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Annual Lenten Rite For Catechumens, Candidates A Joyous Celebration Of Hope

Photos And Text
By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein

Knowing that you will be celebrating the same ceremony on the First Sunday of Lent year, after year, after year, might strike some people as a dull, boring, predictable routine.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak is not one of those people.

In welcoming the congregation to what he described as “this joyous occasion,” the Bishop said “in all honesty,” the Rite of Election and Enrollment of Names of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates “is one of my favorite ceremonies of the Church year.

“I am so very happy to be with you as you celebrate this part of your faith journey.”

The Rite was celebrated Sunday, February 22 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, and was repeated that evening at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown.

Another person who knows that the Rite will turn up on her calendar every year is Jeanne Thompson, ministerial coordinator of the Office of Christian Initiation. But there was no hint of “ho - hum, been there, done that,” in her response to this year’s celebration.



JOYOUS CELEBRATION OF HOPE: The faces of those taking part in the annual Rite of Election and Enrollment of Names of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates, betrayed the joyful, hope - filled nature of the Sunday, February 22 event. (Left photo) Catechumen Sheri Bailey (left) of Saint Mary Parish, Altoona, shows quiet happiness while her sponsor and mother - in - law Kathleen Bailey (right) beamed at her as they entered the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. During the celebration (right) photo, candidate Chad Little of Most Holy Trinity Parish, Huntingdon, could not contain his joy as he was greeted by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak.

“The Rite is something that always amazes me,” said Thompson in a Monday, February 23 interview. “All of these men and women and young people who are really excited about becoming Catholics! That gives me hope! It means hope for the Church!”

Hope this year was drawn

from over 40 parish faith communities, two Catholic campus ministry programs, and four State Correctional Institutions.

Catechumens numbered 54 at this year’s Rite, with 113 candidates participating.

Twenty four parishes celebrated the Rite in Altoona, where they were joined by the

Catholic campus ministry programs from Penn State at University Park and Saint Francis University, Loretto. Three of the four correctional institutions - - Our Lady of the Mount at S.C.I. Rockview, Saint Dismas at S.C.I. Huntingdon and State Correctional Institution at Benner Township were also repre-

sented at the Altoona Cathedral, by their pastoral ministers.

Seventeen parishes and the State Correctional Institution at Laurel Highlands were represented in Johnstown.

(Continued On Page 10.)

Community

Tax Preparation Help

Cresson: Area residents seeking help with tax returns can find it through the Mount Aloysius College's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA is now in its sixth year at Mount Aloysius College. Members of the Student Accounting Society (SAS) have received training by a Pittsburgh-based IRS representative. Student VITA volunteers – accounting majors and MBA grad students – have earned IRS certification during intensive training at the College, have set up shop and are ready to help. VITA tax help is available through the month of March.

VITA offers free tax help to people who make \$53,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, Mount Aloysius College – like most VITA sites – also offers free electronic filing (e-filing). Individuals taking advantage of the e-file program should receive re-



FREE - THROW WINNERS: On Saturday, January 10, the Windber Knights of Columbus Council #4067 held their annual Free - Throw Shooting Competition at the Windber Community Building. The winners from the local competition advanced to the district championship held at Chestnut Ridge High School on Saturday, January 17. The winners of the Windber competition were (left to right) Aiden Gray, Riley Page, Garrett Page, Laiken Swinger, Montana Stopko, Alaina Miller, Unity Miller, Meredith Tokarsky and Taylor Berg. The winners of the district competition were Unity Miller, Laiken Swinger, Montana Stopko, Meredith Tokarsky and Alaina Miller. They will compete in the Central-East Pennsylvania Regional competition Monday, March 2 at Saint Francis Xavier Parish Center in Gettysburg.

funds in half the time compared to paper returns – even faster when tax refunds are deposited directly into the taxpayer's bank account.

The Mount Aloysius College VITA Office is located in the iconic Main Building, room 221. Hours of operation are by appointment, which can be made by calling (814) 886 - 6365. Reserved VITA client parking is available on the north side of

the Main Building near historic Alumni Hall.

High Schools

Pope Francis Challenge

Altoona: For the second straight year, Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School students have responded to the Pope Francis Challenge of helping the less fortunate in our community. BG students collected 20,183 items, which were donated to Catholic Charities.

At the 2013 World Youth Day, Pope Francis challenged the youth to use their creativity, enthusiasm and joy to go and serve the world with love and a desire to witness the Gospel.

The Bishop Guilfoyle campus ministry organizes the donation drive and asked each student to donate 50 items. For the second straight year, BG collected more than 20,000 items. The donated items were blessed by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak at the school's Thanksgiving Mass and then delivered to Catholic Charities.

"I was deeply moved by the generosity of the students, families and parishes who participated," said Robert Sutton, Bishop Guilfoyle director of

campus ministry and religion teacher. "The real difference this year was having gone through the whole process once before, everyone seemed to know what to do and completed the project with enthusiasm. As with last year, seeing all of those boxes stacked and sorted and being delivered to centers for the poor and needy was awesome."

Jean Johnstone, director of Catholic Charities, said the donation was a blessing for the less fortunate in our community, especially around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. The need increases every year, and the Bishop Guilfoyle students responded to that need.

"The donation was so large that we are still unpacking some boxes," Johnstone said. "But what we have seen so far is a blessing. From the day we received the donation, we were able to assist families with both food and personal care items. Most people do not know that things like deodorant, shampoo, toilet tissue, etc. are not covered under food stamps. For most of our families at the end of the month there is just no money for these things."

Sutton said he has seen the impact of the Pope Francis Challenge in the BG students and in

his personal life with his children. Many students went beyond the goal of 50 items asking neighbors, friends and family to help with donations.

"I feel that this is a real doorway to grace and a way to open yet another path to encountering Christ," said Sutton.

Prayer

Spiritual Enrichment

Gallitzin: The Carmelite Community of the Word is offering opportunities for spiritual enrichment at Incarnation Center, during Lent.

Lenten programming includes:

- - "Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving: Spiritual Practices That Draw Us Closer to God": Sessions will be offered on Monday mornings, March 9, 16, 23, 30 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Tuesday evenings, March 10, 17, 24, 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Choose either morning or evening time.

In this Bible study, popular Scripture commentator Kevin Perrotta selects six readings from Scripture—one Old Testament and one New Testament for each spiritual discipline. Each passage confronts us with some of the most important aspects of these practices, and will help participants discover the benefits of the spiritual discipline. Cost: \$40.00, includes book (\$10.95)

- - CCW Sunday Sabbath Series: Take an opportunity to spend Sunday afternoon in a relaxed and yet prayerful environment. Skip the trip to the mall and spend your afternoon focusing on your relationship with God and God's desire for you. This Lent the Sunday Sabbath features Father Robert Barron. Donation is \$10.00.

March 8 - - "Eucharist" - Father Barron offers inspiring insights into the mystery of Christ's presence in our lives and the centrality of the Eucharist as an important part of that presence.

(Continued On Page 15.)



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In The Alleghenies

Father Nale To Speak At Saint Patrick's Day Banquet

Father Joseph C. Nale will be the speaker at the Saint Patrick's Day Banquet of the Ancient Order of Hibernians to be held Saturday, March 14 at the Bavarian Hall, 112 South 13th Street, Altoona.

The evening will begin with a social hour from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., with dinner served at 6:30. Dancing and the awarding of door prizes will bring the evening to a close.

Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown on June 7, 2003, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, Father Nale is chaplain of the Altoona Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians

and pastor of Saint Stephen Parish in McConnellsburg and Immaculate Conception Parish in Dudley.

