

The Catholic Register

Official Publication Of
The Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown

Volume LXXXIX, No. 19 Published Bi - Weekly (USPS 094 - 280)

www.dioceseaj.org January 26, 2015

Diocese, Schools Plan Variety Of Special Events To Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

Bishop, State Senator Eichelberger Will Lead School Choice Rally At Lakemont School

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

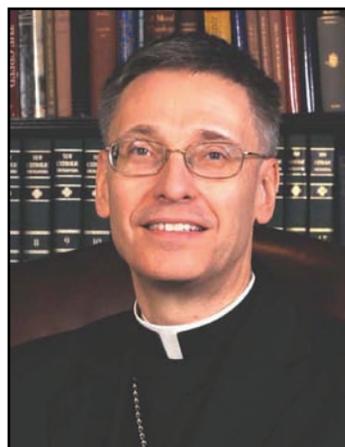
Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of faith, community and education in the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese. But, the national observance, which began on Sunday and ends on January 31, is also a fun time for the students teachers and administrators.

Sister of Charity Donna Marie Leiden and Jo - Ann Semko, feel bad they can't make it to all of the schools to join in on the fun. "There are variety of meaningful activities planned in the schools throughout the eight - county Diocese," said Sister Donna Marie, "from pajama parties to dancing. I wish we could get to all of them." Sister Donna Marie is director of Education for the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese and Semko is assistant director of Education.

One of the biggest events of the week is a celebration of Catholic Schools Week and National School Choice Week, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, January 29 at Saint John the Evangelist Parish/School Gymnasium in Lakemont, Altoona. The event is co-sponsored by the Altoona - Johnstown Catholic Diocese and the Diocesan Second Century Scholarship Fund.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and State Senator John Eichelberger will offer special messages. Senator Eichelberger is an advocate and very supportive of School Choice in Pennsylvania. He will speak of its benefits.

Several other public officials will attend the event and will be available to meet personally with the public. It will provide an opportunity for parents to tell them how they feel about School Choice and why a Catholic school education is important to them.



BISHOP MARK L.
BARTCHAK



SENATOR JOHN
EICHELBERGER

Local businesses that support the Second Century Scholarship Fund will participate. It's an opportunity for the public to thank them and encourage them to continue their efforts.

In addition, Sean McAleer, director of Education for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) will attend. The PCC is the public affairs arm of the Catholic Church in Pennsylvania. He will address the value of School Choice.

Also, a student and parent will be on hand to discuss how the Second Century Scholarship Fund helps make a Catholic education affordable to them.

All Catholic School families are invited to attend, especially the families and students that are benefitting from the Diocese's Second Century Scholarship Fund and School Choice.

"If people would take some time and go visit our schools they would experience an atmosphere of faith, spirit, and education," Sister Donna Marie said. "If they experienced the respect the students have for their teachers and each other, and their acceptance of all individuals, there would be no question as to where they would send their children to school."

(Continued On Page 10.)

High Schools

Support Wounded Warriors

Johnstown: Bishop McCort Catholic High School students will once again hold a dodgeball tournament during the afternoons of mid-terms, scheduled for January 27 - 29.

This year, members from SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) wanted to give meaning to the tournament. They elected to have a fundraiser to support the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP). In addition to the dodgeball tournament, we will also host a speaker from WWP, Jason Braase, who was

injured by an IED in June 2005 during a security operations.

Each homeroom has been challenged to raise \$250, which will gain them entry into the dodgeball tournament and get each student a t-shirt. In addition, a specially designed version of the t-shirt will be made available for public sale. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to WWP.

Higher Education

Academic Vice - President

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College President Tom Foley announced that Stephen J. Pug-

liese, Ph.D., will serve the College as senior vice-president of Academic Affairs. Dr. Pugliese comes to Mount Aloysius College from Immaculata University in southeastern Pennsylvania where he served for 12 years in several academic, administrative and teaching roles. Most recently he was vice-president for Student Development and Undergraduate Enrollment.

In making the announcement, Foley cited Dr. Pugliese's breadth of experiences across many areas of higher education, his understanding of the Mount Aloysius mission, his work ethic and his leadership. "Dr. Steve Pugliese arrives at Mount Aloysius College from Immaculata University -- a mission-focused, Catholic college in southeastern Pennsylvania. He fully appreciates the opportunities we offer to students who come to us for their education," he said. "Dr. Pugliese brings an overview to this position which will help us continue advancing the college. His experience includes teaching, several administrative roles including student-life, athletics, fund-raising, academic planning, curriculum design and more. We are very excited to have Steve be part of the life of Mount Aloysius College."

In addition to his previous administrative duties as vice-president, Dr. Pugliese also served as associate faculty in the College of Graduate Studies at Immaculata. Immaculata University is comprised of the College of Undergraduate Studies, the College of Lifelong Learning, and the College of Graduate Studies.

In addition to his 12 years at Immaculata, Dr. Pugliese served as faculty and in various administrative roles at Villanova University, Villanova; King's College, Wilkes-Barre, and Marywood University, Scranton.

Dr. Pugliese earned his doctorate in Human Development/Higher Education Administration from Marywood University. His Master of Science in Human Resource Development was earned at Villanova University, and his Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Theater Communi-



CAMPUS MINISTRY RETREAT: Students who participate in the Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown took part in an autumn retreat at Saint John the Baptist Retreat Center in New Baltimore, with the theme "Look Deeper" into the Catholic faith. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Shane Shoemaker, Grant Kristo, Aaron Bruce. Second row: Kevin McCrary, LaDonna McCrary (UPJ Catholic Campus Minister), Mike Devon, Sylvia McMullen, Michelle Therrien. Third row: Chandler Mical, Allison Pietryga, Brendan Karnbauer. Fourth row: Chloe Bovier, Sarah Brasili, Megan Kostan, Nicholas Wolf. Fifth row: Stephen Dolhi, Shaun Ocipa, Steven Hall. Sixth row: Kathryn Summerville and Emily Summerville.

cation from Kutztown University, Kutztown.

Dr. Pugliese will reside in Duncansville.

Elected To NCAA Council

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College President Tom Foley has been elected to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III Presidents Council. Effective January 2015, President Foley will serve a four-year term scheduled to end in 2018. Foley is one of 18 college presidents and chancellors serving on the Council, representing more than 500 institutions competing at the Division III level across the country. He is one of two college presidents

representing Region 2 which is comprised of colleges and universities primarily in the State of New York and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mount Aloysius College competes in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) of Region 2. He is only the second AMCC member in its history to serve in this capacity.

The Mount Aloysius coaching staff stresses academics first and encourages student-athletes to look for community service opportunities.

(Continued On Page 3.)

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In The Alleghenies



PORTAGE CHRISTMAS PLAY: Saint Joseph Parish and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, comprising the Catholic Community of Portage, celebrated Breakfast With Santa, and with a nativity play staged by the children of the community. Pictured are (left to right) First Row: Casey Patalune, Jacob Krinjeck, Lillie Layo, John Korin, Jenna Moratti, Nick Usry, Sophia Korin, Alexa Korin, Avery Smith, Kaitlyn Gressick. Second row: Bailey Patalune, Zachary Kertes, Jude Kertes, Jackson Patalune, Mackenzie Teno and Emily Gressick.



GUILFOLYE STUDENTS CELEBRATE KING DAY WITH VETS: Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School students celebrated Martin Luther King Day with songs and the reciting of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech with residents at the James E. VanZandt Medical Center. Altoona. Eighteen juniors and seniors in the Guilfoyle chorus, under the direction of Bishop Guilfoyle music teacher, Brett Keith, performed a wide arrangements of African American spiritual and gospel songs for residents. Senior Jordan Rhone recited King's "I Have a Dream" speech. "Bishop Guilfoyle is committed to providing meaningful learning experiences for our students. Marking the legacy of Dr. King through music with a social justice message is a great way for the Bishop Guilfoyle community to honor his inspirational life," Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic principal Joan Donnelly said.

(Continued From Page 2.)

That focus has garnered individual student-athletes, entire Mountie teams, and the college generally with recognition for their academic and community performance in the AMCC, NCAA Division III and even at the national level.

Students at Mount Aloysius College compete in 14 NCAA Division III sports in the AMCC. These include women's bowling, men's and women's basketball, cross-country, golf, soccer and tennis; women's softball; men's baseball; and women's volleyball.

Colleges and universities competing in the NCAA's AMCC include: D'Youville College, Buffalo, NY; Franciscan University, Steubenville, OH; Hilbert College, Hamburg, NY; LaRoche College, Pittsburgh; Medaille College, Buffalo, NY; Mount Aloysius College; Penn State Behrend, Erie; Penn State Altoona; Pitt Bradford; and Pitt Greensburg.

Parishes

Organ Recital

Altoona: Kevin Clemens will present a recital in celebration of his 60th birthday at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, Sunday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Clemens is a former organist at the Cathedral.

The recital will feature the magnificent sounds of the 78 rank 1931 G. F. Steinmeyer organ.

A free will offering will be taken to support the Cathedral's concert series.

Prayer

Retreat For Girls

Portage: The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus are sponsoring a retreat for girls in the seventh grade through high school, Friday, January 30 through Sunday, February 1.

With the theme "Like Clay In The Hands Of The Potter," this weekend retreat is for girls

to strengthen them in their relationship with Our Lord through various presentations, discussion and an opportunity to pray. Reflecting on God's references to being the Potter, the opportunity to recall the uniqueness of each person and their gifts as well as God's use of events to continually form them will be explored.

The Retreat will be held at Sacred Heart Center, 1872 Munster Road. The program will include prayer, conferences, games, crafts, group discussions, quiet reflection, Mass, Confessions, and individual conferences as requested.

The retreat will open at 5:30 p.m., with supper included on Friday evening, and will end with noon brunch on Sunday. A suggested donation of \$30.00 is asked, but is not required.

Registration is due by Wednesday, January 29.

To register or for more information, Mother Jacinta at (814) 505 - 2290 or email her: sisterjacinta@gmail.com

The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus are devoted to extending the glory and the Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus through prayer and service to the most needy. The Sisters are a contemplative - active Congregation within the Franciscan family. The apostolate of the Congregation includes teaching, catechetical formation, nursing, service to the poor and elderly, evangelization, parish and retreat ministry and work with youth.

(Continued On Page 6.)



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THE CATHOLIC REGISTER SERVING THE DIOCESE OF ALTOONA - JOHNSTOWN	Subscriptions: \$8.00 Parish Based \$18.00 Individual	Publisher: Most Reverend Bishop Mark L. Bartchak
Published Bi - weekly at 925 South Logan Boulevard Hollidaysburg PA 16648	Periodical Class Postage Paid At Altoona PA and other mailing offices. Postmaster send change of address to: 925 South Logan Boulevard (USPS 094 - 280)	Editor: Rev. Msgr. Timothy P. Stein
Phone (814) 695 - 7563 FAX (814) 695 - 7517	Member Publication Of The Catholic Press Association	Manager: Bruce A. Tomaselli
		Secretary: Frances M. Logrando

Point Of View

"Tell us again mom, the story of Pap and how much trouble he got in as a student at Saint Mary's School? Please, Please, Please! " my kids beg, for they want to hear about the funny and downright naughty shenanigans my father engaged in during his Catholic School days as a youth, a mere sixty years ago.

It is not only the pranks that included fire, cow manure and a pair of the good nun's shoes that cause my children to go into hysterics. But, it is the thought of their dear great-grandmother praying the rosary as she dragged her son home every day from school that make them shake their heads in disbelief.

"This can't be true mom," they said. "Pap is the most Christian man we know, there is no way he was almost kicked out of Catholic school." I reaffirm that their grandfather was on the top of the nun's prankster A-list and remind them Pap's penance of a daily trip, for a year, to the confessional was probably the true source of his redemption. They laugh. My children love to hear this story re-told, in fact, I think they love this story a little too much. But why?

I would agree my kids love to laugh at the thought of the spiritual patriarch of their family today was far from being the angelic child they envisioned him to be. But I also believe they also love to hear it retold because it links them to something bigger than themselves. I believe re-telling this family favorite gives my children a glimpse of who they are and where they have come. Telling family sto-



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich
Sharing Faith Stories

ries is important for children to know their roots helping them to identify their own branch in the forest of their family tree.

Although I pride myself in being our family's story teller, something happened to me this weekend that made me realize, some of my children's greatest family's stories of old have been overlooked. Stories I knew existed. Stories too great to be left untold. This past weekend, with a bribe of bottomless popcorn, drinks and dinner afterwards, I took my three oldest boys to see the movie, called "Exodus." A great movie, that really brought home one of the most magnificent stories of the old testament, a glorious tale of God's faithfulness to His people. While being lost in one of the scenes of the movie, I was startled by a tap on my shoulder. My son Noah, leaned over and whispered, "Mom we just learned about this in school, but I am confused, did Jacob come before Moses, or was that Joseph?"

After a hard swallow of a mouthful of popcorn, I turned to him and embarrassingly admitted, "I am not sure." I thought to myself, here I am trying to raise Godly kids and cannot even answer a simple question about

one of their greatest family faith stories of all.

I came to realize as a parent it is very important I not only share the stories of my human heritage but also paramount and in fact more critical, to share stories of my family's spiritual lineage. I need to share my beliefs as it pertains to the world today but I also need to seriously study the stories of my faith's history so I am more than prepared to answer the questions of the youth.

If I really want my children to know their faith, grow in it and come to love it, I have to realize I need to be actively studying scriptures and the teachings of the church, so I am well prepared to lead them in the truths. Our children cannot be lead blindly in this world, which is more than ready to interrogate them about their faith, with an objective to lead them to doubt and turn away from their church.

We as parents have a huge responsibility to know our faith, be courageous enough to share our faith and if the time comes to actively defend our faith.

(Continued On Page 15.)



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
Remember Lepanto!

Every time there is a report of another massacre or another atrocity committed by Islamic terrorists, two words come to my mind: Remember Lepanto!

Lepanto was the scene of a major naval battle in 1571, when the Holy League, a coalition of seven Catholic nations, defeated the Ottoman Empire in the Gulf of Corinth, at a point off Western Greece. The Ottomans were set back one hundred years in their fight to conquer and control Europe. The Holy League decisively defeated the Ottoman Forces at the Battle of Vienna in 1683, bringing to an end - - until our own times at least - - the efforts of a Muslim power to exercise sovereignty in the Western World.

I keep thinking "Remember Lepanto!" because the forces of the Holy League were united in placing their campaign under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A copy of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was carried aboard one of the Christian ships. The rosary was prayed by the sailors and their commanders as they sailed to the place of conflict. The rosary was also being said, ashore, by all of the peoples of the seven Catholic states united in the common cause. The Battle of Lepanto was fought, and won, on October 7. Pope Pius V, in gratitude to Mary, gave her a new title: Our Lady of Victory. A new feast day was proclaimed to be celebrated on October 7: the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

I want to remember Lepanto because the events of that fateful day prove the power of prayer, just as the prayers of the Capuchin friar, Blessed Marco di Aviano, who rallied the troops around the cross, proved decisive at the Battle of Vienna. That battle, too, led to another Marian feast: the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary.

As we look back on our nation's history of standing up to the terror wreaked by Islamic fundamentalists, as we consider the heavy toll of our country's longest - ever war, as we consider the new threat posed by ISIS and ISIL, and as we watch in horror the aftermath of massacres in Paris, I have to wonder if we haven't been fighting our battles with the wrong weapons. We went to war looking to uncover weapons of mass destruction. We have used powerful weapons, ourselves. Perhaps we would do better to concentrate more on waging war with weapons of mass intercession - - by turning to prayer as the most effective means of combating those who would rule by terror and fear.

We in the Western world cannot comprehend how militant Muslims can wage war and terror in God's name. Maybe the only lesson we can learn from our foe is that we must take God and the things of God as seriously as they do. Maybe if we recovered the sense of the sacred in our own lives, in our own countries, we could better understand the point of view of those who oppose us, and could reach out to them from a point of common understanding - - the understanding that only God reigns supreme.

And it seems to me that resorting to the power of prayer - - remembering what prayer did at Lepanto and Vienna - - would not be such a very bad place to start!

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Dear Friends in Christ,

I recently had the privilege of meeting a young lady named Mary from one of our fine Catholic high schools. Not only is she in the top five percent of her class and a member of several honor societies, but she has an impressive record of service to her church and the community. When I commended Mary for her accomplishments, she quickly and humbly pointed out that she represents all of the students in her high school. She is exactly right!

As we kick off another Catholic Schools Week here in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, we celebrate our schools as communities of faith, knowledge, and service. As Mary reminded me, our students are blessed to learn in an environment in which Jesus Christ is at the center of everything we do. That will never change. It is also no secret that our high academic standards arm students with the knowledge to be leaders, both now and in the future. Our students put their faith and knowledge into action by serving others. In fact, the majority of our young people go well beyond the number of required hours of service, and they do so joyfully.

There is a rich history of Catholic education here in Altoona-Johnstown, and our challenge now is to keep that tradition alive in the future. I am working hard to ensure that a Catholic education remains available, accessible, and affordable for all. As I'm sure you know, many others are working with me, studying various aspects of our schools, and offering me valuable insight and recommendations. I want to thank those who are assisting me in this process. I am also grateful to everyone who supports Catholic education, including students, parents, faculty, and administration.

So, I welcome this Catholic Schools Week 2015 with great pride and anticipation. I am very proud of Mary and all of the other Catholic school students she represents. I look forward to the future knowing that the hard work we are doing today will strengthen Catholic education for years to come. I plan to visit some of our schools during Catholic Schools Week, and I will make other school visits throughout the year. I hope that you have a chance to meet our Catholic school students like Mary. They are the reason we are happy to celebrate our outstanding Catholic schools – communities of faith, knowledge, and service!

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Mark L. Bartchak

Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown

Pope's Canonization Announcement Surprises Father Junipero Serra's Promoters

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Surprising even the people who have been promoting the sainthood cause of Blessed Junipero Serra, Pope Francis announced Jan. 15 that in September, he hopes to canonize the 18th-century Spanish Franciscan who founded a string of missions

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 3.)

Life In The Spirit Seminar

Altoona: The Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group will sponsor a Life in the Spirit Seminar on Saturday, March 21, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

The retreat, which focuses on the presence of the Holy Spirit, will include spiritual teachings and testimonies by Bob Sutton, Carmelite of the Word Sister Linda LaMagna, Third Order Regular Franciscans Brother Richard Fornwalt, Father Bob Hilz, Brother Rick Boland and Father Michael Tinker, Deacon John Rys, Monsignor Robert Mazur and Jess Kozlowski, as well as celebration of the Mass and praise and worship.

The day will feature special presentation by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, and small-group faith sharing. The Saint Francis University "Sharers of the Word" will assist with music ministry.

Lunch and dinner will be provided.

Pre-registration is required by calling (814) 941-3832 or by e-mail to tonycond@aol.com.

The fee for adults is \$25.00 (\$20.00 if registered by February 25), and students are free.

across Mexico and California.

Blessed Serra is credited with directly founding nine missions in California, one in Baja California in Mexico and with reinvigorating established missions in Mexico. Friars under his tutelage founded many others across California, in territory that was then part of New Spain.

The vice postulator for Blessed Serra's sainthood cause, Franciscan Father John Vaughn, told Catholic News Service he was taken completely by surprise by the pope's announcement. Even among the friars at Mission Santa Barbara, where he lives, "I was the last to know," he said.

The announcement came when Pope Francis, aboard a flight from Sri Lanka to the Philippines, explained to reporters his decision to canonize St. Joseph Vaz, a 17th- and 18th-century missionary to Sri Lanka, bypassing the usual process, including verification of a second miracle attributed to the saint's intercession. Pope Francis said St. Joseph was among great evangelists whom he planned to canonize without such preliminaries, in an effort to celebrate the practice of evangelization.

"Now in September, God willing, I will canonize Junipero Serra in the United States. He was the evangelizer of the West in the United States," the pope said. He did not specify when or where the canonization might take place.

Father Vaughn said he had heard that Pope Francis considered Blessed Serra to have already met the sainthood criteria because of the way he brought the Catholic faith to California and the native populations. But that the pope was ready to move on canonizing the friar came as a total surprise, he said.

The announcement is "a great honor for the province," Father Vaughn said. "We've always looked to Serra as the ideal for how to preach the Gospel, as he said 'always go forward, never back.'"



CNS Photo

BLESSED JUNIPERO SERRA

Pope Francis announced January 15 that in September, he hopes to canonize the 18th-century Spanish Franciscan who founded a string of missions across Mexico and California.

Blessed Serra was born in the village of Petra on the Spanish island Mallorca Nov. 24, 1713. After entering the Franciscans, he obtained a doctorate in sacred theology at the National University of Blessed Ramon Lull and developed a career as an academic and acclaimed preacher in Spain. At the age of 36, he volunteered to go to the New World, to Mexico.

As noted in a biography of Blessed Serra on the website of the California-based Santa Barbara Province of the Franciscans, the friar first was assigned to the remote Sierra Gorda region, in what is now the state of Queretaro, where he worked among the Pame Indians, some of whom had already been converted to Catholicism. He then spent another decade crisscrossing central Mexico, preaching.

In 1758, he was appointed to head up a group of Spanish Franciscans sent to evangelize and colonize "Baja" and "Alta" California. He personally established nine missions in what is

now the state of California, beginning with Mission San Diego de Alcalá in present-day San Diego. He supervised the Franciscans who founded 12 more California missions.

He died at age 70 Aug. 28, 1784, and is buried at Mission San Carlos Borromeo in Carmel, California. He was beatified in Rome Sept. 25, 1988, by St. John Paul II.

Steven Hackel, a history professor at University of California at Riverside who has written a biography, "Junipero Serra: California's Founding Father," told CNS he thinks of Blessed Serra as one of the little-heralded "founding fathers" of the United States. Though he was a contemporary of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, the priest and other missionaries who settled areas beyond the East Coast were crucial to the development of the nation as well.

"Every region had its missionaries who were founding fathers of another sort," Hackel said.

Although California fourth-graders study Blessed Serra's accomplishments in social studies classes, Hackel said he and the other missionary founding fathers are often ignored in history textbooks. He said he hopes new attention to Blessed Serra will change that.

As to where the canonization might take place, Pope Francis gave no indication.

The pope is scheduled to visit the United States in September to participate in the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, which runs Sept. 22-27.

The Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, said in early January that he expects the pope also will visit Washington, where he has been invited to address a joint session of Congress, and New York, where he has been invited to address the United Nations. The cardinal provided no dates for the pope's travel and did not

mention where else, if anywhere in the U.S., he would visit.

Pope Francis also has been invited to other parts of the United States, and he has said he wants to go to the U.S.-Mexico border. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto said last June when they met that Pope Francis told him he would accept the invitation to visit Mexico, though he did not say when. In a pastoral trip to Nuevo Laredo Jan. 10, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio, remarked that there was "joy and hope" that the pope would visit Mexico, but that he had no information about dates.

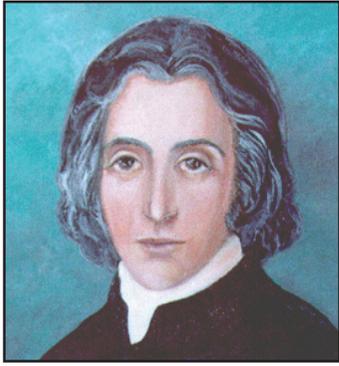
At the time of Blessed Serra's beatification, protesters demonstrated against the action and spray-painted graffiti on the walls of a San Diego museum named for the friar. Critics, including representatives of Native Americans, said Blessed Serra brutalized Native Americans and suppressed Indian culture. A 1986 report by the Diocese of Monterey, California, defended Blessed Serra, saying his reputation had been attacked "without proof or documentation."

The National Assembly of Religious Women, a now defunct grass-roots organization, said at the time that the Vatican "failed to consult adequately" with Native Americans before beatifying Blessed Serra, and that he "was guilty, along with many others, of extreme brutality toward California Indians."

Hackel said he expects some of those controversies to surface again, but he thinks this time the debate about Blessed Serra could be a constructive conversation.

"He was uncompromising," Hackel said of the priest. "Without a doubt some Indians will oppose this. But others are rejoicing."

Working through the controversies "will be a good thing," he said. "It can lead to reconciliation and mutual understanding."



A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840



CNS Photo/Kevin Lamarque, Reuters

PRESIDENT AT ROMERO'S TOMB: U.S. President Barack Obama, second from left, looks at a limited edition print with images of Archbishop Oscar Romero given to him as he tours the Metropolitan Cathedral in San Salvador March 22, 2011. Standing with Obama is Archbishop Jose Escobar Alas of San Salvador, a translator, and El Salvador's President Mauricio Funes, right. The structure on the right is the tomb of Archbishop Romero who was shot dead by a hit squad while celebrating Mass in the capital March 24, 1980, during the country's civil war.

Panel Of Theologians Agree Archbishop Romero A Martyr

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

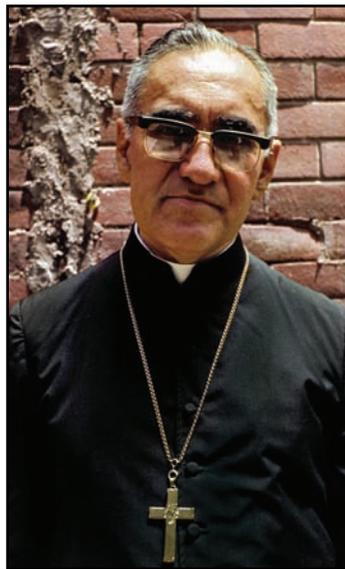
VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- A panel of theologians advising the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes voted unanimously to recognize the late Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero as a martyr, according

to the newspaper of the Italian bishops' conference.

The panel declared Jan. 8 that the archbishop had been killed "in hatred for the faith," *Avvenire* reported Jan. 9.

The decision is a key step in the archbishop's cause, following an extended debate over whether he was killed for political reasons or for his faith.

The next step in the process



CNS Photo/Octavio Duran

ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ROMERO

Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

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

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

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

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

+ + +

Kindly send information about favors granted to:

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

lies with the cardinals and bishops who sit on the Congregation for Saints' Causes, who will vote on whether to advise the pope to issue a decree of beatification. A miracle is not needed for beatification of a martyr, though a miracle is ordinarily needed for his or her canonization as saint.

Archbishop Romero, an outspoken advocate for the poor, was shot and killed March 24, 1980, as he celebrated Mass in a hospital in San Salvador during his country's civil war. His sainthood cause was opened at the Vatican in 1993.

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

In March 2013, Pope Francis reportedly told El Salvador's ambassador to the Holy See: "I hope that under this pontificate we can beatify (Archbishop Romero)."

Pope Francis told reporters in August 2014 that "For me, Romero is a man of God."

"But the process must go ahead, and God must give his sign. If he wants to do so, he will," Pope Francis said.

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

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



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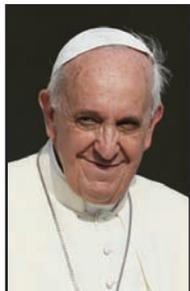
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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis
Poverty Will Not
Fix Itself

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The world cannot wait for an economic system that will cause poverty to fix itself, Pope Francis said.

"Markets and financial speculation cannot enjoy absolute autonomy," he said. There must be "programs, mechanisms and procedures aimed at a better distribution of resources, job creation and the integral advancement of those who are excluded," he said in a recently published interview.

"We cannot wait any longer to fix the structural causes of poverty, to cure our society from a disease that can only bring on new crises," he said.

The latest interview, conducted in October 2014, was published in a new book, **Pope Francis: This Economy Kills** by Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli. While the book was released Jan. 13, excerpts from the interview were published in the Italian newspaper **La Stampa** Jan. 11.

While noting the positive outcomes of the current globalized economy in lifting many people from poverty, the pope said it also "condemned many others to die of hunger."

While globalization raised the level of global wealth, income disparity also increased and new forms of poverty have emerged, he said.

This globalized economy is supported "by a throwaway culture" where policies and social behaviors have made money, not people, the focus.

"Money becomes an idol, and men and women are reduced to simple tools of a social and economic system characterized, no, dominated by deep imbalances," he said.

Abortion and the abandonment of the elderly are also consequences of this throwaway mentality, he said.

"I often ask myself, Who will be the next to be thrown away? We have to stop ourselves in time. Let us stop this, please" he said, adding that people must not give up trying to build a world where all people and their well-being are at the core, not money.

Pope Francis said the earliest Fathers of the Church highlighted the importance of helping the poor and the fact that the earth and its resources belong to everyone, not just the wealthy.

He said if he were to use the same phrases from the homilies of these early church fathers "on how to treat the poor, there would be someone accusing my homily of being Marxist."

"This attention to the poor is in the Gospel and is in the tradition of the church, it is not an invention of communism, and there is no need to turn it into an ideology, as has sometimes been the case throughout history," he said.

The Gospel message of helping the poor is meant for everyone, he said.

"The Gospel does not condemn the rich but the idolatry of wealth, that idolatry that makes people insensitive to the cry of the poor," he said.



ONE MORE TIME: In 1961 - 1962, a new convent was built for the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville at Sacred Heart Parish, Conemaugh.

After Christmas, a brutal cold descended on my part of the Midwest and ushered in our new year.

We returned from our holiday travels to find a light dusting of snow. Most of it had been blown away by the harsh winds of the Plains, but when I awoke in the morning, I discovered that my patio, protected from the gusts, was covered by a smooth, pristine white blanket.

Punctuating the snow was a trail of little bunny footprints. For me, that brought to mind only one thing: Sunny's footprints were missing. She was no longer around to chase rabbits.

Sunny, our golden retriever, was geriatric in dog years, and she'd had a good life. It was still hard to see her declining this past year. She stopped eating and drinking the week before Christmas. The veterinarian confirmed what we knew: It was time for her to go.

For those who have never had to put down a pet, it's probably hard to understand the anguish. For those who have, no explanation is necessary.

Sunny's departure occurred shortly after the crazy media frenzy that erupted when news reports mistakenly quoted Pope Francis as telling a young boy that he would be reunited in heaven with his dog.

It was amazing to see the splash this purported statement made. Even **The New York**



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
When A Pet's Death
Makes Us Face Our Mortality

Times incorrectly reported it before somebody actually looked into the transcript of Pope Francis' wonderful statement on creation and discovered that it was beautiful and inspiring, but it certainly contained no assurance that Fido was romping somewhere beyond the Pearly Gates.

Why the interest in the original report? The press always looks for "feel good" stories at the holiday season and this fit the bill. Also, people are incredibly attached to their pets, so the assurance that we might see them again struck a chord.

But it also speaks to our relationship with death. This may sound crazy, but for a few days after I petted Sunny and cooed to her as she took her last breath, I had something of an existential crisis.

Did Sunny cease to exist? If Sunny suddenly was just ash, just "dust in the wind," as the song says, what did it all say about life and death for me? It forced me to confront my fears about death.

As a Christian, I cling to the resurrection and to Jesus' prom-

ises. I know Jesus lives, and that in some fashion, he promises me life. But it's all wrapped up in such mystery. We have no idea what awaits us. So, when the pope is misquoted as saying our dog will be in heaven, we hear a message of certainty and cling to it. Hey, life will be just what it is right now, only without problems.

My youngest daughter, who had campaigned hard to adopt Sunny when she and Sunny were young, wrote about the pope's words, and said, "Sunny is probably chasing rabbits in heaven right now." I laughed. What kind of heaven would that be for the rabbits?

I knew a man who worked with the dying, who would sit at the bedside of those dying alone so that they would have human companionship until the end.

"All I know," he told me, "is that they are falling into the arms of a merciful God."

We return to a merciful God who beckons us to enter into the Creator's mystery now, on this earth, through prayer and silence and service.



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
The Rapture

Q. My husband of 40 years has been “born again.” He says that this is the only way to get to heaven when “the rapture” happens and that the rest of us will be left behind for seven years of terror. He thinks Jesus is going to come any day now and so he refuses to make needed repairs to our 30-year-old mobile home. (He also says that our niece should not plan for college next fall.)

Last night, he brought this up to our parish priest who said that he does not believe in the rapture and that, as long as we are ready to meet God by living a good life, we will be saved. What is your own take on this? (Frustrated near Green Bay, Wisconsin)

A. The Catholic view links being “reborn” to the sacrament of baptism. The Catechism of the Catholic Church in No. 1265 says that “baptism not only purifies from all sins, but also makes the neophyte ‘a new creature,’ an adopted son of God.”

Evangelical Christianity links being “born again” to an adult “conversion experience” in which a person consciously accepts Jesus as his or her personal savior.

As for “rapture,” many evangelical Christians, particularly fundamentalists, link it to the end times (the return of Jesus) when those who are right with God will be silently and secretly taken up into heaven and those who are living in sin will remain on earth for a period of tribulation and chaos.

Catholic theology does not support this type of event and views the theory as a misinterpretation of Paul’s words in 1 Thessalonians 4:17. The Catholic Church does not believe that being “born again” is the only route to salvation.

The Second Vatican Council asserted in “Lumen Gentium” (No. 16) that “those also can attain to salvation who through no fault of their own do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, yet sincerely seek

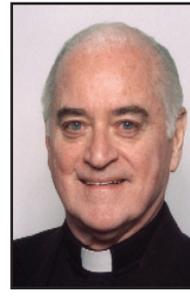
God and moved by grace strive by their deeds to do his will as it is known to them through the dictates of conscience.”

I agree with your pastor. Since no one knows when Christ is going to return (and the odds are that your life on earth will end long before that), why not play it safe? Try to live by the Gospel and you won’t have to worry when you meet the Lord, whenever that occurs. (And meanwhile, I think I’d get my mobile home fixed.)

Q. Recently, in answer to a reader’s question, you suggested that applause for a musical performance during the Mass is inappropriate and breaks the flow of the liturgy. May I invite consideration of a possible addendum to your comments?

There are faith communities in the U.S. where applause during religious services is not meant to thank the choir and musicians; rather it is a sign of being united in the message of the hymn and uplifted in worship. As the predominantly white and ethnically Western European congregations in the U.S. seek out and welcome new Catholics to join our church, new customs will follow and they will, I think, enhance our experience of joy in worshipping the Lord. (Detroit)

A. This reader’s letter makes an important point. It also serves as a helpful reminder that our focus may at times be too narrow. The Catholic Church is, in fact, a “big tent.” It gathers into a common faith more than a billion people from a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures, and liturgists do well when they seek to accommodate this diversity.



Spirituality For Today

By Father John Catoir
Nonviolence As The
Ultimate Path To Peace

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is a great American hero. He practiced the noble art of nonviolent opposition to injustice in the same way that Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela practiced. He led peaceful demonstrations against those in authority to defeat practices such as segregation, racial discrimination and unequal treatment under the law. All three of these leaders followed peaceful teachings to attain victory over the evils of their day.

King was a peacemaker. He confronted fierce hatred in an environment in which opposition came from both sides, white and black. I was with King in Selma, Alabama, for nearly a week. A Protestant minister had been shot and killed there the week before, and American bishops had sent priests to Selma to express our solidarity with the protesters.

I think of him when I see stores that have been burned down in places like Ferguson, Missouri, as a sign of outrage. I believe this is counterproductive. There is no need for violent demonstrations. Can it bring real reform? I believe violence only brings more heat than light to explosive situations.

I don’t believe in a violent strategy in search for equality. No monuments are built to honor those who favor violence.

The words of Jesus apply to leaders and peacemakers such as King: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Upon deeper reflection, King’s life brings us back to the idealism of Jesus, who despised the arrogance of the Pharisees. These Jewish leaders laid heavy burdens upon the people, and we hear in Matthew 23:4, “They tie up heavy burdens (hard to carry) and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them.”

The Lord fearlessly rebuked them. It follows therefore that when Jesus asked us to be meek and humble of heart, he wasn’t encouraging timidity in the face of evil. He was suggesting defiance, but a kind of nonviolent opposition, which has as its goal ultimate victory over the forces of evil and injustice.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke of the importance of being “poor in spirit.” This is part of the Beatitudes, which the pope has urged to us memorize because “blessed” are the meek, the merciful, the clean of heart, the peacemakers, the persecuted.

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven,” we’re told.

These words of Jesus heeded by King continue to give encouragement to others like him who can remain steadfast in the fight against injustice. King approached this cause with a child-like spirit.

He understood the phrase, “turn the other cheek,” and knew that nonviolence was not a sign of weakness, but a winning tactic for attaining ultimate victory. And he was right.

Angela Merici
1470 - 1540
Feast - January 27



By age 26, Angela had lost most of her wealthy Italian family to death. As a Franciscan tertiary, she performed good works and taught catechism to girls in her home in Desenzano del Garda. Two visions inspired her to found a congregation dedicated to the religious training of young women; she began this mission with a school in Brescia. Earlier she had endured an episode of blindness while on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and had rejected a papal request to run all charities in Rome. In 1535, she founded the Ursulines and served as superior until her death. This mystic, a patron of catechists, reportedly was fascinated from childhood by the legend of Saint Ursula, an early virgin-martyr.

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

Education Department Leaders Extol Value Of Faith - Based Catholic Schools

Two Say Celebrations Will Show What Makes Catholic Schools Special For Students

(Continued From Page 1.)

Semko believes that you can get an education just about anywhere, but “the spirituality, the mutual respect for each other, and the faith - based value-laden education is obvious in a Catholic School.”

Bishop Mark will be traveling throughout the Diocese to celebrate Mass and to participate in many events.

On Monday, January 26 he will participate in a prayer service at Saint Rose of Lima

School in Altoona.

The following day he will attend a pancake breakfast at Hollidaysburg Catholic School.

On Wednesday, January 28, he will travel to Saint John the Evangelist School in Bellefonte for a noon luncheon and a career day to follow. It is open to all parents.

At 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 29, Bishop Mark will celebrate Mass and have lunch with the students at Saint Andrew School in Johnstown. At 7:00 p.m. that evening he

will attend the National School Choice celebration at Saint John the Evangelist School in Lakemont, Altoona.

At 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 30, Bishop Mark will celebrate Mass at Saint Benedict School in Carrolltown.

The schools have planned a unique variety of activities to celebrate the week including pajama parties, Angel Feet Ministry, and music.

Saint Thomas the Apostle School in Bedford is planning student workshops for drum and dance during the day and a free public performance at 6:30 p.m. by The Camara Drum and Dance with Yamoussa Camara and Company. Yamoussa Camara, a native of Boke, Guinea, West Africa, has performed throughout the United States. An open house will precede the performance from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The activities are many. Altoona Central Catholic School will hold an Angel Feet Ministry. The school will collect spare change in a boot placed outside the main office with the money to be donated to the ministry that provides two pairs of shoes per year to children in Blair County.

Saint Peter School in Somerset will have a banner contest among other celebrations. The theme is “Set Sail With Us on A Journey to Change the World.” The best banner will win a “No Homework Night.” The students will also hold a teacher and staff luncheon on Friday, January 30.

The four high schools and 20 grade schools will have Masses and Prayer Services for Peace. “They all get into the week with a beautiful and happy attitude,” smiled Sister Donna Marie. “It’s just a lot of fun.”

Jo - Ann Semko, who came to her new post from the public school system less than a year ago, came to some striking realizations. “Being a part of this the difference is clear. The faith - based atmosphere and smaller



SISTER DONNA MARIE
LEIDEN S.C.



JO - ANN
SEMKO

class size makes all of the difference in the world,” she explained.

“There’s education and then there’s a Catholic Education. I see it, feel it, and I’m living it everyday. I see happy teachers. The joy and faith values within those buildings is tremendous.”

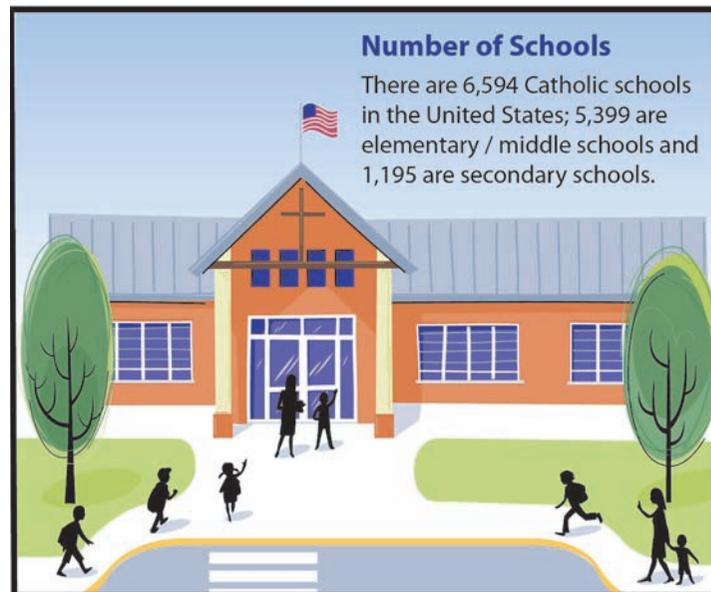
“We’re allowed to teach

kids in a good old fashioned way with modern technology. I feel a real sense of community in our schools.”

“We really value our students, added Sister Donna Marie. “We value what we put into the person we are developing. Our students are very important to us,” she said.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

A quick take on issues and statistics



Source: U.S. Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2013-2014: The Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing (NCEA).

“If people would take some time and go visit our schools they would experience an atmosphere of faith, spirit, and education. If they experienced the respect the students have for their teachers and each other, and their acceptance of all individuals, there would be no question as to where they would send their children to school.”

**- - Sister Of Charity Donna Marie Leiden
Director Of Education
Diocese Of Altoona - Johnstown**

FAITH FINANCES

- Are you **dreading** the bills that come in the mail?
- Would you like to have **peace of mind** when it comes to your finances?
- Do you believe that God wants you to be **free of debt**?
- The Altoona-Johnstown Diocese will be welcoming ***Tom Zordani, founder and author of FAITH FINANCES** in February to help.

**Mr. Zordani, a devout Catholic who through the trials of his own life has been called to a ministry of helping Catholics learn and live their faith by using scripture and basic budgeting tools to become financially free.*

FULL DAY WORKSHOP

Saturday, **February 28**, 2015

8:30 am -3:30 pm

Held at Sacred Heart Spirituality Center
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- ♦ Fun and thought-provoking workshop for all no matter what your life situation (single, married, divorced, widowed, etc.)
- ♦ Experience God's peace and providence as it relates to your finances. No personal finance information will be shared!

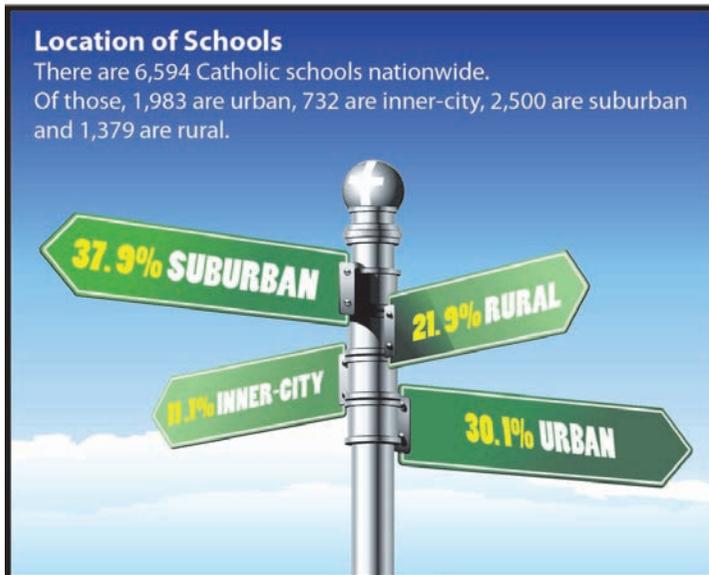
Cost: \$45.00 per person; \$75.00 per couple

All course materials, breakfast and lunch included in price.

RSVP by Tues., Feb. 17. Send name, address, phone and payment to Family Life Office, 5379 Portage St. Lilly, PA 15938—814-886-5551.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

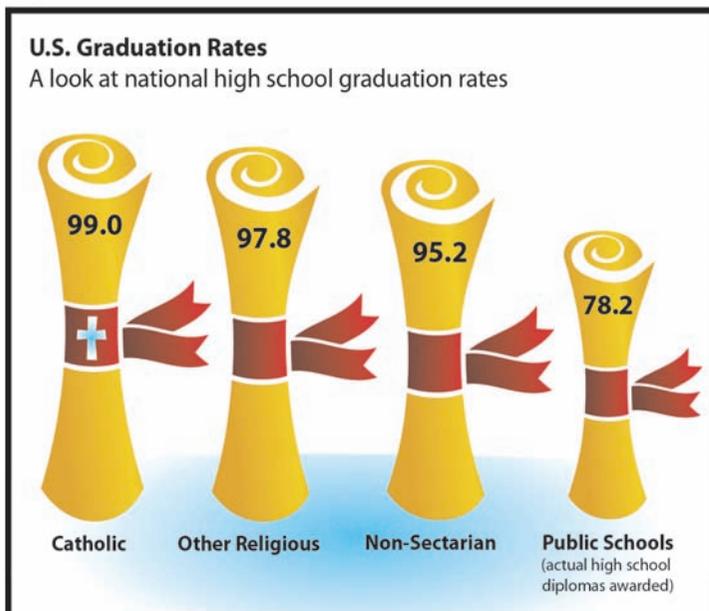
A quick take on issues and statistics



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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

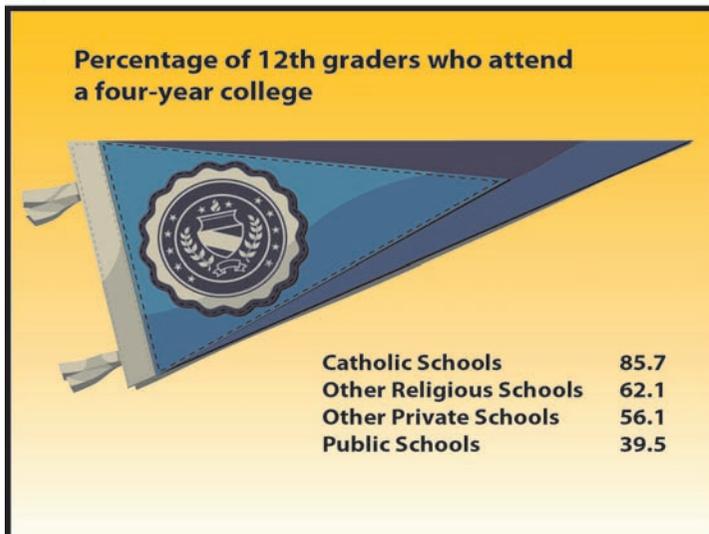
A quick take on issues and statistics



Source: Broughman, S.P., Swain, N.L. (2013); Stillwell, R., and Sable, J. (2014).

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

A quick take on issues and statistics



Source: Broughman, S.P. and Swain, N.L. (2013). Synder, T.D., and Dillow, S.A. (2014).

Altoona Quadrant Schools Will Launch New Venture

(Continued From Page 16.)

This new plan builds on the long-standing success of Catholic education and ensures that the Diocese is able to maintain a quality, faith-based educational experience that is affordable for families.

Upon recommendation of the pastors of the parishes within the Altoona Quadrant, the Bishop has appointed an interim

Board to begin the implementation of the recommended plan. The members are James Campbell, Joan Donnelly, Kirk Kling, Sister Donna Marie Leiden (ex-officio, non-voting), Thomas Levine, Monsignor Robert Mazur, Frank Montecalvo, Father Brian Saylor, Elaine Spencer, and Doug Wolf

Among the first actions of the Board will be to conduct listening sessions with parents of

current students and prospective students.

For the 2015-16 school year, Catholic elementary students will continue to register at the current elementary school sites. Full implementation of the plan will begin in the following school year. More information will be shared with parents of current and prospective students in the days ahead.

Philippine Students Inspired By Encounter With Pope

By Simone Orendain
Catholic News Service

MANILA (CNS) -- Young people drew inspiration from an encounter with Pope Francis at the University of Santo Tomas.

Rain started to fall the moment the pope took the stage before a sea of young people in bright-colored T-shirts, but the 30,000 students and youth leaders remained rooted in their sections, listening to the pope urging them to cry, to love and to think, feel and act.

Csherina Sanchez said she was inspired by his words.

“He shows me, really, that asking and crying (for) the poor is something that I should be brave about doing,” she told Catholic News Service. “He said that true Christians should cry. For me it’s a really good message.”

Sanchez, 25, a student at Manila’s Emmanuel School of Mission, explained: “As Asians we have this tendency to keep negative feelings. Positive feelings we can express freely. But in terms of negative ones like sadness, fear, we keep it inside. And it’s really a freeing message that it’s OK to cry. It’s good to cry.”

Father Mark Anthony of the Diocese of Virac equated crying with empathy.

“If you know how to cry, you can actually know how to give compassion to others,” said Father Tasarra, 33. “This is a very Christian thing.”

He told CNS the pope’s directive for the young people to learn how to cry was inspiring “because sometimes I’m not so compassionate even though I’m a priest. So I have to express my emotion.”

As Pope Francis arrived his popemobile, young people ran from one corner of the sports field to another, trying to keep

pace with the beaming pontiff.

Celine Villarin, 19, a member of the Student Catholic Action of the Philippines, said she could not find the words to say why the pope makes such a huge impression.

“I don’t really know, but there is something really magical in him that when you see him, goose bumps are really felt all over you,” she told CNS.

She called the pope’s message very simple “but I think it really moved us all ... The way he talks, he uses simple words, and that’s why he really touches the heart of every Filipino youth.”



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

POPE PRAYS: Pope Francis prays near a crucifix during a meeting with young people at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines, Sunday, January 18.

Largest Recorded Crowd Ever Reported For Papal Mass

Pope, At Mass With Over 6 Million, Tells Filipinos To Protect The Family

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

MANILA (CNS) -- Pope Francis told a crowd of an estimated 6 million gathered in a Manila park to protect the family “against insidious attacks and programs contrary to all that we hold true and sacred, all that is most beautiful and noble in our culture.”

The pope’s homily at the Sunday, January 18 Mass also reprised several other themes he had sounded during the four-day visit, including environmental problems, poverty and corruption.

Despite continuous rain, the congregation in Rizal Park began to assemble the night before the afternoon celebration. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila canceled other Masses throughout the archdiocese to enhance turnout. The crowd was so dense in spots that people passed hosts to fellow worship-

pers unable to reach priests distributing Communion.

The government estimated total crowd size at 6 million-7 million people. According to the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, that would be the largest number of people ever to gather to see a pope. A Mass with St. John Paul II in the same place 20 years earlier is believed to have drawn 4 million-5 million people, often described as the largest live crowd in history.

The Mass was celebrated on Santo Nino Day, or the feast of the Holy Child Jesus, one of the most popular feast days in the Philippines. Many of those who walked great distances down closed roads to get to Rizal Park held statues of Santo Nino.

For his final scheduled public talk in the country, Pope Francis stuck to his prepared English text and did not improvise in Spanish, as he had done at several emotional points during the visit. Yet his voice rose with emphasis during the passage about protecting the family.

Those words echoed his warning, during a January 16 meeting with Filipino families, against “ideological colonization that tries to destroy the family” through such practices as same-sex marriage and contraception.

In his homily, Pope Francis said Christians “need to see each child as a gift to be welcomed, cherished and protected. And we need to care for our young people, not allowing them to be robbed of hope and condemned to life on the streets.”

The pope praised the Philippines, whose population is more than 80 percent Catholic, as the “foremost Catholic country in



CNS Photo/Philippine Air Force/Handout Via Reuters

MILLIONS GATHER WITH POPE: An aerial view shows millions of pilgrims gathering to hear a Mass celebrated by Pope Francis at Rizal Park in Manila, Philippines, Sunday, January 18. The view shows only a portion of the Mass site, which a local church official said was more than a mile long.

Asia,” and said its people, millions of whom work abroad, are “called to be outstanding missionaries of the faith in Asia.”

Yet he warned the developing nation, one of Asia’s fastest-growing economies, against temptations of materialism, saying the devil “hides his snares behind the appearance of sophistication, the allure of being

modern, like everyone else. He distracts us with the promise of ephemeral pleasures, superficial pastimes. And so we squander our God-given gifts by tinkering with gadgets; we squander our money on gambling and drink.”

Pope Francis, who had urged a group of young people earlier in the day to address the challenge of climate change

through dedication to the environment, told Mass-goers human sinfulness had “disfigured (the) natural beauty” of creation.

Other consequences of sin, the pope said, were “social structures which perpetuate poverty, ignorance and corruption,” problems he had emphasized in his January 16 speech at Manila’s presidential palace.



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

SANTO NINO: A young woman holds her statue of Santo Nino, the Holy Child Jesus, as she waits to see Pope Francis after the pope’s Mass in Rizal Park.



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

POPE FRANCIS CELEBRATES MASS: Pope Francis passes a statue of Santo Nino, the Holy Child Jesus, as he uses incense during Mass in Rizal Park in Manila, Philippines, Sunday, January 18. The Mass was celebrated on the feast of Santo Nino and texts at the Mass were those of the Philippines for the feast day.



CNS Photo/L'Osservatore Romano Via Reuters

POPE FRANCIS CONSOLES BEREAVED FATHER: Pope Francis and Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila, Philippines, console the father of Kristel Padasas, 27, Sunday, January 18 in Manila. Padasas, a Catholic Relief Services Employee, died Saturday, January 17, after the papal Mass in Tacloban, when strong winds caused scaffolding in an area near the altar to fall. The Pope prayed with Kristel's father and uncle, and blessed photographs of the young woman.

Pope Francis Meets With Father, Uncle Of Catholic Relief Services Worker Killed In Philippines

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

MANILA (CNS) -- After praying publicly at a youth gathering for the repose of the soul of a Catholic Relief Services worker killed the previous day, Pope Francis met Jan. 18 with her father and her maternal uncle.

Kristel Padasas, 27, of Manila, who worked with a recovery project for victims of Typhoon Haiyan, died after the papal Mass in Tacloban when high winds blew over scaffolding. She had traveled from Samar Island, where her project is based, to volunteer at the Mass.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila told reporters that he translated at the meeting.

"The Holy Father was searching for words," the cardinal said. "How do you console with words a father who just lost his only child? The Holy Father did not apologize for his lack of words, but he was there" and let his presence speak.

"I think what struck the Holy Father was the statement of the father of Kristel. At first he said he felt devastated and he even asked God, you know, 'I have only one child, why is she taken away from me?'" the cardinal said.

"But then it surprised the Holy Father when this grieving father said, 'I have accepted this. I have resigned myself to the fact that my daughter's no longer with me. I rejoice that she died serving other people, especially serving this visit of the Holy Father. So it's a meaningful death,'" the cardinal quoted the father as saying

The young woman's father explained that he had decided to stay home and watch the papal visit on television because he was certain the expected crowds meant he would not be able to get anywhere near Pope Francis.

"Then," he said, "my daughter died. She arranged this meeting with the Holy Father." And when I translated that for the Holy Father, the Holy Father just shook his head and said,



CNS Photo/CRS

CRS WORKER KILLED: Kristel Padasas, 27, of Manila, Philippines, a Catholic Relief Services employee, is pictured in an undated photo. Padasas, a volunteer at Pope Francis' Saturday, January 17 Mass near the airport in Tacloban, was killed after the Mass after strong winds caused scaffolding in an area near the altar to fall.

"What faith. What faith," the cardinal said.

"I think the Holy Father was surprised, in a pleasant way, that here he was trying to show compassion and mercy, but this grieving man witnessed to his faith before the Holy Father."

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said that for the meeting, the young woman's father brought two photographs that were kept on the table as they spoke: One was a recent photo and another was of her as a little girl with her

mother and father.

During the meeting, Father Lombardi said, there was an attempt to reach the young woman's mother by telephone in Hong Kong.

"The pope had the idea, as he very often does, to call," but it was unsuccessful.

CRS staffers were stunned and mourned Padasas' death, offering prayers for her family.

"Her colleagues remember her as someone who loved to laugh and who was always ready to assist outside her normal duties," said a Jan. 17 statement from CRS, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency. "She found great joy in being able to contribute to the recovery effort by working directly with communities and families."

"Her dedication to the people affected by the typhoon extended beyond her official work with CRS," the statement added. "She traveled a great distance to volunteer at today's papal Mass and to remember the victims of Typhoon Haiyan."

Now Showing

'Taken' Franchise Shows Signs Of Age On Third Outing

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Will audiences be taken with "Taken 3" (Fox)? Probably not.

Though director Olivier Megaton tones down the intense violence that marked the previous films in this action series, his lackluster sequel fails to engage viewers sufficiently to make them care much about anyone on screen. That includes the franchise's front man, Liam Neeson, who reprises his role as former covert agent Bryan Mills.

A veritable Job among retired cloak-and-dagger types, poor old Bryan seems destined never to be left in peace. The first installment in his saga saw his teenage daughter Kim (Maggie Grace) abducted by Albanians; the second found no-

goodniks of the same ethnicity out to snatch his whole clan.

This time, it's Russian mobsters doing the dirty work. As led by maniacal, excessively tattooed Afghan-insurrection veteran Oleg Malankov (Sam Spruell), moreover, these gangsters' stock in trade turns out to be murder, not mere kidnapping.

Enter Bryan's ex-wife Lenore (Famke Janssen) just long enough to express dissatisfaction with her current hubby Stuart (Dougray Scott) -- and vague notions about a reunion with Bryan -- before turning up with her throat slashed in circumstances that point to Bryan as the culprit. So much for a Taylor-Burton subplot.

In the time-honored tradition of framed-up fall guys, Bryan goes on the lam. He's tracked by Detective Frank Dotzler (Forest Whitaker), the wily investigator assigned to Lenore's



CNS Photo/Twentieth Century Fox

TAKEN 3: Liam Neeson and Maggie Grace star in a scene from the movie "Taken 3." 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.

case. Dotzler combines smarter-than-thou suspicions of Bryan's innocence with rueful admiration for his adversary's special-ops stylings.

Along with exonerating himself, Bryan is out to protect Kim from becoming Malankov's next victim. That's just as well because, as early scenes have revealed -- but as Bryan has yet to learn -- Kim, now a college student, is dodging bullets for two.

Kim's situation eventually leads to a brief discussion of the choice she and her barely glimpsed boyfriend are facing. While it's never made clear whether the decision at hand concerns marriage or the fate of the couple's child, circumstances move in a morally acceptable direction.

Bryan himself, by contrast, moves at times in the manner of a human cyclone, recklessly endangering pursuing police as well as civilian bystanders in his efforts to evade capture. But then again, what's a jackknifed truck, a runaway shipping container and a multi-vehicle pileup on the freeway when Bryan's chance to prove he didn't slit his beloved Lenore's jugular is at stake?

The film contains considerable action violence with mini-

mal gore, a premarital situation resulting in pregnancy, adult dialogue including a possible reference to abortion, a half-dozen uses of profanity as well as at least one rough and several crude terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

February 1 -- Four members of the Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School state champion football team join the Bishop to celebrate their success.

February 8 -- On this World Day for Consecrated Life, Sister Letizia LoRe of the Sisters of Saint Ann, discusses her life as a member of a religious community.

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

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May They Rest In Peace



Raymond F. Nale

Raymond F. Nale, 94, of Claysburg, died Tuesday, January 6 at the Presbyterian Village, Claysburg.

He was the father of Father Joseph C. Nale, pastor of Saint Stephen Parish in McConnellsburg and Immaculate Conception Parish, Dudley.

He was born March 20, 1920 in Sproul, the son of the late Raymond Sr. and Emma (Helsel) Nale. He married the former Alice Dempsey on February 18, 1971. Mrs. Nale survives.

Preceding him in death were two sisters: Florence and Myrtle (Sister Mary Alban R.S.M.) and two brothers: Eugene and Regis.

Mr. Nale was self-employed.

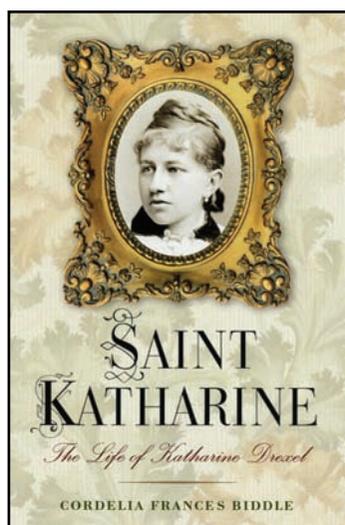
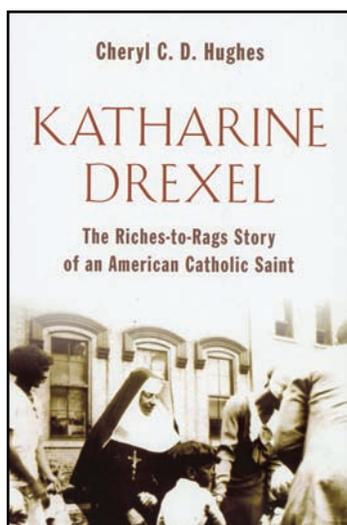
The funeral Mass for Raymond F. Nale was celebrated by his son, Father Joseph C. Nale at Saint Thomas More Chapel (formerly Saint Anne Parish), Claysburg. Committal was at Saint Mary Cemetery, Hollidaysburg.

Memorial contributions may be made to Saint Thomas More Parish, Roaring Spring.

Family Matters

(Continued From Page 4.)

We need to give our children a strong foundation, by showing them the roots of our faith, for it is within this footing they will have the knowledge of where they have come from and have an understanding of where they are going. For by doing this, we are sharing the greatest story of all, the story of them, our children, being chosen by God to continue to write the pages of our salvation history. (To my son Noah, I got the answer to your question - First comes Abraham, then Isaac, then Jacob, then Joseph and then many years later Moses, and thousands of years later, You!) Blessings!



CNS Photos

PHILADELPHIA SAINT: Two new books detail the life of Philadelphia - born Saint Katharine Drexel, foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

Katharine Drexel Books Complement Each Other

By **Rachelle Linner**
Catholic News Service

Katharine Drexel: The Riches - To - Rags Story Of An American Catholic Saint by Cheryl C.D. Hughes. Wm. B. Eerdmans (Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2014). 283 pp., \$20.

Saint Katharine: The Life Of Katharine Drexel by Cordelia Frances Biddle. Westholme Publishing (Yardley, Pennsylvania, 2014). 280 pp., \$26.

Together, these two very different books about St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) provide a full and exacting portrait of the remarkable woman who, indeed, went from riches to rags.

Born a Philadelphia heiress, she divested herself of wealth and privilege to found the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, which has a particular mission of serving African-Americans and Native Americans. The two books complement each other and it is a happy coincidence that both would be published around the same time.

Each author brings particular strengths to her task.

Biddle, who teaches creative writing at Drexel University, is a direct descendent of Francis Martin Drexel, St. Katharine's grandfather. A vivid

and direct prose style brings her extensive historical research to life.

Hughes, a professor of humanities and religious studies at Tulsa Community College in Oklahoma, has an excellent command of theological issues. She writes clearly and persuasively about St. Katharine Drexel's religious upbringing, spirituality and the charism of her order.

Riches - To - Rags is a model of contemporary hagiography. While not disguising her admiration and respect for St. Katharine, there is not a hint of sentimentality or romanticism in this presentation of Drexel's piety, mission and canonization.

Hughes gives the reader a full appreciation for the ecclesial context of this remarkable woman's life. We can better appreciate the arduous work and accomplishments of the Blessed Sacrament Sisters because Hughes carefully charts St. Katharine's long discernment process. She quotes extensively from the correspondence Drexel had with her spiritual adviser, Bishop James O'Connor, who for years opposed her desire to enter religious life, and then insisted she found an order of nuns.

In one of the book's finest chapters, Hughes elucidates

St. Katharine's kenotic and eucharistic spiritualities "through which she was able to conform herself to Christ, to endure and even to flourish in her vocation as a missionary founder."

Throughout her life, St. Katharine embraced severe ascetic practices, including fasting, mortification of the flesh -- wearing a hair shirt, wrapping iron chains around her waist and arms, using a metal-tipped discipline -- and praying in uncomfortable positions. "This type of kenosis, or self-emptying through pain, is for the sake of the church, that one may be able to bring others to Christ through the church."

She emptied herself "so she could be filled with Christ in the Eucharist." Her "deep eucharistic spirituality ... was her defining characteristic." It is a spirituality that she shared with St. John Paul II, who canonized Mother Katharine Drexel in 2000. Hughes concludes her book with a lucid discussion of St. John Paul's pontificate, the theology of canonization and the meaning of the communion of saints.

Biddle's St. Katharine is less concerned with theological issues but her account is wonderfully descriptive and evocative of the saint's life and times. It is one thing to say that heiress went from riches to rags. It is another to read the sumptuous details of her privileged upbringing and watch the development of the "duality in her nature ...

the searching, meditative self who prayed fervently to God for guidance; and the fun-loving teenage girl whom everyone believed was immune to doubt and sorrow."

Biddle conveys the horrific conditions under which African-Americans and Native Americans lived and the enormous physical challenges that St. Katharine and her young community faced as they sought to educate and serve them. She reminds us of the crimes perpetrated against Native Americans and our long history of endemic racism. "Racial inequality was ubiquitous, and most of the Southern bishops either incapable of easing the tension, or turning a blind eye, or, worse, abetting it."

This is not a story of idealistic religious women setting forth to do good in safety. They faced disease, local opposition, arduous traveling conditions, towns controlled by the Ku Klux Klan and deeply rooted injustice.

St. Katharine Drexel spent her last 20 years as an invalid, a difficult challenge for a woman who had led such a vital, meaningful life.

But, as Biddle shows, she used the time as a retreat. "To die to self-love that I may live to God alone is the great business of the spiritual life." It is clear that she succeeded in her business as abundantly as her banking ancestors reached the pinnacle of theirs.

Letters To The Editor

Queen Fabiola

Dear Monsignor Stein,

Just writing to tell you how much I enjoyed your column on Queen Fabiola and King Baudouin.

I enjoyed the history lesson, but it also was a good love story, that seemed made to happen by God.

I loved it, and told others to read it.

May God bless all of your future works as well.

A reader,
Irene Tatarko
Twin Rocks

Altoona Quadrant To Embark On New Educational Frontier In 2016 - 2017

Middle School Proposed

Life is comprised of a series of experiences that develop one's mind and soul. Some of these experiences are small while others have tremendous potential to shape one's future. Middle school is one of those transformative experiences. It is that first step onto the bridge that connects childhood and adulthood.

During these years of critical development, students need a nurturing environment coupled with a focus that helps them develop the emotional maturity to prepare them for the academic rigors of high school. Students in the Altoona Quadrant of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown will have the opportunity to attend such a middle school beginning in the 2016-17 school year.

The Altoona Quadrant Committee, created by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, began meeting in March 2014 to devise a plan to ensure that our Catholic Schools remain "available, accessible, and affordable."

The resulting plan, recently approved by the Bishop, includes a series of educational enhancements including the development of a dedicated middle school for grades 6-8.

Elementary education will remain a cornerstone for the Diocese with students in pre-k



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

INTERACTS WITH STUDENTS: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak interacts with students at Altoona Central Catholic School during a 2012 pastoral visit. Bishop Mark has announced the creation of an interim board to direct the future of Catholic schools in the Altoona Quadrant.

through grade 5 attending one of two elementary school sites within the Altoona Quadrant.

Curriculum enhancements will continue to be an important part of the elementary and middle school plan. Efforts have already begun to coordinate curriculum in the elementary schools to ensure a vibrant academic and co-curricular experience of distinction.

At the middle school level,

work will continue to align academically with the curriculum at Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School. These curriculum developments place an emphasis on STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Education, Arts, and Mathematics.) The advanced curriculum will provide middle school students with an opportunity to do high school-level course work in the same way that high school students

in the Diocese are able to challenge themselves with college-level work.

The new regionalized paradigm will maintain an ideal class size between 12-25 students, maximize enrollment, and support operational efficiencies that promote cooperative savings.

"Every year our schools experience a new energy when we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. I am excited about the

energy that these enhancements will bring to our elementary and middle school students. I am grateful for the dedication and hard work of the members of the Altoona Quadrant Committee: Monsignor Michael Becker, James Campbell, Joan Donnelly, Gary Evangelisto, Kim Hofer, Kirk Kling, Thomas Levine, Monsignor Robert Mazur, Frank Montecalvo, Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Frank Scornaieni, Elaine Spencer, and Doug Wolf. And I want to acknowledge Joe Merilli, committee facilitator/consultant, Sister of Charity Donna Marie Leiden of our diocesan Education Office, and in a special way, all the pastors of the Altoona Quadrant for their input and their support," said Bishop Mark L. Bartchak.

Implementation Of The New Plan

In recent years, significant research has been done that demonstrate the value of Catholic education. One of the greatest impacts of Catholic education is its ability to lift poor and disadvantaged children out of the cycle of poverty. Catholic schools have an extremely low drop-out rate. In fact, an average 99% of Catholic school students graduate and 97% continue their education beyond high school.

(Continued On Page 11.)

PERIODICAL RATE MAIL

The Catholic Register

Official Publication of the
Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown