer, Josie Makin, Issac Willinsky. Fourth row: Diana Frantz (director of religious education). Father Sean Code is pastor.



**SACRED HEART:** Sacred Heart Parish, Altoona, celebrated First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 2. Taking part were (left to right) First row: Eva Drumm, Madison Trotter, Teagan Fanelli, Sophia Feigh, Ava Barton, Alyse Knott. Second row: Elliot Farabaugh, Lucas Rivera, Lukas Condron, William Sankey, Brian Knott, Nolan Brennan, Logan Myers. Third row: Judy Wahl (director of religious education), Father Lubomir Strecok (pastor), Father Jason Feigh and Marlene Brown (catechist).



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**Brenda Smithmyer, RN  
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# Now Showing

## 'Pitch Perfect' Off - Key

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

**NEW YORK (CNS)** -- The Bellas are back and singing their hearts out in "Pitch Perfect 2" (Universal), the ongoing trials and tribulations of a college capella group.

Elizabeth Banks, who reprises her role of snarky pageant official Gail, serves as director and co-producer of this sequel, which essentially follows the same template as the 2012 original. That means spirited musical numbers in the name of sisterhood (and landing a boyfriend), but also, regrettably, bawdy language, off-color humor, and sexual innuendo.

We return to the fictional Barden University, where

members of the Bellas are now seniors and ready to graduate. Having won the national capella title, they are invited to perform in Washington, before President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama (shown in a cameo).

The appearance takes a disastrous (and tasteless) turn when Fat Amy (Rebel Wilson) -- her preferred name to pre-empt insult -- has a wardrobe malfunction and exposes herself to the audience. A scandal erupts, and the Bellas are banned from future competition.

Much soul-searching ensues among the group's leaders, Beca (Anna Kendrick) and Chloe (Brittany Snow). They discover that the road to redemption lies overseas with the world championships, which no



CNS Photo/Universal

**PITCH PERFECT 2:** Rebel Wilson and Adam DeVine star in a scene from the movie "Pitch Perfect 2." 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.

American team has ever won.

The competition is dominated by a German supergroup called Das Sound Machine. They are the antithesis of the fresh-faced Bellas, menacing and clad in black leather. Their lead singer is a dominatrix aptly named Kommissar (Birgitte Hjort Sorensen).

With countless references to World War II, the battle is on between the USA and Germany.

Along the way to the showdown in Denmark, the Bellas hone their craft and regain their harmony in sing-offs against male counterparts including a bunch of real-life Green Bay Packers. They are also inspired by a new recruit, Emily (Hailee Steinfeld), daughter of a former Bella who writes her own songs.

"Pitch Perfect 2" works best when showcasing the catchy songs and not the dialogue, which is shockingly tone deaf. The attempts at humor by belittling women, foreigners and

even religion is out of tune with what should be a wholesome anthem for self-improvement and achievement.

The film contains implied nonmarital relationships, adult themes and innuendo, occasional crude language, and an obscene gesture. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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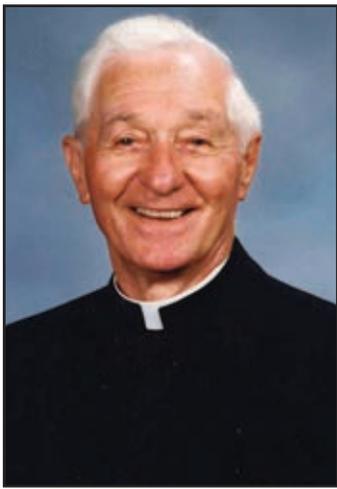
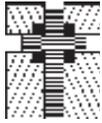
## Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

**June 7** -- In honor of the Year of Consecrated Life, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Kate O'Neil of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Huntingdon talks about her ministry and her religious community.

**June 14** -- As Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies Personal Care Residence in Hollidaysburg marks its 50th anniversary, Carmelite Sister for the Aged and Infirm Joachim Anne Ferenchak, Administrator, joins Bishop Mark to celebrate the milestone.

**May  
They Rest  
In Peace**



**Father Harold Homall  
T.O.R.**

Father Harold Homall, 100, of the Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, died Thursday, May 7, in Oceanside CA.

He was born March 17, 1915 in Bound Brook NJ, and given the name Albert, the son of the late Emery and Barbara (Poremba) Homall.

Father Harold is survived by his nephew Monsignor Richard Behl of Old Bridge NJ and nieces: Eileen Koehler, Geri Hottard, and Jeri Wilson, friend and caregiver Theresa Gallagher of Oceanside CA and his Franciscan brothers. He was preceded in death by his brother Joseph, and sisters, Mae Behl, Anne Bensulock, and Betty Wilson.

He attended Saint Mary Grade School in Bound Brook and graduated from Bound Brook High School in 1934. In his senior year of high school he was all county quarterback for Somerset County, New Jersey, and was called "the gazelle". After graduation, he worked as an office clerk in Trenton, New Jersey. He served in the United States Navy from 1942 until 1946.

Father Harold entered the Third Order Regular Franciscan community in Loretto in September, 1947 and entered the novitiate on June 30, 1948. He professed simple vows on July

1, 1949 and solemn vows July 1, 1952. He received a bachelor of arts degree in Philosophy in 1951 from Saint Francis College. He did his theology studies at Saint Francis Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood by the late Bishop Richard T. Guilfoyle at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, on May 21, 1955.

During his long and faithful Franciscan life he ministered in education; served in formation leadership; was superior at several friaries; and served as parochial vicar in parishes. In 1978 Father Harold was transferred to the Diocese of San Diego where he served as hospital chaplain and parochial vicar in several parishes. In 2000, Father Harold retired from formal ministry and resided in Oceanside CA.

The funeral Mass for Father Harold Homall T.O.R. was celebrated Tuesday, May 19 in the chapel of Saint Francis Friary at Mount Assisi, Loretto, with Father Richard L. Davis, Minister Provincial, as the principal celebrant. Committal was in the Friars Cemetery on the campus of Saint Francis University, Loretto.

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



**MOST HOLY TRINITY, SOUTH FORK:** Most Holy Trinity Parish, South Fork, celebrated Confirmation on Thursday, April 9 and First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 3. Pictured above are (left to right) Alissa Peretin, Kaeyln Chaney, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Zachary Dillon, Steven Dusack, and Father Sean Code (pastor). Pictured below are (left to right) Father Code, Alyson Richardson (catechist), Cody Biter, Jacob Blanchetti, Cole Blanchetti, Olivia Sewalk, Seth Richardson (server) and Deacon Rick Golden.



**SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE:** The confirmandi from Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bedford are (left to right): Paul Enderle, Rylee Bosch, Matthew Kline, Gabrielle Donatelli, Joshua Evans, Carly Lapinski, Cory Schade, Emily Yanoshak and Jessica Shastay. Father Donald Dusza is pastor.



**THE PRINCE GALLITZIN CROSS AWARD:** Bishop Mark L. Bartchak invested ten people with the Prince Gallitzin Cross Award during the 26th annual Award Dinner held Saturday, May 16 at the Calvin House in Duncansville. Pictured at left are (left to right) First row: Ed and Carol Shields, Sister Marietta Therese Hanley, Kathleen Spargo, Judy Beeler. Second row: Raymond Seymour, Lawrence Harker, Thomas Baker, Bishop Mark, Philip Arnone Sr. and Don Beeler. At right, Bishop Mark congratulates Sister Marietta Therese, a member of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, after investing her with the award. It was noted at the dinner that Sister's award is particularly appropriate as the Church observes a Year for Consecrated Life.

## Ten Invested With Prince Gallitzin Cross Award

### 26th Annual Award Dinner Held May 16; Awardees Embody Spirit Of Servant Of God Gallitzin

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

A church is more than just a place constructed of bricks and mortar.

Tony DeGol, diocesan secretary for communications, serving as Master of Ceremonies at the Prince Gallitzin Cross Award

dinner reminded those in attendance that "Church is people coming together to share time, talents and gifts. That's what we celebrate this evening."

The 26th annual Award Dinner, held Saturday, May 16 at the Calvin House in Duncansville, saw ten people invested with the honor, first presented in 1990 at celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the death of the

Servant of God Prince - Priest Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin.

And according to DeGol, "in reading the nomination forms for these ten honorees, and of those others nominated for the award this year, it is clear that the spirit of the Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin is alive and well here" in the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, in presenting the awards, spoke of the fact that the honorees - - men and women drawn from throughout the eight county Diocese are typical of "ordinary people who share the good news of the gospel with us." Pope Francis often speaks of such "or-

inary people," the Bishop said, noting that the Pontiff stresses the right and the obligation of the lay faithful, in virtue of their baptism, to go out and share the joy of the gospel.

"This evening is not so much about promoting Father Gallitzin," Bishop Mark stated, "but about giving witness to our Catholic faith" as seen in the lives of the awardees.

This year's recipients of the Prince Gallitzin Cross were:

- - Philip C. Arnone Sr. of Saint Patrick Parish, Johnstown;
- - Thomas Baker of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Hollidaysburg;
- - Don and Judy Beeler of

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Altoona;

- - Sister Marietta Therese Hanley of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, a teacher at All Saints Catholic School, Cresson;

- - Lawrence Harker of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Altoona;

- - Raymond Seymour of Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Loretto;

- - Ed and Carol Shields of Saint Anne Parish, Davidsville;

- - Kathleen D. Spargo of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Everett.

*(Continued On Page 11.)*

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