He is the son of Alice Nale of Claysburg and the late Raymond Nale, and is a native son of Saint Thomas More Parish, Roaring Spring. Father Nale is a 1990 graduate of Claysburg - Kimmel High School, and holds a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from the Pennsylvania State University.

He completed his studies for the priesthood at The Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus OH.

The Saint Patrick's Day Banquet is open to the public.



FATHER JOSEPH C. NALE

The price of the event is \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students. Advance purchase of tickets is necessary; no tickets will be sold at the door.

For ticket information and reservations call (814) 944 - 0689 or 944 - 6143.

Survivor Of Rwandan Genocide To Visit Diocese

Immaculee Ilibagiza, survivor of the genocidal civil war that swept Rwanda in 1994, will visit the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown Thursday, March 19, and speak at the JFK Student Center Auditorium at Saint Francis University in Loretto.

Her visit is being sponsored by the Diocesan Commission for Life and Justice.

Twenty - four years old when civil war broke out in her homeland, Ilibagiza is one of two family members to have survived the Rwanda genocide. One million people, including her family members, neighbors and friends were massacred. She recounts the story of those days in her autobiography, **Left To Tell**.

A Tutsi, Ilibagiza has gained world renown as a Catholic speaker on faith, hope and forgiveness. Her story of compassionate mercy is particularly



IMMACULEE ILIBAGIZA

suited for the Lenten season.

Tickets for her 7:00 p.m. presentation are \$10.00 per person; \$5.00 for students. Seating is limited and reservations are required.

Reservations may be made by sending name, address,

phone number and payment to Family Life Office, 5379 Portage Street, Lilly PA 15938.

For further information call (814) 886 - 5551, or contact the Family Life Office at family-life@dioceseaj.org.



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Update On Travel Packages For Philadelphia Pilgrimage

The adult/family travel package for the Diocesan pilgrimage to Philadelphia is sold out. Faithful from Altoona-Johnstown will travel to the city September 25 - 28 for Pope Francis' visit at the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families. Individuals or families may contact the Diocese to join a wait list in case some who are already registered decide to cancel their reservations.

The young adult travel package remains open for individuals ages 18 - 25 (no children/youth). It is an excellent option for college students and others in or around that age group. The package includes round - trip bus transportation, lodging at a YMCA in Philadelphia, some meals, and Mass with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak. For more information and a registration form, please visit the Diocesan website at www.dioceseaj.org. The deadline for reservations is Friday, March 20.

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Point Of View

Interruptions! Interruptions! How can I have so many interruptions? My kids interrupt me, my cell phone interrupts me, the dogs interrupt me and yes, even I interrupt me! "If I did not have so many interruptions I could get so much done," I banter to myself. If I did not have interruptions, my house would be sparkling, my work would be done way before the deadlines, my prayer time would be more fruitful and maybe, just maybe, I could enjoy a cup of hot tea, that is not curdled and cold from sitting on the counter a bit too long. "Can you help me with this algebra problem?" my son asks, right in the middle of chopping onions for the evening stew. "Can you wash my favorite shirt for dress down day tomorrow?" my other son asks right in the middle of putting away 10 loads of laundry. "Momma, can you please put a diaper on my baby monkey?" my little girl asks, right in the middle of my hot and well overdue bubble bath. Calgon take me away!

Interruptions are a part of life, in fact they are life. But, until recently, I saw these little interruptions as an inconvenience, something to minimize, a stumbling block to fulfilling my plans for the day. I often thought these interruptions prevented me from keeping somewhat on a schedule, caused me to never get to the end of my to do list, and the very little things that held me back from accomplishing all I set out to do. But, no more, for it was one little phrase, that was shared with me by a trusted mentor, that changed



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich
Life Interrupted!

my view of interruptions forever. The phrase was simple, not very fancy, actually only six words but it was just what I needed to totally welcome, in fact, look forward to the daily interruptions of my life. The phrase - "The Ministry is in the Interruptions!" changed my entire perspective forever and how very grateful I am it did!

Interruptions are the very moments which I can put others first, realizing that within these short detours, I found the path to truly live my life as a Christian. When I stop to review a lesson while cooking dinner I am showing my children just how important they are to me. When I wash a shirt that was stuffed behind my son's bed for three months, I am actually "clothing the naked." And when I get out of the bath early to diaper a monkey, called BooBoo, I am modeling a work of mercy to a three year old.

Yes, interruptions are not obstacles or hurdles to overcome, they are open doorways of an opportunity to minister to others. Could God use these little interruptions, to get my attention, to direct me towards a greater and Holier path? Are the interruptions a sign that maybe I really do need to get from under

my own wants and desires and be open to seeing the world's needs about me? Perhaps, the interruptions are not causing me to be detoured from my dreams or plans but within these little interruptions my very destiny is found.

Take for example, Noah - Life interrupted! Moses - Life interrupted! David - Life Interrupted, Mary - Life interrupted! All interrupted, not to prevent them reaching their life's purpose, but interrupted so they could fulfill the very destiny God prepared for them. Perhaps God gives his best instruction, among the interruptions of life! May be the interruptions are a necessary part of life for it is within these moments our true ministry as a follower of Christ is defined! So, yes, I will help you with the math problem. Sure, I will wash your favorite long lost shirt! And yes, I will get out of my bubble bath early to diaper BooBoo the monkey. And one more thing my precious children, I will try really hard not to emphatically remind you," It is not nice to interrupt," for I now know it is within these very small but blessed interruptions, God's purpose for my life may be revealed. Blessings!



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
A Story Of Reconciliation

A most remarkable book passed through my hands a few weeks ago. **Spiritual Blackmail: My Journey Through A Catholic Cult** is the autobiography of Sherri Schettler. The story of her journey is particularly apt for reflection during Lent, and I am happy to share some thoughts about that journey with you.

Sherri was born in 1961 in Illinois, and grew up in California. She came from a family where the faith was taken seriously - - very seriously. Her parents, like many others, were deeply distressed by some of the changes in the Church. They were just as deeply distressed by what life in California in the 1960s and 70s was doing to their family. As a reaction to both traumas, the Schettlers became involved with a movement known as the Fatima Crusaders, led by "Bishop" Francis Schuckardt, a group that in time came to be identified with the "sedevacantist" position, i.e. the idea that the See of Peter is vacant - - that there has not been a true Pope since the death of Pius XII in 1958.

To say that the Fatima Crusaders were more Catholic than the Pope would be a gross understatement. But if "catholic" means universal, then in their closed - off, closed - minded approach to the world and to the Church, the Fatima Crusaders, now known as the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen of the Tridentine Latin Rite Catholic (TLRC) Church, was not and is not "catholic" at all. And spiritual blackmail was just part of the way Schuckardt gained the upper hand with his followers.

Sheri's parents were told they would be deprived of the Sacraments if they did not send her and her brother to a TLRC boarding school in Idaho. Reluctantly, Sheri agreed to go, and there, she too succumbed to spiritual blackmail, eventually becoming Sister Mary Redempta in the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen.

What she writes of her convent life is alternately heartbreaking and horrifying. The hardships endured by the Sisters (who were sometimes reduced to dumpster diving for food) and the penances inflicted upon them are recounted by Sherri in matter - of - fact detail. There is no bitterness, no rage in the telling, just a simple setting out of how things were, and how she eventually came to move beyond them.

It was that lack of bitterness that moved me most when reading Sherri's story. Here is a woman who could and perhaps should be mad at the world for the misery she endured. But there is none of that in her book. She speaks instead of the gratitude she feels for the hours of prayer that became second nature to her and of the deep faith in God and God's goodness that sustained her during the difficult years of her "veiled life." She holds no one but herself responsible for the life she lived and the choices that she made. Sherri loves her parents and the Sisters of her former Congregation. She eventually left the convent and the TLRC, completed her education, became a teacher and was reconciled with the Roman Catholic Church. She is a happy woman, a woman at peace.

Sherri's story shows how true it is that you can only be reconciled to God and reconciled to others when you are reconciled with your self. Lent calls us to that triple reconciliation. Sherri Schettler's story shows how it can be achieved.



CNS Photo/L'Osservatore Romano Via Reuters

POPE FRANCIS HEARS CONFESSION: Pope Francis hears a man's confession during a penitential liturgy in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican March 28, 2014.

Pope Offers Handy Tips For Going To Confession

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- As Catholics are encouraged to make going to confession a significant part of their lives during Lent, Pope Francis offered some quick tips to help people prepare for the sacrament of penance.

After a brief explanation of why people should go to confession -- "because we are all sinners" -- the pope listed 30 key questions to reflect on as part of making an examination of conscience and being able to "confess well."

The guide is part of a 28-page booklet in Italian released by the Vatican publishing house.

Pope Francis had 50,000 free copies distributed to people attending his Angelus address Feb. 22, the first Sunday of Lent.

Titled "Safeguard your heart," the booklet is meant to help the faithful become "courageous" and prepared to battle against evil and choose the good.

The booklet contains quick introductions to Catholic basics: it has the text of the Creed, a list of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. It explains the seven sacraments and includes Pope Francis' explanation of "lectio divina," a prayerful way of reading Scripture in order to better hear "what the Lord wants to tell us in his word and to let us be transformed by his Spirit."

The booklet's title is based on a line from one of the pope's morning Mass homilies in which he said Christians need to guard and protect their hearts, "just as you protect your home -- with a lock."

"How often do bad thoughts, bad intentions, jealousy, envy enter?" he asked. "Who opened the door? How did those things get in?"

The Oct. 10, 2014, homily, which is excerpted in the booklet, said the best way to guard one's heart is with the daily practice of an "examination of conscience," in which one quietly reviews what bad things one has done and what good things one has failed to do for God, one's neighbor and oneself.

The questions include:

-- Do I only turn to God

"Whoever says he is without sin is a liar or is blind," the Pope wrote.

when I'm in need?

-- Do I attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation?

-- Do I begin and end the day with prayer?

-- Am I embarrassed to show that I am a Christian?

-- Do I rebel against God's plan?

-- Am I envious, hot-tempered, biased?

-- Am I honest and fair with everyone or do I fuel the "throw-away culture"?

-- In my marital and family relations, do I uphold morality as taught in the Gospels?

-- Do I honor and respect my parents?

-- Have I refused newly conceived life? Have I snuffed out the gift of life? Have I helped do so?

-- Do I respect the environment?

-- Am I part worldly and part believer?

-- Do I overdo it with eating, drinking, smoking and amusements?

-- Am I overly concerned about my physical well-being, my possessions?

-- How do I use my time? Am I lazy?

-- Do I want to be served?

-- Do I dream of revenge, hold grudges?

-- Am I meek, humble and a builder of peace?

Catholics should go to confession, the pope said, because everyone needs forgiveness for their sins, for the ways "we think and act contrary to the Gospel."

"Whoever says he is without sin is a liar or is blind," he wrote.

Confession is meant to be a sincere moment of conversion, an occasion to demonstrate trust in God's willingness to forgive his children and to help them back on the path of following Jesus, Pope Francis wrote.



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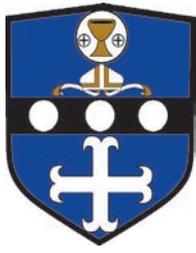


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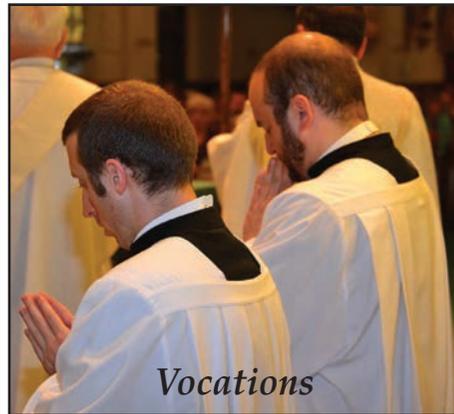
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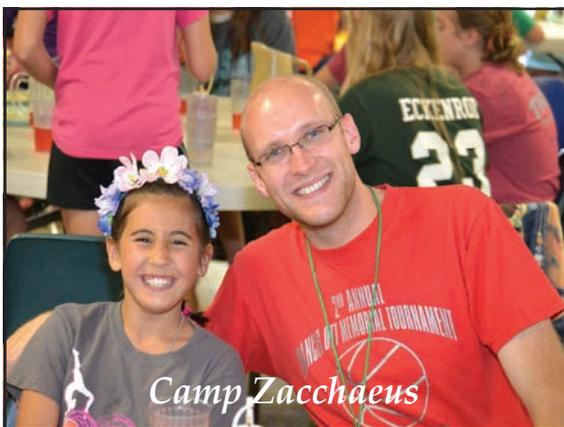


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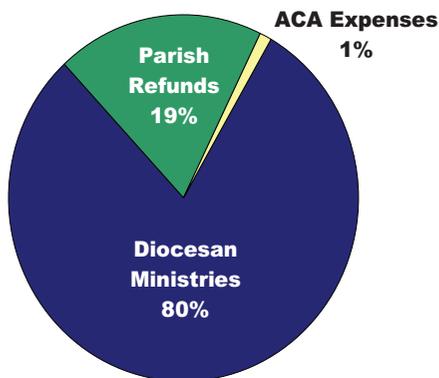


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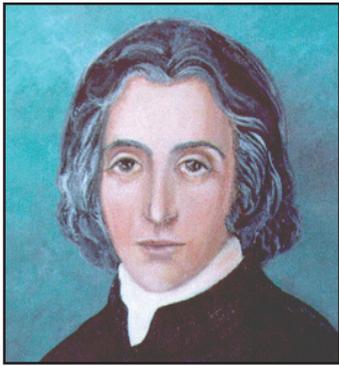
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A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

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

Nominations Sought For Gallitzin Cross Award: Presentation Dinner May 16

Nominations are now being sought for the 2015 Prince Gallitzin Cross Award.

The awards will be presented Saturday, May 16 at a dinner held at the Calvin House in Duncansville.

The Prince Gallitzin Cross

Award was created by Bishop Joseph V. Adamec in 1990, to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of the Prince - Priest. The awards are presented to persons who have imitated the evangelizing spirit of the Apostle of the Alleghenies.



**THE PRINCE GALLITZIN
CROSS AWARD**

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
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(or have been previously) active through some form of ministry or service to God's people on either a parish or diocesan level;

- - Their ministry or service is to have contributed to the growth of this Diocesan Church as judged on the basis of the Gospel of Jesus, the evangelizing spirit of the Servant of God Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin, the teachings of the Church, and the guidance of the Holy See and this Particular Church as given through various decrees and letters. In a special way, those who have kept alive the memory of Prince Gallitzin may be considered.

The insignia of the award is an enameled white cross bearing a yellow shield on which is displayed a black double-headed eagle, taken from the Gallitzin family coat of arms, and hang-

ing from a white and yellow ribbon, allowing it to be worn around the neck at various parish or diocesan functions. It is accompanied by a certificate signed by the Bishop.

Clergy, religious and laity are invited to submit nominations, which should be attested to by the nominee's pastor, and then submitted to the local Dean for submission to Teresa Stayer, chancellor of the Diocese.

The Bishop may also designate other recipients of the award.

The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, April 10.

The awards ceremony will be preceded by a 5:00 p.m. social and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Dinner reservations must be made by Friday, May 1, by contacting the local parish, or the Diocese at (814) 695 - 5579.

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The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

Liturgy And A Sense Of Awe

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The liturgy should help the faithful enter into God's mystery and to experience the wonder of encountering Christ, Pope Francis told priests of the Diocese of Rome.

People should feel the wonder and allure "that the apostles felt when they were called, invited. It attracts -- wonder attracts -- and it lets you reflect," the pope said during an annual Lenten meeting with Rome pastors in the Paul VI audience hall.

Sitting behind a table and talking off-the-cuff, glancing occasionally at a few pages of notes in front of him, the pope led the pastors Feb. 19 in a reflection on the homily and "ars celebrandi," the art of celebrating the liturgy well.

Pope Francis told the priests that "the homily is a challenge for priests" and he said he, too, had his own shortcomings -- pointed out in a reflection he prepared for a plenary meeting of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments on "ars celebrandi" in 2005.

As Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, he was a cardinal member of the congregation. After he presented the reflection, he said, Cardinal Joachim Meisner "reprimanded me a bit strongly over some things," as well as then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who "told me that something very important was missing in the 'ars celebrandi,' which was the feeling of being before God. And he was right, I had not spoken about this," he said, adding that both cardinals had given him good advice.

"For me the key of 'ars celebrandi' takes the path of recovering the allure of beauty, the wonder both of the person celebrating and the people, of entering in an atmosphere that is spontaneous, normal and religious, but isn't artificial, and that way you recover a bit of the wonder," he said.

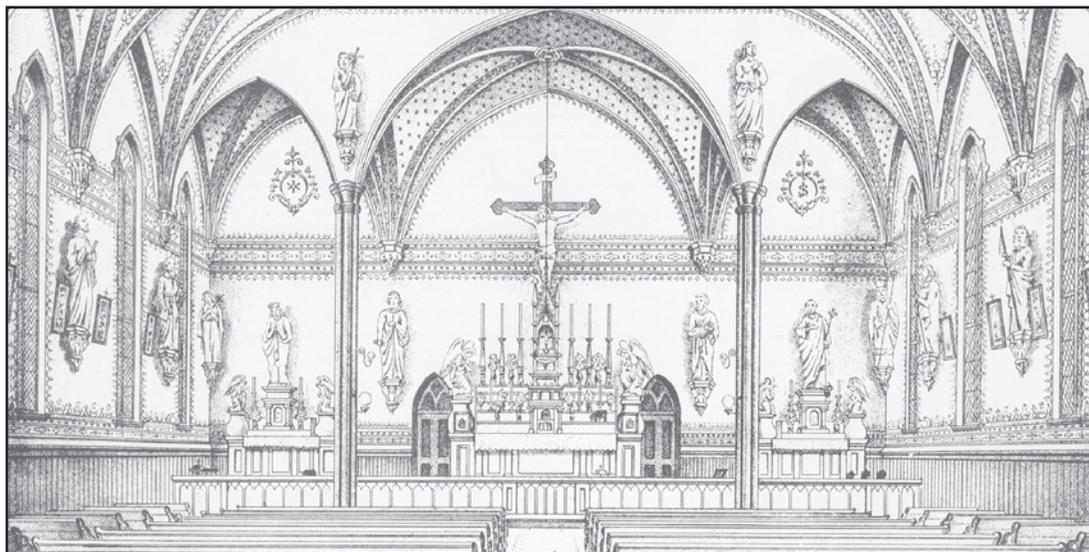
Sometimes there are priests who celebrate Mass in a way that is "very sophisticated, artificial," or who "abuse the gestures" he said.

If the priest is "excessively" focused on the rubrics that indicate the movements and particular gestures during Mass and "rigid, I do not enter into the mystery" because all one's energy and attention are on the form, he said.

The other extreme, he said, is "if I am a showman, the protagonist" of the Mass, "then I do not enter into the mystery" either.

While the idea is simple, "it is not easy" to elicit this sense of wonder and mystery, he said. But nonetheless, he said, the celebration of Mass is about entering into and letting others enter into this mystery.

The celebrant "must pray before God, with the community," in a genuine and natural way that avoids all forms of "artificiality," he said.



ONE MORE TIME: Reproduced in a 1966 booklet marking the parish's 150th anniversary, an 1869 engraving depicts the interior of Holy Name Church in Ebensburg.

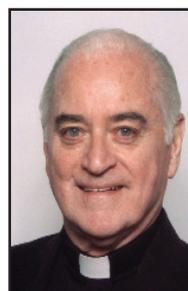
My love goes out to all of you this holy season of Lent. Now that I am an old man, I see more clearly that love is the only thing that really matters in life. Things you have acquired, like wealth or power or fame, are not really important. All that matters is how much of God's love you've shared with those in need.

Every Lent we celebrate God's gifts, especially the gift of eternal life. We aspire to attain heaven by striving for greater perfection. As we approach the joy of Easter, we are facing the challenge of using our gifts well.

In his loving wisdom, God has given each of us two great gifts: a life to live and a love to share. St. Paul wrote: "But the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor 13:13). To have a good Lent, we all need to focus on the desires of the heart. Do you have the right attitude toward others?

Think about your gifts and talents. How are you using them? Focus on the ways your gifts can bring a smile to a child's face or a warm feeling to an elderly person in need of kindness.

Your talent for helping others should not become mere good intentions. Take action as best as you can. What are you good at? We all have talents that aren't used as well as they should. If there is something you enjoy doing, do it soon for someone who needs your special touch.



Spirituality For Today

By Father John Catoir

Letting Love In, During Lent

There is still time to think of ways to share your talents with the people you love. Bake a cake, sing a song or just be there for someone who needs a little cheer.

Since God delights in loving us, we need to take delight in loving others. We do this best by sharing our gifts with them. Spread your love around. You can break out and bring joy to those who have no claim on your kindness.

God's joy is contagious. Since you know that you are a carrier of divine love, why not

figure out ways to help those near you? Think of ways to bring joy especially to those who may live in fear.

Fear is the enemy of joy. The reason Jesus said to us in Isaiah 41:10, "Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you" is that he wanted us to enjoy our lives. To begin doing that, we have to rid ourselves of needless worry. Immediately put on the will to bear discomfort and smile.

Some are better than others at shedding fear. I know this because I was born a worrier. I was born in 1931. My mother carried me in her womb for nine months during the Great Depression and my father was out of work. Her fears seeped into my genes.

Today I am free of all that because I made a concerted effort to trust God more and more. I no longer let anxiety get a foothold in my psyche. If fear does strike, I immediately think of it as a gift and a test to see how quickly I can show the Lord that I trust him implicitly. His loving protection covers us in all circumstances.



CNS Photo/Kathleen Barry, UMNS



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
**Can A Felon
 Enter Holy Orders?**

Q. I am currently incarcerated in federal prison. My question may seem strange, but I am wondering whether it would ever be possible for an ex-convict, a felon, to be accepted into holy orders.

When I was a child, I was never baptized or brought up in any particular religion, but I had a strong sense of the closeness of God. Later, as I got older, I fell away from the Lord and began to lead a sinful life, which resulted in my imprisonment. While in prison, I began going to Catholic Mass and shortly I will be baptized by our Catholic prison chaplain.

I read the Catholic paper regularly and find it helpful and uplifting. Here in prison, it's easy to lose hope, to feel lonely and forgotten, but with the Lord I get stronger every day. I reflect on God's word, feel his strength and know that he is with me.

Through Jesus, I can wake each day with a sense of lightness and freedom -- even though I am surrounded by bars, con-

crete, fences and chains -- and I thank God for this. It gives me joy to share my faith with fellow prisoners, some of whom feel unlovable. I hope you can tell me whether anything would prevent me from becoming a priest or deacon once I am released from prison. And meanwhile, please pray for me. (South Carolina)

A. First, let me say how grateful I am to you for telling the story of this remarkable reawakening to God's presence in your life. I find your words inspiring. I'm sure others will say the same.

As for your becoming a priest or a deacon, it would not be unprecedented for someone to move from prison cell to pulpit. I have read, for example, of Father Donald Calloway.

As a young man, he led a life of delinquency and drug use and was jailed multiple times. Now he is a priest of the Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception, a much-

sought speaker who tells of his conversion through the mercy of God.

Realistically, though, I think it depends a lot on the nature of the crime for which you are serving time.

In the interest of transparency, that background would have to be shared with the people whom you were to serve. If your crime were one of violence, people might feel uncomfortable accepting you as a minister of the Gospel, and your work would be compromised. If, on the other hand, it were something such as drug use from which you had clearly repented and recovered, the way might be open.

What I think you should do is talk with your prison chaplain, whom you already know and trust. Get his take on the matter and, perhaps, ask him to put you in touch with the vocation director of a diocese or religious order.

Even if a future in religious ministry is not in the cards, know that there are many ways to serve the Lord. Far more people do this as members of the laity, ministering to those they live and work with by showing their kindness and sharing their faith. Meanwhile, please be assured that you have my prayers, and I ask for yours.

Q. I often notice people returning to their pews while visibly chewing the host. I always thought -- in fact, I think I was taught this -- that you should either let the host dissolve in your mouth as a sign of reverence or swallow it quickly. Please explain. (Suring, Wisconsin)

A. I have no doubt that, as a child, you were taught not to chew the host -- because I was taught that, too. This was seen as a sign of greater reverence for the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. But there is not -- and never was -- a rule that says this.

It depends on the circumstances. When I am celebrating Mass, I consume a large host and find it necessary to chew it. When I am on vacation, and attending Mass, I revert to the habit of my boyhood and let the host start to dissolve in my mouth before swallowing it.



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
**Going From 'I Want'
 To 'You Have'**

As a book lover, I'm all ears when National Public Radio interviews an author. Often, I grab a pen and paper and jot down a title to put on my Christmas wish list.

And being a Catholic writer, I frequently look for the Catholic and Christian perspectives that come from the books I read.

Recently I heard an interview with the author and illustrator of a children's book and got that familiar "I've got to have that book" feeling.

What better gift for my new granddaughter than a contribution to her budding library? So, I dashed to the bookstore where there was only one copy left of **Last Stop On Market Street**. Matt de la Pena is the author, Christian Robinson, the illustrator. The story line is sweet and simple: an African-American boy riding the bus with Nana, his grandmother.

Like a beautiful painting, a simple child's tale can have multiple layers of meaning. This nicely illustrated children's book gives you much to think about.

Lots of people in our country ride public transportation. But, living in the suburbs most of my life, I almost never ride buses. When my kids were little, we went on a bus ride as a special adventure, not a daily occurrence.

In some ways, our country can be separated into those of us who ride public transportation and those of us who don't, or don't have to. There's a lot of diversity we miss out on as we drive down the freeway in our cars.

The boy in the book complains about the rain, about his friend who gets to ride home in a car, about not having an iPod like some other kids who get on the bus.

Nana points out the positives on their journey.

In the interview, the author said that so many kids today, exposed to so much advertising, develop an "I want, I want, I want" mentality.

The grandma presents the other side of the coin: "You have, you have, you have."

That's our role as Christian parents, isn't it?

The book takes place on a Sunday morning, and Nana and the little boy get on the bus right after walking out of church. (Spoiler alert: Their destination, the last stop on Market Street, is a soup kitchen in a poor part of town, where they help to serve Sunday lunch.)

They have moved, not just metaphorically but literally, from the church steps into service.

Intentionally or not, the book gives the best illustration of what Christianity is all about. We worship together, and then we are sent into the world, directed into the service of others. Church is never just about my private relationship with God. It's always about asking, How do you want me to serve you?

What a nice Lenten resolution it would be to take our children, or grandchildren, who so frequently are overindulged and succumb to the culture's entitlement mentality, and bring them to a shelter, a soup kitchen, a food pantry, and let them help out for a day. Let them interact with people they might never have a chance to meet, people who have much to teach them.

Jesuit Father Greg Boyle, who started Homeboy Industries to work with people in the gangs of Los Angeles, tells us we should take it a step further, to move from service to solidarity. We should connect with those we serve, move to "a place of kinship, where your feet are in the right place."

Service and solidarity -- two lessons of Lent that our children would be fortunate to learn.

Cyril of Jerusalem
 C. 315-386
 Feast - March 18



Cyril lived when the Arian heresy was roiling Christianity. Raised and educated in Jerusalem, he was ordained by St. Maximus and succeeded him as Bishop of Jerusalem around 350. His episcopate lasted until his death, but he spent 16 years in exile, turned out by emperors influenced by the Arian Bishop of Caesarea who claimed ecclesiastical jurisdiction over Jerusalem. The Council of Antioch sent St. Gregory of Nyssa to investigate Cyril and his Diocese. He reported that Jerusalem was rife with factionalism and Arianism, but that Cyril was orthodox. He is famous for his extant "Catechetical Instructions," some of which consist almost entirely of carefully interwoven scriptural passages. Pope Leo XIII named him a Doctor of the Church in 1882.



CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES: Catechumens are unbaptized persons and candidates are baptized Christians from another faith tradition. Both catechumens and candidates will be received into the fullness of the sacramental life of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Each had their own significant moment in the Sunday, February 22 celebrations. At left, catechumen Dooyoung Lim from the Penn State Catholic Campus Ministry community signs his name in the Book of the Elect, as Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, assisted by Deacon John Rys, looks on. At right, candidate Stephana Tonella (left) of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament stands to affirm her desire to become a Catholic as her sponsor, Joyce Moyer (right) places her hand on her shoulder.

167 Express Intention To Join Catholic Church

(Continued From Page 1.)

Thompson enthused, too, over other aspects of the celebrations.

She was pleased to note that “there are always people volunteering to take part in the minis-

tries at this Rite. People really want to be here!” Thompson said she was pleased too by “the family aspect of the celebration. We had candidates and catechumens who had their infants and small children sitting with them. It was wonderful that they felt

they could be there together as a family.”

And she paid tribute, too, to the leaders of the parish families, noting that “the pastors are really connected to their people.”

Bishop Mark spoke of how connected he felt to the catechumens and candidates, after he read the letters they sent him expressing their reasons for wishing to join the Catholic Church.

“You come from many faith traditions and experiences, but you are united by a common desire to praise the Lord, to worship the God of heaven and earth. You are thirsting for God, wanting so strongly to be saved by God and to experience His

grace in this life and in the life to come.”

The Bishop urged those coming into the Church to make their own the words of the Greek - speaking converts to Judaism who approached the disciples in John’s Gospel with the request “We would like to see Jesus.” Bishop Mark advised the candidates and catechumens to “pray those words every day, and many times a day, every day,” reminding them that “we never pray alone, we always pray together,” and that their voices united with the voices of the Church would help them fulfill that desire.

The Bishop laughingly pointed out that the Greeks who approached Philip, who then took their request to Andrew, who in turn passed the message on to Jesus, constituted “the first RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process, and that there was a strong parallel with what the contemporary seekers for Jesus were experiencing.

“In your letters, I read the names of the people you approached, or who approached you. I read of how you asked

with great humility, with trust and with anticipation. Easter cannot come soon enough for you!”

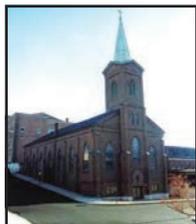
In addition to recommending daily prayer, Bishop Mark asked the catechumens and candidates “to keep reminding yourselves that in the whole RCIA process Jesus has already seen every one of you. He knows your name. He knows your story. He has anticipated your prayer. He cannot wait for Easter to come, so that once again His saving mission will be fulfilled.”

The desire to see Jesus is answered by the Lord’s own invitation to “Come and see,” Bishop Mark said. “It’s all about coming and seeing, experiencing and encountering,” he stated.

“Jesus has already invited you to come and see,” he said. “Your desire to see Jesus is already being fulfilled.

“In heart and voice,” Bishop Mark concluded, “all of us can say ‘Praise the Lord,’ ‘Thanks be to God!’ We have seen the Lord, and best of all, He has seen us.”

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



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MARTHA AND MARY HOUSE: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak presented Jean Johnstone, director of Catholic Charities of the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese with a print depicting Jesus receiving hospitality from Martha and Mary at their home in Bethany, when he presided at the blessing of Martha and Mary House in Johnstown on Friday, February 27. The house, administered by Catholic Charities, is a shelter for homeless people in Cambria County.

Martha And Mary House Opens Doors To Homeless

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

The dirt in the gutter is but a small step away for most of us. In an instant fortune may find us searching for shelter and a kind word.

In the Gospel story of Martha and Mary, we read that the two women provided food and shelter for Jesus. "When Jean Johnstone suggested that I come up with a name for the new homeless shelter, I thought that the 'Martha and Mary House' sounded right because it will offer concerned hospitality and shelter," Bishop Mark L. Bartchak said prior to the blessing and ribbon cutting on Friday, February 27.

"Martha and Mary offered, food, shelter and hospitality, which this shelter will do, and will also provide spiritual well being. I think these things compliment each other. The power of prayer made this all possible. I pray that all who enter here find shelter and the living face of Jesus Christ."

The house, located at 899 Bedford Street in the Dale Borough section of Johnstown, is owned by the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority. The Altoona - Johnstown Diocese

leases the building, which is administered by Catholic Charities of the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese.

"This has been a total community effort," said Johnstone. "It took the whole village - - Cambria County, the United Way of the Laurel Highlands, the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, Catholic Charities and the Shelter Committee to make this possible."

Johnstone is very excited to have Missy Kreutzberger as the Director and Lead Case Manager. "She has done an outstanding job bringing this to reality. Missy and her staff are just fantastic."

"I think this is one of the most rewarding projects with which I've ever been associated," said Kreutzberger. She has been working on the project since April of 2014. Since then the Diocese has been administering a Hotel Voucher Program, which gave people a place to stay for seven days.

The Martha and Mary House has four bedrooms, including one that is handicapped accessible, two bathrooms, a kitchen and offices. It meets all local, state, and federal standards.

"What we really want to impress upon the community is that our philosophy is that we do



STAFF: The staff of the Martha and Mary House pictured (left to right) includes: Jim Svencer, Kelly Ambrovicik, Jean Johnstone, director of Catholic Charities; and Melissa Kreutzberger, house director and Lead Case manager. Absent from the photo are: Justine Asprey and Susan Sesock.

not want to do for others what they can do (or can learn to do) for themselves," Kreutzberger explained.

"Our community has all of the resources and supports that people need to be successful. We want to make sure that when a client leaves the Martha and Mary House they have a solid foundation from which to continue to build.

"The support of the Diocese has been tremendous. We are very humbled to be the recipient of so many individuals' time, energy, and donations. It will

truly make a positive impact on someone's life." She said the maximum length of stay in the Martha and Mary House is 30 days. It is a place for clients to get their lives in order and back on track.

Kreutzberger, who resides in Johnstown, is a graduate of Saint Francis University with a Master of Resources Management Degree; and a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration. She has spent more than 12 years working in health and human services in Cambria County.

Her background includes work in and management of programs dealing with psychiatric rehabilitation, brain injury rehabilitation, welfare to work, and community employment services for persons with disabilities.

(Continued On Page 12.)

Father Theodore Hesburgh, Longest - Serving Notre Dame President, Dead At 97

By Catholic News Service

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) -- Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, who led the University of Notre Dame through a period of dramatic growth during his 35 years as president and held sway with political and civil rights leaders, died Feb. 26 at the age of 97.

As the longest serving president of Notre Dame, from 1952 to 1987, Father Hesburgh built the university from a small

college primarily known for its prowess on the football field into one of the nation's premier higher education institutions.

In announcing the highly regarded priest's death, the university did not cite a specific cause.

"We mourn today a great man and faithful priest who transformed the University of Notre Dame and touched the lives of many," Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, Notre Dame's current president, said in a statement. "With his leadership, charism and vision, he

turned a relatively small Catholic college known for football into one of the nation's great institutions for higher learning.

"In his historic service to the nation, the church and the world, he was a steadfast champion for human rights, the cause of peace and care for the poor," he said.

Father Hesburgh was born May 25, 1917, in Syracuse, New York, to Anne Murphy Hesburgh and Theodore B. Hesburgh, an

executive of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co.

He was educated at Notre Dame and Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University. He was ordained a priest of the Congregation of the Holy Cross in 1943 in Sacred Heart Church, today the basilica, on the Notre Dame campus. He received a doctorate in sacred theology from The Catholic University of America in 1945.

After doctoral studies he joined the university faculty, teaching in the religion department, and served as chaplain to World War II veterans on campus. In 1949 he was appointed executive vice president of Notre Dame. He became the university's 15th president in 1952.

(Continued On Page 13.)



RIBBON CUTTING: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and Jean Johnstone cut the ribbon to officially open the Martha and Mary House in Johnstown. Pictured (left to right) are: Melissa Kreutzberger, director and lead case manager; Father Sean Code, member of the Catholic Charities board of directors; Johnstone; Bill McKinney, executive director of United Way of the Laurel Highlands; Bishop Mark; Mark Wissinger, Cambria County Commissioner; Larry Custer of the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority; and Thomas Chernisky, Cambria County Commissioner.

Martha And Mary House Will Shelter Homeless

(Continued From Page 11.)

Her staff includes: Kelly Ambrovick of Johnstown. Kelly is a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania, where she earned a degree in Applied Sociology and Women's Studies. She brings an extensive knowledge of homeless shelter services to Catholic Charities.

Albert "Jim" Svencer, a res-

ident of Elton, brings more than 14 years of experience as a correctional officer. He is trained in crisis de-escalation, suicide prevention, substance use, and behavioral health.

Susan Sesock, a resident of Armagh, has a strong background in shelter services as well as community residential rehabilitation. She has more than 20 years experience pro-

viding residential programming. She has previously assisted in the successful development of a homeless shelter.

Justine Asprey of Johnstown, has a Master of Social Work Degree from California University of PA; and a Bachelor of Social Work from Saint Francis University. She has experience in counseling and case management.

St. Peregrine Shrine

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Saint Peregrine is the Patron Saint of Cancer Sufferers.

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

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

Please remember my intentions at the Shrine:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Intention: _____

(Continued From Page 12.)

Under his presidency, the university budget grew from \$9.7 million to \$176.6 million while the endowment expanded from \$9 million to \$350 million. Enrollment increased from 4,979 students to 9,600 and the faculty expanded from 389 to 950.

In 1967, he oversaw the transference of governance of the school from the Congregation of the Holy Cross to a two-tiered, mixed board of lay and religious trustees and fellows. The school also admitted women to undergraduate programs beginning in 1972.

Father Hesburgh also played an influential role in national and international affairs both during and after his presidency. He held 16 presidential appointments over the years, tackling major social issues including civil rights, immigration reform, peaceful uses of atomic energy, campus unrest, treatment of Vietnam draft evaders and development in the world's poorest nations.

He was a charter member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights when it was created in 1957 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. He chaired the body from 1969 until 1972 when President Richard Nixon dismissed him over his criticism of the administration's civil rights record.

The Holy Cross priest also served on President Gerald R. Ford's Clemency Board, which was responsible for deciding the fate of Vietnam offenders.

His work on the two commissions led to the creation of the Center for Civil & Human Rights at Notre Dame Law School.

Father Hesburgh served on the Overseas Development Council, a private organization supporting interests in developing nations, beginning in 1971 and chaired it until 1982. He led efforts to overcome mass starvation in Cambodia in 1979 and 1980. From 1979 to 1981, he chaired the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, which issued recommendations which became the basis of congressional reform legisla-

tion several years later.

During the Cold War in the early 1980s, Father Hesburgh joined a private initiative which sought to unite internationally known scientists and world religious leaders in condemning nuclear weapons. He organized a 1982 meeting at the Vatican of 58 scientists from around the world who called for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Father Hesburgh served four popes, including three as the Vatican's permanent representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna from 1956 to 1970. Blessed Paul VI asked him to build the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem, which the university continues to operate. Father Hesburgh also served as head of the Vatican delegation attending the 20th anniversary of the United Nations' human rights declaration in Teheran, Iran, in 1968. He also served as a member of the Holy See's U.N. contingent in 1974.

In 1983, St. John Paul II appointed him to the Pontifical Council for Culture.

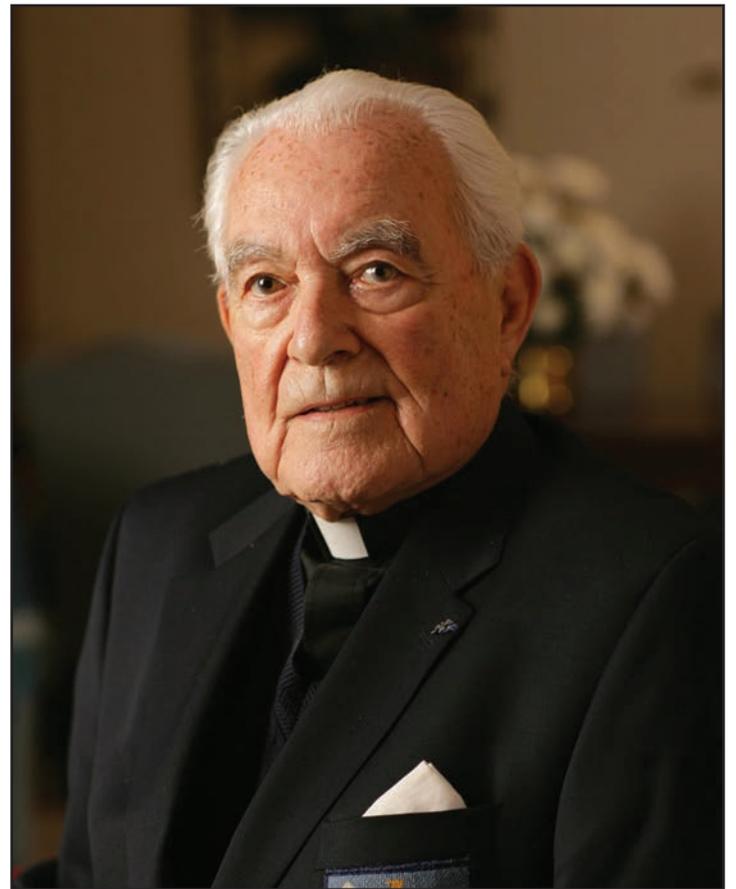
He also served as a trustee and chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation. He became ambassador to the 1979 U.N. Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the first time a priest served in a formal diplomatic role for the U.S. government.

In addition, Father Hesburgh served on several commissions and study groups in the field of education. He served as chairman of the International Federation of Catholic Universities from 1963 to 1970, leading a movement to redefine the nature and mission of contemporary Catholic education.

In 2009, the priest said he supported Notre Dame's decision to invite President Barack Obama to deliver the commencement address that year and receive an honorary law degree. The invitation reignited a heated debate about maintaining the Catholic identity of U.S. Catholic institutions of higher education. About 80 U.S. bishops and others said Obama's support of legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research made him an inappropriate choice.

But Father Hesburgh backed the school's invitation to the president, saying that the nation's universities are meant to be places where people with different opinions can talk to one another.

Father Hesburgh held 150 honorary degrees and was the first priest elected to the Board of Overseers of Harvard University, serving for two years, from 1994 to 1995, as president of the board. He also co-chaired the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics in its efforts to reform college sports.



CNS Photo/Matt Cashore, Courtesy University Of Notre Dame
FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH C.S.C.

THE ANNUAL NOVENA IN HONOR OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS



Monday, March 16 to Tuesday, March 24

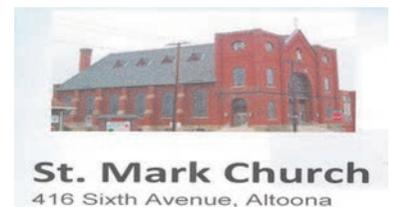
**Sacred Heart Church
 6th Avenue and 20th Street
 Altoona, PA 943-8553**

**Solemn Opening Mass on Monday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m.
 Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Celebrant and Homilist**

A complete schedule will be available on the first night of the Novena, in the parish bulletin and at www.sacredheartaltoona.org

FISH FRY

**Feb. 27
 March 13
 March 27**



Price \$9

MENU

- Baked or Fried Fish
- French Fries
- Macaroni And Cheese
- Stewed Tomatoes
- Cole Slaw
- Drink

FREE Dessert



**Extra Add On For \$1.50
 Pasta Fagioli**

**4:00-6:30 PM
 (while supplies last)**

Now Showing

Faith, Family Values Make 'McFarland' An Uplifting Tale

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Kevin Costner turns in a restrained yet compelling performance as the central figure in the fact-based sports drama "McFarland, USA" (Disney).

As for the story unfolding around him, faith and family friendly values -- together with

the absence of any genuinely problematic elements for parents -- make director Niki Caro's uplifting tale one that can be enthusiastically recommended for moviegoers of almost all ages.

Costner plays Jim White, a high school science teacher and coach in 1980s California whose sharp temper places him on a downward career spiral. Jim, wife Cheryl (Maria Bello) and daughters Julie (Morgan Saylor) and Jamie (Elsie Fisher) seem to have hit rock bottom when the best job he can find forces them to relocate to the impoverished, predominantly Latino field-workers' community of the title.

As the Whites -- whose name now takes on an ironic significance -- struggle to adjust to McFarland's Hispanic culture, Jim recognizes a widespread gift among his new students for long-distance running. Toughened by backbreaking agricultural work



CNS Photo/Disney

McFARLAND: Kevin Costner stars in a scene from the movie "McFarland." The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

and constrained to cover extensive distances on foot, lads like Thomas Valles (Carlos Pratts) glide swiftly across the landscape without giving their speed a second thought.

Jim decides to draw on this pool of latent talent by organizing a cross-country team. Since this genre of racing is considered an elite sport for country club-types, Jim and his charges will have to compete against

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the privileged athletes who attend the Golden State's private academies. But Jim is convinced that, with the requisite effort, his hearty proteges can prevail.

Caro's saga of youthful underdogs pitted against the odds honors Jim and Cheryl's strong marriage, along with the bonds uniting the other close-knit clans

it portrays. The script also highlights the value of education and self-improvement.

Though religion mostly hovers in the background, a spontaneous, intense and identifiably Catholic prayer of thanksgiving marks one of the movie's emotional high-water marks.

The film contains an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, a single mild oath, a couple of crass terms and occasional ethnic slurs. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

March 15 -- In celebration of the Year for Consecrated Life, Third Order Regular Franciscan Fathers Frank Scornaienchi and Terrence Smith, pastor and parochial vicar respectively at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Altoona, discuss their community and ministry.

March 22 -- Teachers and students are seeing double at Saint Rose of Lima School in Altoona. Some of the 18 twin students at the school will join the Bishop to celebrate this unique situation.

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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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In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 2.)

- - Overnight Retreat - - "Gift of Silence" - - In a world of constant noise and distracting influences, the need for silence cannot be exaggerated. Enter into a time of silence to discover the gentle voice of God guiding you through this Lenten time of inner conversion. Friday, March 20, 7:00 p.m. - Saturday, March 21, 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$45.00, Includes room, meals, materials. Registration is requested by March 15.

All sessions, classes and retreats will be held at Carmelite Community of the Word Incarnation Center, 394 Bem Road. To register, get directions, or for more information, call (814) 886 - 4098.

Saint Joseph Novena

Loretto: The Disalced



EDUCATION CONTEST WINNERS: Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Prince Gallitzin #2625 sponsored an Education Contest for students in the Altoona area. The awards ceremony was held Saturday, February 7 at Saint Rose of Lima Parish social hall. Winners (pictured left to right) included: First row: Nathan Rice, Madeline Foor, Olivia Batrus, Abby Yahner, Andrew Zupon, Kiera Chirdon, Shyla Little and Rachel Simanski. Second row: Casey Smith, Evan Himes, Katie Krish, Daniel Carrieri, Aaryanna Wright, Anthony Pater, Dylann Condrin, Maren Steinbugl, Annika Barnes, and Darrian Berkheimer. Third row: Karen Watt (Regent), Jennifer Crum - Waite (Youth and Education chairman) and Father D. Timothy Grimme (Court chaplain).

Carmelite Nuns invite the faithful to share in a private novena in honor of Saint Joseph beginning Wednesday, March 11 and ending on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Thursday, March 19.

Since the renovation of the

chapel at Carmel has been entrusted to the protection of Saint Joseph, the novena has a special meaning this year. In addition, the novena will be offered for the intentions of employment and holy and happy family life.

The regular monthly private novena honoring Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Therese will take place at the same time. All intentions will be remembered in the special

novena prayers recited by the nuns after Vespers each day of the novena.

Those desiring to share in the graces and blessings of these nine days of prayer are requested to send their petitions to Mother Prioress, Carmelite Monastery, P.O. Box 57, Loretto PA 15940.

During the renovation of the chapel, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is being given every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. at Queen of Peace Church in Patton.

Saint Joseph Triduum

Johnstown: A triduum in honor of Saint Joseph will be held Tuesday - Thursday, March 17 - 19 at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, 117 Clinton Street.

Mass and devotions will be held at 7:00 p.m. each evening with confessions following mass on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, everyone is invited following the final liturgy to the Saint Joseph Table at the parish activity center.

Infant Of Prague Novena March 8 to March 16, 2015

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

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



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

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

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Media Efforts Help Promote Culture Of Vocations



VOCATION STORY: Father George I. Jakopac (right), pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Bellefonte and Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish in Spring Mills, tells his vocation story to Father Matthew A. Reese, diocesan director of vocations and Tony DeGol, secretary for communications, during an appearance on “Answering The Call,” a television program devoted to promoting vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life.

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

Vocations are God - inspired logical decisions rooted in the culture of a spiritual family life, suggested Father George I. Jakopac, during his appearance on “Answering The Call,” a half - hour vocation program sponsored by the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese.

The program can be seen at 9:00 p.m. each Sunday evening on local cable access channel 14 in Blair County. The program is

just one of the many proactive efforts being made by the Diocese to reach out for new vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life.

Father Matthew A. Reese, director of Vocations; and Tony DeGol, secretary for communications, have developed an ad campaign that can be seen throughout the Diocese on local television stations.

The pair produced the 30 - second commercial featuring two young seminarians. “It was cool that the commercial aired during the telecast of Super Bowl 2015,” said Father Reese.

“Hopefully, parents see it and the seeds of a vocation for one of their children will have been planted.”

In addition Father Reese and DeGol have launched a new vocation web site: myvocation.dioceseaj.org. “The site provides valuable information on frequently asked questions about vocations asked by parents and those contemplating a religious vocation,” DeGol said.

The site introduces the current seminarians from the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese, and they share some of their stories. In addition there are video clips

of diocesan priests speaking of their own vocation journeys.

DeGol said very generous financial contributions from the Independent Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and the Knights of Columbus have made the advertising campaign possible. “We are very, very grateful for their generosity,” DeGol said. “Our wish is to continue to air advertisements supporting vocations. Groups and individuals that would like to contribute can contact Father Reese at the Vocation Office at (814) 472 - 5441.

As for Father Jakopac, the value of a faith filled family life goes along way in developing a vocation. “Catholic schools and religious education classes do a great job, but nothing can replace a faith that is lived in the family.”

Father Jakopac is pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Bellefonte; and Saint Kateri Tekakwitha in Spring Mills.

The native of Clearfield County took a bit of a circuitous route in discerning his vocation. “I graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a degree in education and joined the seminary not long after,” he related. It took him just a few months to realize “I wasn’t ready and I wasn’t mature enough to live as an ambassador for Christ.”

He said a vocation doesn’t appear in a mystical vision, it’s a logical decision. And, he cautioned, you can’t make a deci-

sion based on emotions.

“I realized that I had to fulfill my own reality and discover what makes me truly happy,” Father explained. “The media’s portrayal of societal norms is hype and not reality.”

Father Jakopac decided he needed to step back a bit, live on his own, find a job, and pay rent. He found he needed that experience. “I decided if God wanted a religious vocation for me, it would happen.”

“These kinds of experiences are very common in the seminary,” explained Father Reese. “Guys sometimes feel that they have to live up to a certain expectations, which carries with them their own kind of pressure.”

Father Jakopac said that after a few years, at the age of 26, “I made a common sense decision to apply to the seminary. The Bishop and vocation director helped me to determine if it was God’s will.

“I had to transfer that interior call to objective reality. I trusted my own instincts and I felt I had a strong faith life. When you get a call you have to answer to the Lord alone. I’m so happy with my vocation. I feel very happy and privileged to do what I do.”

Your contribution to the Annual Catholic Appeal helps make possible the work of the Vocation Office and of the Secretary For Communications. Please be generous in responding to this year’s Annual Catholic Appeal.

PERIODICAL RATE MAIL

The Catholic Register

**Official Publication of the
Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown**