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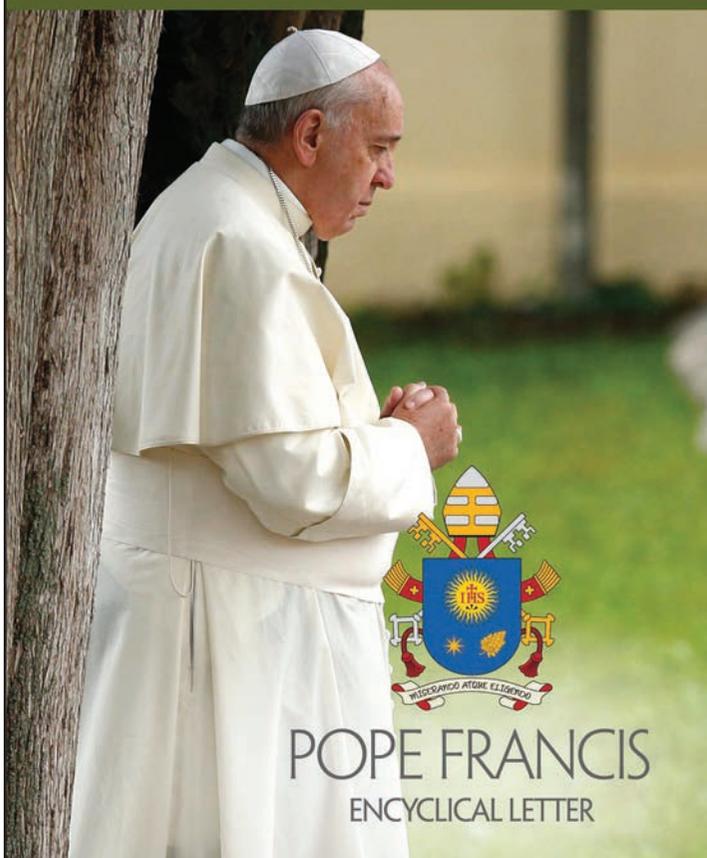
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Encyclical Letter 'Laudato Si'

Pope Says A Lack Of Respect For Creation, Is A Lack Of Respect For God, The Creator Of All

ON CARE FOR OUR
COMMON HOME
LAUDATO SI'



POPE FRANCIS
ENCYCLICAL LETTER

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The earth, which was created to support life and give praise to God, is crying out with pain because human activity is destroying it, Pope Francis says in his long-awaited encyclical, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home."

All who believe in God and all people of good will have an obligation to take steps to mitigate climate change, clean the land and the seas, and start treating all of creation -- including poor people -- with respect and concern, he says in the document released at the Vatican June 18.

A lack of respect for creation is a lack of respect for God who created all that exists, the pope says. In fact, he continues, a person cannot claim to respect nature while supporting abortion, nor can one claim to be pro-life without a commitment to reversing damage to the environment.

With unusually blunt language for a papal document, the pope decries centuries of exploiting the earth, exploiting

other people and acting as if the point of human life is to buy and consume as much as possible.

"The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth," the pope writes in the document.

While acknowledging science is not the Catholic Church's area of expertise, Pope Francis says "a very solid scientific consensus" points to global warming and indicates "human activity" has seriously contributed to it, threatening the planet and all life on it.

Situating ecology firmly within Catholic social teaching, Pope Francis not only insists that wealthier nations -- who contributed more to despoiling the earth -- must bear more of the costs of remedying the damage, he also calls for their solidarity with the poorest of the earth. He urges generosity in transferring clean technology, protecting small farms, opening access to markets and protecting people's jobs.

Quoting St. John Paul II and a constant theme of the church's social doctrine, Pope Francis says the church recognizes the "legitimate right" to private property, but that right is never "absolute or inviolable," since

the goods of the earth were created to benefit all.

Regarding pollution and environmental destruction in general, he says it is important to acknowledge "the human origins of the ecological crisis," and while ecology is not only a religious concern, those who believe in God should be especially passionate on the subject because they profess the divine origin of all creation.

Pope Francis singles out for special praise Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, who has made environmental theology a key topic of his research and teaching since the early 1990s. Before the encyclical's release, the pope told a group of priests that he had asked the patriarch to join him for the public presentation of the encyclical, but the patriarch had a scheduling conflict and so sent one of his top theologians, Metropolitan John of Pergamon.

(Continued On Page 5.)

CNS Photo/Coutesty U.S. Conference Of Catholic Bishops
ENCYCLICAL LETTER: Pope Francis' long - anticipated encyclical letter on the environment, "Laudato Si: On Care For Our Common Home," was released at the Vatican Thursday, June 18.



VISITATION: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Johnstown, celebrated First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 19 and Confirmation on Tuesday, May 5. Pictured at left are (left to right) First row: Brody Nagle, Patrick Maestra, Alex Kozak. Second row: Children's Choir members Zoe Nagle, Sophie Maestra, David Kozak. Third row: Maureen Clark (director of religious education), Patricia Balagusz (Sacramental preparation director), Olivia Friday (server), Father Barry J. Baroni (pastor), Brent Swatek (server) and Mark Ed (music director). Pictured at right are (left to right) First row: Breona Makoff, Phillippa Rastall, Kylee Arms, Autumn McClain, Cynde Smith (Confirmation director). Second row: Maureen Clark, Father Baroni and Alex Fetsko.

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HOLY ROSARY: Holy Rosary Parish, Altoona, celebrated Confirmation on Wednesday, April 8. Pictured (top photo) are (left to right) First row: Kathryn Lord, Kaitlyn Umstead, Christina Kowalski, Andrew Potopa. Second row: Addison Cummings, Caimen Nicolini, Monsignor Michael Servinsky, Caleb Marasco and Bishop Mark L. Bartchak. Celebrating First Holy Communion (bottom photo) on Sunday, May 3 were (left to right) First row: Derek Reed, Laura Reed, Jacob Stayer, Raider Evans and Lily Koelle. Second row: Monsignor Servinsky.

In The Alleghenies



OUR LADY OF VICTORY: The confirmandi at Our Lady of Victory Parish, State College, were (top photograph): Kendall Allen, Isabella Anderson, Stephen Beattie, Emily Beyer, Danny Craig, Sarah Dangelo, Matthew DeLaNuez, Samson DeNezza, Leah Englehart, Ethan Fisher, Luke Garlicki, Charlotte Getson, Cooper Gulley, Lauren Kelly, Nicole Kinslow, Kaitlyn Kocher, Tanner Leahey, Ignatius Liu, Olivia Magro, Maevie McFeely, Isaac Messner, Brandon Miller, Evan Moerschbacher, Andrew Moscone, Olivia Mulley, Andrea Myers, Matthew Robert, Jack Rogan, John Paul Romero, Noah Schwab, Katelyn Servey, Zachary Shelow, Maria Sicree, Eli Urban, Paige Urban, Nicolaas Van Der Sluys, Mark Weakland, Nate Woodman. The Confirmation team was Deacon David Lapinski, Lincoln Kennedy, Diane Lapinski and Alyssa Sterling. The directors of high school religious education are Brendan and Kristy Bagley. Celebrating First Holy Communion (bottom photo) were: Aubrie Achianga, Paul Bahrman, Darling Bergstrom, Celeste Brannen, Brady Bucher, Jerry Bugden, Ava Carr, Caroline Concepcion, Charlotte DeNezza, Lindsey Dietz, Katharine Engroff, John Patrick Donovan, Reese Fischer, Adelaide Gagnon, Angelo Gallucci, Ashley Gardner, Ella George, Kathleen Gordon, Van Glantz, Cole Hagan, Isaac Hauser, Isaac High, Xavier Hoy, Christianna Hoover, Matthew James, Minseo Kim, Rhett King, Paige Kotary, Dylan Kramer, Brian Kriley, Micah Langelan, Ashley Laskowski, Mary Ledney, Michael Lower, Teagan Leynes, Logan Manion, Aubrey McCleary, Marie Meredith, Rebecca Mignot, Samantha Mikesic, Devin Mobley, Alyssa Montler, Gunner Morris, Piper Mulley, Madeline Powell, Finn Powers, Victoria Risha, Morgan Roan, Matthew Rogan, Mary Royes, Katelyn Sabol, Liv Salazer, Jude Scavone, Dana Schraf, Rachel Sharrar, Evan Shondeck, Sophia Summers, Emma Swenson, Alora Tallyen, Ella Tambroni, Joseph Taricani, Benjamin Tuthill, Reese Wilson, Brynn Wright, Charles Yartz, Lucia Rodriguez-Hertz, Christopher Zeisky-Warner. Father Neil Dadey is pastor, and Father Val Bradely is parochial vicar. Director of religious education for K - 8 is Eva Corsaro.

Higher Education

Receive Scholarships

Loretto: Saint Francis University nursing students Mary Palko and Chelsea Elsasser were named the recipients of the 2015 Portiuncula Foundation scholarships during an awards brunch in Pittsburgh on June 3.

Palko, a senior from Pittsburgh, received Teresa Lynn (Terri) Deithorn Memorial Nursing Scholarship, in the amount of \$2,500. The scholarship is given annually to a student who

is working toward a nursing certificate or an associate, bachelor or master's degree in nursing at an accredited Catholic institution in western Pennsylvania, and who is entering his/her senior year. Recipients must be engaged in community service while also maintaining a minimum grade point average of 3.0.

(Continued On Page 6.)

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group July, August & September Schedule



Monday, July 13th, Praise & Worship, 7PM, Cathedral.

Fr. David Rizzo—speaker.

Monday, July 27th, Eucharistic FESTIVAL of PRAISE, 7PM, at "Mt. Carmel Church," Altoona. Fr. Christopher Panagoplos TOR—homilist. Eucharistic Adoration with worship music & prayers for healing.

Monday, August 10th, Praise & Worship, 7PM, Cathedral.

Lois Bergamaschi—speaker, "An Attitude of Gratitude."

Monday, August 24th, Praise & Worship, 7PM, Cathedral.

Fr. Jonathan St. André TOR—speaker.

Monday, September 14th, Eucharistic FESTIVAL of PRAISE, 7PM, Cathedral. Fr. Christopher Panagoplos TOR—homilist. Eucharistic Adoration with worship music & prayers for healing.

Monday, September 28th, Praise & Worship, 7PM, Cathedral. Fr. Bob Hilz TOR—speaker.

**All Prayer Meetings will usually conclude with intercessory prayer for healing. You are warmly invited to join us in the main body of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or "Mt. Carmel Church," Altoona (July 27th only).*

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Point Of View

“Do you want the good news or bad news first?” My husband teased. “What are you talking about?” I curiously replied. “What earth shattering news can possibly come from an hour or two of you tinkering around the house on Saturday morning?” I teased back. “Well, the bad news is that we need to buy a new hot water tank but the good news is it should be much less expensive to replace than the washing machine that also just broke!” He said in a less than merry tone. “You have to be kidding me! How in the world can two major home appliances break in one day?” I questioned quickly. “Well, I think it is actually more accurate to say THREE appliances are broke because when I was cooking breakfast this morning, I noticed the oven was also acting up!” he added. UGH!

Yes, it is true our family had three major home appliances requiring repairs or replacement within a 48 hour time period. How can it be we can go for years without any major breakdowns and then all at once the appliances decide to conspire with each other to officially push me and my husband over the edge? So what did these home appliance repairs cost? Well, the actual cost of repair and replacement was several hundred dollars but the scaling of the Mount Everest laundry pile, by a bunch of irritated teenage boys forced to take cold showers, vowing to never again eat another lunchmeat sandwich, was to say the least, PRICELESS.



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich
Spoiled Blessed

Yes, the appliance situation was annoying and bit of a budget buster but it also contained a priceless discovery, one hidden beneath the piles of stinky clothes, freezing cold showers and thoughts of what really is in these bologna sandwiches, a finding that truly helped to uncover an even greater problem to be solved.

For these minor inconveniences really gave my family a chance to recognize a much greater threat to our family's life. A discovery that if it were not for the appliance conspiracy, may have gone unnoticed for an unknown length of time causing greater harm, in fact, have eternal consequences. The discovery unearthed is the hard truth that all six of our family members possess unknowing, ungrateful, take way too much for granted, very spoiled hearts! For it has been through these little life's mishaps we realized, although we were inconvenienced for a few weeks, we also have been very ungrateful for many more!

So many times in our lives we take our blessings for granted, assuming we will always have what we always had. But, who are we to live such ungrateful lives? For the latest research

shows there are 800 million people in this world who do not have enough to eat, with 21,000 of those people dying each day, with the majority of deaths being that of small children. Another statistic shows each year 7.6 million children, five and under, die from treatable illnesses, due to the lack of access to medical services, with diarrhea being one of the main causes of death. And still in today's wealthy world, 1.2 billion people live on less than \$1.25 a day, translated into a mere \$45.00 a month's income. So are we blessed? Yes, I think we can safely say we are Spoiled Blessed! Blessed to the point we have become very apathetic and lazy in acknowledging all of our blessings, thinking they are just a mere part of our everyday lives, while not fully realizing they are gifts and privileges that many go without or will never have in their lifetime. I recently saw a quote that really challenged me on the gratitude status of my heart, I share it with you...."What if we awake tomorrow with only the very things we thanked God for Yesterday! "I know for myself, I have some serious praying to do, for I know I am crazy, blessed beyond measure, Spoiled-ly Blessed! Blessings.



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
Love Yourself

On the very morning that the world awoke to the mind – numbing news of the deaths of nine people in a shooting rampage at a church in Charleston SC, a hopeful message was issued from the Vatican with the release of an encyclical letter by Pope Francis: “Laudato Si: On Care For Our Common Home.”

The timing of these two events was all the more poignant because of the words of our Holy Father in his letter: “Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.”

Pope Francis further underscored that connection as he wrote “A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings.” I think the point can also be made that we have lost that sense of communion with the rest of nature because we have lost that sense of communion with ourselves.

A teacher of the law once asked Jesus “What is the greatest commandment?” and Jesus replied “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’” (Matthew 22:37 – 39)

We are called to love God wholeheartedly because God is the creator and giver of all life. God is the source of all that we have and all that we are. When we acknowledge God's creative goodness, we are better able to see God's hand at work in the lives of other people, our brothers and sisters; we come to acknowledge them as beautiful, wonderful examples of God's creative power. But before we can do that, we must make an even more difficult leap of faith: we must acknowledge that we, ourselves, are good - - fearfully, wonderfully, lovingly made, in the very image and likeness of God. That's not narcissism or navel gazing; that's simply a grateful recognition of the truth of our being.

Many have lost that sense of connection with the truth of their own being. A famous athlete has proclaimed that he was uncomfortable in his own body, and so “transitioned” from one gender to another. A white woman stubbornly insisted that she was black and that she had the right to choose her own ethnic identity, while rejecting the one she was born with. A man so uncomfortable in his own skin that he had to pop pills and take drugs to be able to function at all, gunned down a group of loving, caring, highly motivated people in a Bible study group. These are the stories that have made headlines, but the reality of such behavior is all around us, in our own homes and sometimes in our own hearts. We don't love our neighbor because we don't love ourselves. Having lost a sense of our own goodness, we cannot see the good all around us. We talk a blue streak about loving God, but if we reject ourselves and who and what we are, and reject the goodness of others and of the world we live in, we don't love God at all. We make a mockery of what God has given us.

Developing a healthy love of self as a beloved child of God is the first connection we need to make if we are to connect in a responsible way with the rest of creation - - with our brothers and sisters, and with our common home.



Photos By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

BEAUTY OF CREATION: The beauty of creation, a theme in Pope Francis' encyclical letter on the environment, "Laudato Si," is evident at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies in Loretto.

Pope's Letter Urges Respect For 'Our Common Home'

(Continued From Page 1.)

People are fooling themselves, Pope Francis says in the document, if they think "things do not look that serious, and the planet could continue as it is for some time." Such people in all honesty are giving themselves permission to carry on with their current lifestyles and habits; their attitude is "self-destructive," he says.

In large sections of the encyclical, Pope Francis' language is poetic, echoing the tone of St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Creatures," which is the source of the "laudato si" (praised be you) in the encyclical's title. He quotes a large section of the hymn of praise in a section on the place of each creature in the harmony of creation.

The canticle is most famous for its references to "Brother Sun," "Sister Moon" and "our sister, Mother Earth."

But, the pope says, "sister earth" is crying out, "pleading that we take another course" marked by healing and protecting the earth and all its inhabitants.

While Christians cannot "put all living beings on the same level nor ... deprive human beings of their unique worth and the tremendous responsibility it entails," St. Francis' hymn expresses the truth that God is creator of all things, that every part of creation speaks of God's love and power and that every created being is part of interdependent whole, the pope writes.

"Everything is related," the pope says, "and we human be-

ings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth."

In the document, Pope Francis calls on national governments and the leaders of international institutions to be serious and courageous in adopting strict measures to slow and reverse global warming, protect the rain forests and ensure the availability of clean water for all. Courage will be needed, he says, to adopt policies that initially may slow the pace of economic growth, but which will be farsighted in ensuring a future for their voters, their voters' grandchildren and all humanity.

"We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels -- especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas -- needs to be progressively replaced without delay," he says.

But he also calls on every Catholic and all people of good will to do their part by, for example, using only non-polluting

detergents, recycling paper, using public transportation and putting on a sweater instead of raising the heat in the winter.

And he urges Catholics to return to the practice of saying grace before meals, a habit that reminds them regularly that the food they are about to eat is a gift that comes from the earth and from God.

At the end of the document, Pope Francis offers two prayers he composed himself: "A Prayer for Our Earth" and "A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation."

The first prayer includes asking God to "bring healing to our lives that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction."

The second prayer includes the petition, "O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty."

In the encyclical, Pope Francis urges Catholics to cultivate simplicity; it is good for the soul and for the planet, he says. "A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart

and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment," the pope writes.

The encyclical presents the vision of an "integral ecology" that highlights not only the interconnectedness of all created life, but recognizes how political, economic, social and religious values and decisions are interrelated and impact the way people live with one another on the planet and use its resources.

"A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings," Pope Francis insists.

For example, he says, "it is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species while remaining completely indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking to destroy another human being deemed unwanted."

"Everything is connected," the pope writes. "Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society."

"Bring healing to our lives that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction."



SAINT MARY, ALTOONA: Saint Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish, Altoona, celebrated Confirmation on Wednesday, April 8 and First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 2. Pictured at left are (left to right) First row: Alyse Saylor, Megan Burley, Andrea Parrish, Jacob Dull. Second row: Nicholas Fischer, Cody Kelly, Monsignor Timothy P. Stein (pastor), Jared Bender, Alec McDermitt and Jack Hunter. Pictured at right are (left to right) First row: Ryan McConnell, Sophia Wise, Paxton DeLeo, Anthony Forlina. Second row: Ellaina Saylor, Lucas Ceglar, Ava Steinbugl, Benjamin Steinbugl, Alannah Irwin. Third row: Sarah Zeak (catechist), Riley Steinbugl (server), Monsignor Stein, Tessa Wise (server), Ashley Steinbugl (server) and Jim Mock (director of religious education). Not pictured is catechist Mary Rose Poorman.

(Continued From Page 3.)

Elsasser, a senior from New Kensington, was awarded the Major Helen C. Humenansky Nursing Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Recipients

of that scholarship must also be working on a nursing certificate, or an associate, bachelor or master's degree in nursing at an accredited Catholic institution in western Pennsylvania, and must be entering their final year of full time study. They must also maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0.

Founded in 2003, the Portuncula Foundation supports efforts to advance health and well-being in communities where the Sisters of Saint Francis live and work, and administers the scholarships from the former Saint Francis Medical Center School of Nursing.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES: Confirmation was celebrated by Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Altoona on Wednesday, April 8 and First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 3. Pictured at top are (left to right) First row: Julianna Lusk, Angela Jarrett. Second row: Haley Ebersole, Justin Jarrett, Father David Rizzo (pastor), Zachary Garlick and Aaron Worley. Not pictured as Scott Wyland. Pictured below are (left to right) First row: Avelynne Yost, Mary Worley, Eli Rosenberry, Emma Bettwy, Christian Nagle, Ava Cabell, Dillon Gority, Alyson Van Ormer. Second row: Cindy Shuma (catechist) and Father Rizzo.



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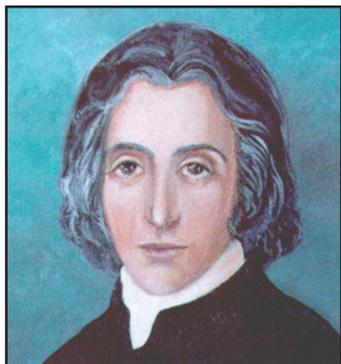
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A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

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

Miracle Paves Way For Beatification Of Co - Foundress Of Sacred Heart Sisters

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis recognized the martyrdom of 41 priests, religious and laypeople, who were

killed in the 20th century "in hatred of the faith," clearing the way for their beatification.

The pope approved the decrees during an audience June 5 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

During the meeting with

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**



VENERABLE MOTHER
KLARA SZCZESNA

The Catholic Register, June 29, 2015

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Cardinal Amato, the pope also approved decrees recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Brazilian Father Francisco de Paula Victor (1827-1905), as well as a miracle attributed to Polish Sister Klara Szczesna (1863-1916), co-founder of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The approval of the miracles means dates can be set for their beatifications.

Mother Klara was born Ludwika Szczesna on July 18, 1863 in Cieszki, Poland. She was the fourth of six children born to Antony and Franciszka Szczesna. Her mother died when she was only 12 years old.

When she was 16 - years - old she was pressured by her father to marry so she would have a better life. She, instead, left home and joined an underground order, the Handmaids of Jesus.

Mother Klara had an affinity for the young, uneducated, and poor. That ministry led her to Krakow, Poland in 1893, at the request of Father Joseph Sebastian Pelczar, who later became Saint Joseph Sebastian Pelczar. It was there Mother Klara joined with Saint Joseph Sebastian Pelczar as the co - foundress of the Sister Servants of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was its first member and superior. Mother Klara died on February

7, 1916 at the Sisters' Motherhouse in Krakow. The order's United States Provincial House is located in Cresson.

Among the other soon - to - be blessed are:

-- Capuchin Father Federico da Berga and his 25 companions, all Capuchin priests or brothers, who were killed in 1936 by Marxists in Catalonia during the Spanish Civil War.

-- Father Joseph Thao Tien, a young Laotian priest, along with 10 French missionary priests of the Paris Foreign Missions Society and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, as well as four lay catechists who were killed in Laos by communist guerillas between 1954 and 1970.

In one of the initial steps of the sainthood process, the pope declared four Italians "venerable." They are: Father Antonino Celona (1873-1952), founder of the Handmaids of Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; Father Ottorino Zanon (1915-1972), founder the Society of Saint Cajetan; Father Marcello Labor (1890-1954); and Sister Antonia Lalia of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (1839-1914), founder of the Dominican Missionary Sisters of St. Sixtus.

(This article includes material from an April 22, 2013 Catholic Register article about Venerable Mother Klara.)

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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis
Scouts Should Be Active
In Parish Life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- More than a “decorative presence” at large parish functions, Catholic Scouts and Guides are called to contribute fervor to the evangelizing mission of the church by building bridges through dialogue, said Pope Francis.

More than 80,000 children and adult members of the Italian Catholic Guiding and Scouting Association gathered under the hot sun in St. Peter's Square June 13 for a short but festive rally with Pope Francis.

He urged the members to “build bridges” in a society “where there is the habit of creating walls.”

Scouting can bring to the church “a new capacity for dialogue with society,” he said, but only if groups do not lose contact with their local parishes, where they are based.

“You are called to find a way to integrate yourselves in the pastoral life of the local church, establishing relationships of esteem and collaboration at every level, with your bishops, pastors and other priests, with the educators and members of other church associations present in the parish and in the same territory; and do not satisfy yourselves with a ‘decorative’ presence on Sundays or on big occasions,” he said.

The pope said Scouting is based on “great human values, contact with nature ... and faith in God,” and makes an “important contribution to families and their educational mission.”

He noted that religion has been a fundamental aspect of Scouting since its origins. There is not “a religious side” and a non-religious side to Scouting, he said. Rather, the movement is “based on religion, that is, on the awareness of God and his service,” he said, citing the founder Lord Baden Powell.

The pope said the Scouting movement is a “precious part of the church in Italy” and urged Scouts and Guides to “always feel part of the great Christian community.”



CNS Photo/Giampiero Sposito, Reuters



ONE MORE TIME: Members of the choir of Saint Bartholomew Parish, Wilmore, pose in front of the doors of the parish church in 1909. The picture appeared in the book **Souvenir Of Reunion And History Of Saint Bartholomew's Church** published that year for the parish's first festival, the “Wilmore Reunion.” Saint Bartholomew Parish will mark its 175th anniversary on Sunday, August 23.

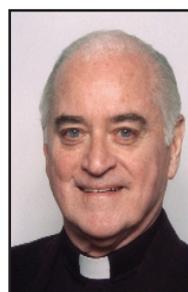
In late May, I celebrated my 55th anniversary as a priest. Looking back on it, the day of my ordination was the happiest day of my life.

Growing up as a boy, I was pretty normal, showing no special signs of piety. We were normal churchgoing Catholics. I attended Catholic schools, was interested in sports and girls, in that order. The order shifted when I was about 12.

I was an altar boy in grammar school and loved it. But I think I did it mainly because the altar boys got out of class whenever there was a funeral. In high school, I never thought much about the priesthood. However, on my senior retreat, I had serious stirrings that stayed with me. I tried to shake them off, but they persisted.

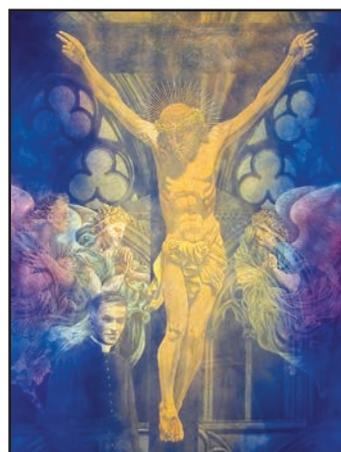
I wanted no part of the seminary or celibacy. Yes, I wanted to make God the center of my life, but I also wanted to marry and have a family. Clearly, the life of a priest was not for the likes of me. Whenever the yearning to be a priest came up, I diligently squashed it. And yet, it got stronger in the Army. Finally, I couldn't take it any longer. I faced the fact that the priesthood was what I really wanted.

In a way, it broke my heart to give up a part of life that was so important to me, and yet the



Spirituality For Today

By Father John Catoir
55 Years A Priest



very decision to say yes made me extremely happy. The tension was at last over, and I never looked back.

I learned years after my ordination that my maternal grandmother, who died when I was 3, had a spiritual role in the mysterious process of my vocation. It happened one day when I phoned my Aunt Letitia to wish her a happy birthday.

In the process of chatting she said, “My mother, your grandmother, always prayed

that one of her boys (she had four boys and five girls) would become a priest, and that one of her children would be born on Sept. 8,” which is the feast day of the Virgin Mary.

These words hit me like an electric shock. Not only had I become a priest, but I was born on Sept. 8, 1931. My mother never told me anything about it. For the first time I realized that all the inner turmoil that I thought was taking place privately in my soul was not about me struggling with my vocation. It was Grandmother Anna putting her two cents in from heaven.

Many years have passed since then and, looking back, I am filled with awe and gratitude knowing that her prayers were answered. I'm sure she was praying for me through all those doubts and fears.

The priesthood turned out to be the greatest blessing of my life. I have never regretted the decision that Anna and I arrived at -- not for a minute.



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
A 'Bad Angel's' Influence?

Q. My son, who is 19, has suffered from anxiety and depression since puberty, although it's only recently that we have recognized it for what it is. He began using marijuana in his early teens, dropped out of school, struggled to hold a job and was very unstable.

He keeps saying that he wants to return to Mass. (He says this on his own; believe me, I put no pressure on him, although I myself am a very committed Catholic.) But every Sunday morning, he seems to find some reason why he just can't get up and go to church.

Is it possible, because of everything that he has done wrong in the past that a "bad angel" is influencing him not to go back to Mass or to reconnect with the church? I am shy about talking to our parish priest about it, but if this is a possibility, is there something that can be done to release him from this hold? When I see him so broken, I feel that my heart is wrapped in thorns. (New Zealand)

A. I do not believe that your son is under the control of a "bad angel." It's much more likely that he is in the throes of depression, which is an increasingly common disease in our fast-paced world, a medical condition with medical remedies.

My guess is that he simply does not have the psychic energy to act on his better instincts, his professed desires to be "a good man" and to seek strength through the Eucharist.

Your first goal, if you have not done so already, is to find a competent psychiatrist -- one experienced in treating young adults and one with whom your son would be comfortable in speaking.

God works most often through individuals, especially those in the healing professions. I would suggest, too, that you do speak with your parish priest -- especially if he knows your son -- and invite him to find a casual way to approach your son and simply ask him how he is doing.

Hopefully, that might be-

gin a dialogue that could lead to your son's return to the comforting grace of the sacraments.

I can only imagine your pain at seeing your child undergo such suffering. Continue to pray -- and I will, too -- that the Lord will ease your son's agony and your own.

Q. Our pastor recently left the priesthood, and now he is advertising on the Web that he is available to perform weddings or funerals (including weddings of gay/lesbian couples.) The Catholic priest who married us has also left the priesthood and is now a Presbyterian minister. Both of these men are quick to proclaim openly that they used to be Catholic priests.

My question is this: How does a faithful Catholic treat and respond to these men now? I am appalled at their behavior and wonder what we are doing wrong that so many men are leaving the priesthood. (Central New Jersey)

A. How you should treat these two men is how you should treat everyone: with kindness. No one can pretend to know the struggles they may have endured -- both in their years of active ministry and in their decisions to resign.

I would say: Be nice to them and leave any judgment to God. At the same time, though, I would be wary of any religious services offered by your former pastor. Having resigned from the Catholic priestly ministry, he no longer has faculties from the diocese, which means that he has no authorization from the church to celebrate Mass or to officiate at Catholic wedding or funerals.

As to the "so many men" who are leaving the Catholic priesthood, you should be comforted to know that, these days, that is a fairly rare occurrence. (The peak years were the late 1960s and early 1970s.) Also encouraging is the fact that seminary enrollments in the United States are on the upswing. In fact, 2012 saw the highest seminary enrollment in nearly 25 years, according to figures from Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate in Washington.



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
An End To
The Death Penalty

In late May, the Nebraska legislature abolished the death penalty. I'm still digesting those words: Nebraska has abolished the death penalty.

For nearly three years, I've been a field organizer for Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. It's a part-time job, but one I've seldom put completely out of mind. Being a foot soldier for this cause, I've met some of the greatest people.

My home office closet is crammed with countless fliers to hand out at events. My computer is full of PowerPoint presentations I've given at various venues. I've entertained people who have been spared from death row, exonerated from a crime they didn't commit, in my home, and our guest bedroom has hosted Sister Helen Prejean, the great death penalty opponent, who regaled my husband and me with late-night New Orleans humor over glasses of wine.

I've sustained bedbug bites in the line of duty, at a small-town motel before a religious education conference. I've quarreled with my errant GPS navigation system on a dark country road finding my way home from an evening event. There were times I complained about my job, but every day of it stretched me.

A poster hangs in my office with the faces of each member of our legislature. Nebraska is the only state in the nation with a unicameral legislature, meaning it has a single-house system. We have 49 legislators for the whole state, a small number, but not necessarily an easy number to sway. Each face became an important target, but also a unique individual.

As a Nebraska native who spent a good many years in Alaska, I returned here a few years ago wanting a job that would satisfy my thirst for social justice. I will always be so grateful that I was hired for this one.

Ordinarily, I'm a person who sees many sides to an issue, a positive but sometimes frustrating trait I call an "on the other hand" perspective. But as I examine the death penalty, I see not one viable reason for execution as public policy.

As we spoke to people around the state who supported the death penalty because "it's the way we've always done it," it was heartening that most people became repeal supporters when they heard the facts.

I'm not going to recount those facts here. That's for another day, another battle.

Instead, I'll express happiness at how much our hierarchical, well-organized Catholic Church did in the battle for repeal when it set its mind to it. Kudos to the Nebraska Catholic Conference and our bishops who stepped up, and to the nuns who helped us. Who in America is more committed to doing the right thing than American nuns?

But we also had Jewish rabbis and Lutherans bishops and the United Methodist Church. We had conservatives and liberals, Republicans and Democrats.

A simple lesson learned: If you want to see change, get involved. I'll never be able to sit quietly while someone complains about Congress or the state legislature without asking them how many letters they've written, what phone calls they've made. Do you know who your state legislator is, your congressman, your city council representative?

Nebraska's repeal effort became a coalition of the committed, and I was really lucky to be part of it.

Irenaeus
Circa 125 - 202
Feast - June 28



This early Christian theologian passed on the apostolic tradition to a new generation as he helped evangelize France. Born in Asia Minor, possibly at Smyrna, Irenaeus was taught by Saint Polycarp, a pupil of Saint John the Apostle. Sent to Gaul as a missionary, he served as a priest under Saint Pothinus of Lyons, a martyr whom he succeeded as bishop of the large market city on the Rhone. Irenaeus continued to spread the Gospel and opposed the gnostic heresy, writing a five-book treatise that is extant. During a 20-year episcopate, he spoke the language of Gaul instead of his native Greek, and worked hard to identify with his people. Little else is known about his life or death.

A Reader's Guide To The Encyclical 'Laudato Si'

The Pope's Practical Tips For Helping The Environment

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si", on Care for Our Common Home" is a call for global action as well as an appeal for deep inner conversion.

He points to numerous ways world organizations, nations and communities must move forward and the way individuals -- believers and people of good will -- should see, think, feel and act.

Here are some of the pope's suggestions, with references in parentheses to their paragraphs in the encyclical:

-- Do not give in to de-

nial, indifference, resignation, blind confidence in technical solutions. (14, 59)

-- Have forthright and honest debates and policies; issues cannot be dealt with once and for all, but will need to be "reframed and enriched again and again" by everyone with plenty of different proposals because there is no one way to solve problems. (16, 60, 185)

-- Reduce, reuse, recycle. Preserve resources, use them more efficiently, moderate consumption and limit use of non-renewable resources. (22, 192)

-- Slash pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. Transition to cleaner and renewable energies and replace fossil fuels "without delay." (26, 165)



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

INSPIRATION: The title of the encyclical letter "Laudato Si" was inspired by the "Canticle Of The Creatures" by Saint Francis of Assisi, depicted in a statue on the mall of Saint Francis University in Loretto.

-- Promote green construction with energy efficient homes and buildings. (26, 180)

-- Protect clean, safe drinking water and don't privatize it with market-based fees for the poor. (27-29, 164)

-- Keep oceans and waterways clean and safe from pollutants; use biodegradable detergents at home and business. (30, 174)

-- Be aware that synthetic pesticides and herbicides will hurt birds and insects that are helpful for agriculture. (34)

-- Leave room for wandering and migrating species by creating "biological corridors;" don't let dams, highways and construction lead to

their extinction. (35)

-- Protect biodiversity, especially wild forests, wetlands, coastal areas, mangrove swamps. (39)

-- Promote smart growth. Create livable communities with beautiful design and plentiful green spaces for everyone, especially the poor. Tackle noise and "visual pollution," and save cities' cultural treasures. Design spaces that help people connect and trust each other. (44-45, 113, 143, 147)

-- Put an end to "mental pollution." Think deeply, live wisely, love generously. (47)

-- End the tyranny of the screen, information overload and distractions. Watch out for media-induced melancholy and isolation. Cultivate real relationships with others. (47)

-- Get down from the ivory tower and stop the rhetoric. Get to know the poor and suffering; it will wake up a numbed conscience and inspire real action. (49)

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Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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(Continued On Page 11.)

(Continued From Page 10.)

-- Stop blaming problems on population growth. The real threat is excessive consumerism and waste. (50)

-- For genuine change, put the common good first. Special interests manipulate information, offer "superficial rhetoric, sporadic acts of philanthropy and perfunctory expressions of concern." (54)

-- Sweat it out. Increasing use and power of air-conditioning seems "self-destructive." (55)

-- Even if it doesn't fix the world, beautification and goodwill gestures inspire and remind people that "we were made for love." (58, 113, 212)

-- Get back to nature -- "the caress of God" -- to recharge. Be more attentive to its beauty and wonder and revisit places that left you with happy memories. (84, 97, 215, 233)

-- Be consistent. Pro-life, environmental and social justice movements are all connected. Protecting vulnerable species must include the unborn, endangered animals and the exploited. (91, 120)

-- Use technology to solve real problems and serve people, helping them have more dignity, less suffering and healthier lives. (112)

-- Believe in a happy future, a better tomorrow. Slow down, recover values and the meaning of life. Putting the brakes on "unrestrained delusions of grandeur" is not a call to go back to the Stone Age. (113-114, 225)

-- "Business is a noble vocation." Create jobs that allow for personal growth, stability, living out one's values. (124-128)

-- Listen to, protect lands of and involve indigenous peoples. The disappearance of cultures is even more se-

rious than losing a species. (145)

-- Create neighborhood networks and improvement programs. Create welcoming spaces that help people connect and trust each other. Do something nice for your community. (148-150, 152, 219, 232)

-- Make public transportation a priority and a more pleasant experience. (153)

-- Provide essential services to rural areas. (154)

-- Accept and care for the body God gave you. Value sexual differences and your own gender. (155)

-- Join, implement and police global agreements on sustainable development, caring for the ecosystem, limiting greenhouse gases,

handling hazardous wastes, ozone protection. Nix the "ploy" of trading carbon credits. (164, 167-171)

-- Politicians: don't be afraid of long-term goals and upsetting people with measures that affect levels of consumption, financial risks. Citizens: put pressure on your representatives. (177-180)

-- Less is more. Stop needless consumption. (193, 203, 222, 211)

-- Harness purchasing power. Examine what you buy and know that boycotts make a difference. (206)

-- Plant a tree. Take mass transit. Car pool. Turn off the lights when you leave the room. Chilly? Wear a sweater. Little things add up. (211)

-- Moms and dads: teach kids to use things properly; to respect, take care of others; to ask permission politely; to say, "Thank you;" to control temper; to ask forgiveness; share. (213)

-- Find happiness in simple things: get-togethers, helping others, honing a talent, enjoying art and music, praying. (223-224, 226)

-- Say grace before meals. (227)

-- Love your enemies. (228)

-- Practice "the little way" of St. Therese. (230)

-- Go to Sunday Mass; receive the sacraments; encounter God in everything; rest on Sundays. (233-237)

-- Sing as you go. (244)

-- Pray. (246)

Selected Quotes Illustrate Important Themes Of 'Laudato Si'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The following are selected quotes from Pope Francis' encyclical letter, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home":

-- The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. (n. 21)

-- Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right. (n. 33)

-- This is the way human beings contrive to feed their self-destructive vices: trying not to see them, trying not to acknowledge them, delaying the important decisions and pretending that nothing will happen. (n. 59)

-- We are not God. (n. 67)

-- The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. (n. 84)

-- It is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species while remaining completely indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking to destroy another human being deemed unwanted. (n. 91)

-- This situation has led to a constant schizophrenia, wherein a technocracy which sees no intrinsic value in lesser beings coexists with the other extreme, which sees no special value in human beings. (n. 118)

-- Since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion. (n. 120)

-- The acceptance of our bodies as God's gift is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father and our common home, whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation. (n. 155)

-- Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us. (n. 160)

-- Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. (n. 161)

-- We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels -- especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas -- needs to be progressively replaced without delay. (n. 165)

-- Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. (n. 202)

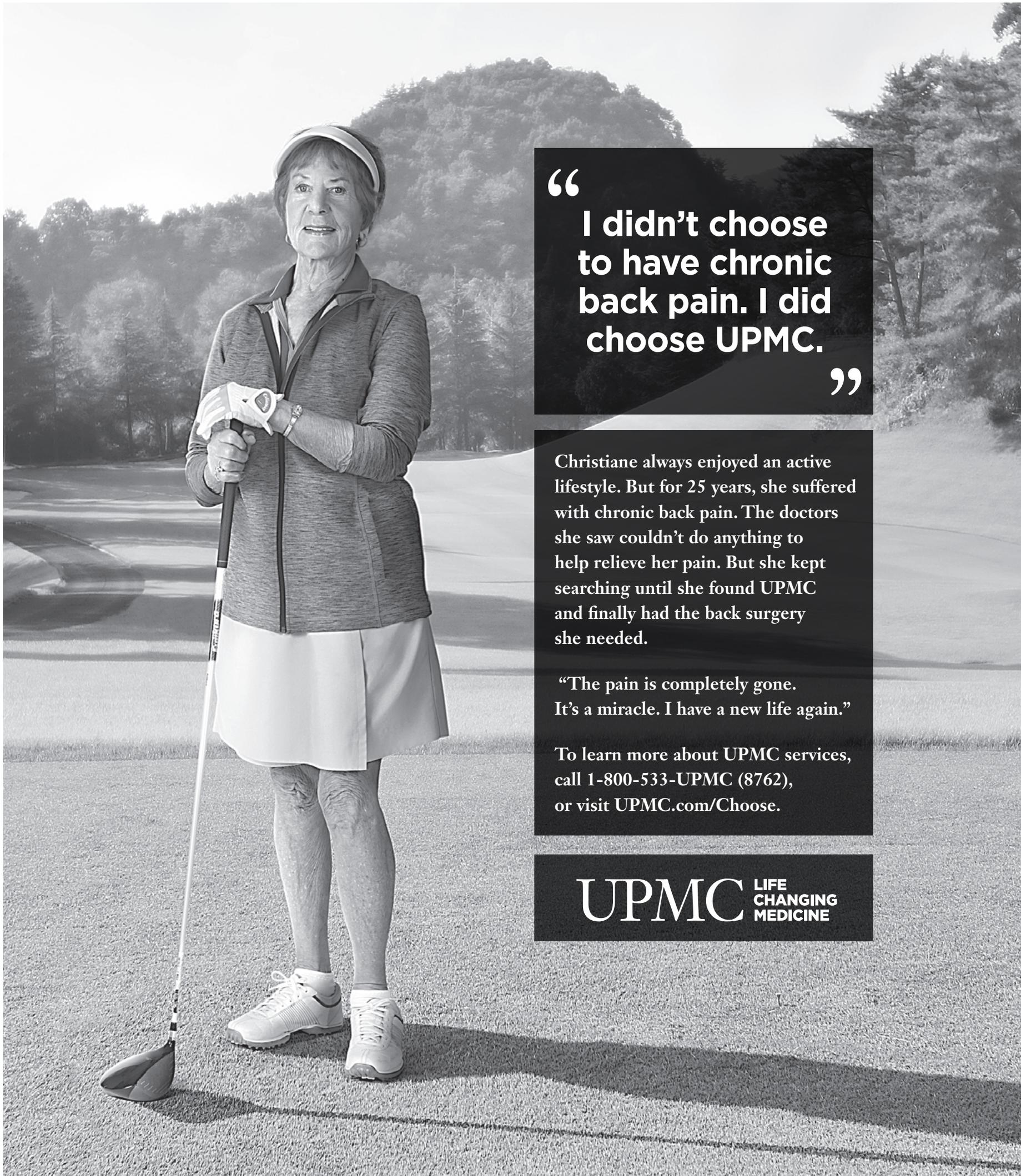
-- "Less is more." A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment. (n. 222)

-- In reality, those who enjoy more and live better each moment are those who have given up (grazing) here and there, always on the lookout for what they do not have. (n. 223)



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

INVITE CONTEMPLATION: Flowers at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies in Loretto invite contemplation of the beauty of God's creation.



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FRANCISCAN CEREMONIES: On Friday, May 29, Brother Andrew Joseph Sanchez and Brother Joseph Marie Krilich were received as novices of the Franciscan Friars of the Third Order Regular, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. In a ceremony held during Evening Prayer at Saint Francis Friary at Mount Assisi, Loretto, they were given the Franciscan Habit of Probation - a symbol of their desire to be specifically formed in Franciscan spirituality and prayer over the course of one full year, ending with their first profession of religious vows. Pictured (left photo, left to right) are Father Richard Davis, minister provincial; Brother Andrew Joseph Sanchez, Brother Joseph Marie Krilich and Father Jonathan St. Andre. (Right photo, left to right): On Saturday, May 30, Brother Daniel - Maria Klimek, Brother Serviam Maria Banda, Brother Zachary Burns, Brother Rufino Corona and Brother Stephen Mary Waruszewski made their first profession of religious vows as members of the Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Their vows were received by Father Richard Davis (center), minister provincial. The ceremony of first profession was held during Mass at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of Saint Francis University, Loretto. As simply - professed friars, the five will be assigned to Saint Louis Friary in Washington DC to further their Franciscan formation and to begin studies for the priesthood at The Catholic University of America.



SAINT BERNARD: Saint Bernard Parish, Hastings, celebrated Confirmation on Thursday April 23. Pictured above are (left to right): Justin Solnosky, Emily Miller, Julie McMullen, Gabrielle Kopera, Alison Anna, Kara Miller, Megan Dillon, and Joshua Anna. Celebrating First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 3 (below) were (left to right) First row: Cameron Nagle, Kayla Holtz, Lilianna Snyder, Christopher Shultz. Second row: Lauren Deckard, Brittney Griak, Kaitlyn Drass. Third row: Noah Weakland, Ethan Kopera, Aiden Fox. Fourth row: Mary Patterson (director of religious education), Benedictine Father Thaddeus Rettger (pastor) and Rena Westrick (catechist).



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Now Showing

For Catholic Comic, Wife, Sitcom's A Family Affair

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)

-- Jim Gaffigan, the comic actor known both for his funny books like **Dad Is Fat** and **Food: A Love Story** and his inclusion of his Catholicism in his stand-up routines, has a close collaborator: his wife, Jeannie.

"We're truly partners," Jeannie Gaffigan said during a June 11 teleconference with Jim to promote their TV Land cable sitcom, "The Jim Gaffigan Show." She doesn't finish his sentences, but she can finish his jokes. "I can write in Jim's voice well," she added. "I can understand his views about bacon. They're not my point of view about bacon, but I know how his point of view is funnier."

"For comedians to have a writing partner is very rare," Jim said. "I was rather reluctant to

get in with anyone. But Jeannie was so good."

The show premiered on TV Land July 15. A sneak peak of the show can be viewed on his website, www.jimgaffigan.com.

The couple's collaboration started with "Welcome to New York," a short-lived CBS sitcom from 2000.

Writing for TV, Jeannie said, "was something he was not familiar with, and I was. I was running a not-for profit theater company. We lived on the same block. Jim asked me to help him work on scripts. I was glad to do so. We started working together, and we really just connected. We're really creative people. We both like to work a lot. We both added to each other's skill sets. That professional relationship coincided with a romantic relationship."

"I lived across from this church where I got married in and our kids got baptized in," Jim noted. "I didn't go in this

church for 15 years. And then I met Jeannie. I had this romantic notion of having a lot of kids; I'm one of six. I would walk by Jeannie, and she would get pregnant."

The Gaffigans have five children and they live in Manhattan.

Their family, and their faith, will figure in the show. Jim stars as a fictionalized version of himself as a stand-up comedian raising five children in a two-bedroom New York City apartment, so the show is "really is a reflection of our lives," he noted.

One of the characters is a foreign-born priest whom Jeannie said "will be Jim's 'Jiminy Cricket,'" a reference to the conscience-prodding insect from the movie "Pinocchio."

"We try to treat every episode as our last episode. Given that we're on TV Land, it might be the only episode people see," Jim said. But being on TV Land gives the Gaffigans more creative freedom.

"Some of the episodes that we've done, no network would want us to do with marketing and obtaining ad dollars, or the simple bureaucracy of what's going on," Jim said. "This is a really hard and exhausting process. But having access to this authority that Jeannie and I have received from TV Land, I see as the only way to go.

"Pick a comedy you don't like, and I'm sure there's a dozen people you can blame. If you don't like this show ... there's only two people to blame, Jim and Jeannie -- and it's obviously Jeannie's fault!" he cracked. "We've seen this from a lot of our comedian friends. They go into these (sitcom projects) very well-intended and they go in with great comedic points of view, and it's lost (in) the network machine -- the approval of these big network studios and approvals for notes. I can't imagine anyone going through that unscathed."

Jim, 48, is asked frequently about bringing Catholicism into his comedy and working "clean," meaning using no profanity. The conference call was no exception.

"The Catholic thing, it's very much evolved. I don't think



CNS Photo/Courtesy Of TV Land

JIM GAFFIGAN

comedians set out to do a certain style of comedy. I messed around with different styles of stand-up when I started, and you always end up doing what your personality is. In real life I may curse occasionally. I don't curse (in the act) because it's not necessary to curse," he said.

"I was raised a kind of cultural Catholic. And now I'm somebody who's much more of a Catholic than even my family indicated I would be. The evolution of that as a topic of comedy has constantly surprised me. But I never imagined I would be the father of five. I never imagined I would be associated with doing food jokes, either. It's not like we really have this much control over this path."

Jeannie, 45, is a native of Milwaukee, and Jim is originally from Illinois. The couple has been married since 2003.

Jim has said in interviews he will probably forever be known as "the Hot Pockets guy" for a popular comic routine he did. But what if he had a say in how he'd like to be remembered?

"I think that comedians just want to be known as funny. All the other characteristics are -- Hot Pockets or 'clean comic' -- I just want to be considered funny. Not like-a-clown funny, but insightful funny," he said. "Hopefully, when it's all said and done, I want to be remembered as a decent father and husband. But when it comes to comedians, just funny."

Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

July 5 - - Prince Gallitzin Cross honoree Kathleen Spargo of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Everett share their feelings after receiving the award.

July 12 - - Our "People from the Pew" series spotlights siblings Diane Moyer and Donna Spanik, members of Saint Joan of Arc Parish in Frugality.

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A half - hour of local Church news and features

U.S. Church Leaders React To Encyclical 'Laudato Si'

(Continued From Page 16.)

He said the pope was ultimately "asking us to re-evaluate our needs and our wants, and pointing the way to happiness: not a happiness based on the continual accumulation of material goods, but a true satisfaction and happiness in an environment that produces and sustains life."

Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori applauded the Holy Father for calling attention to the

need for responsible environmental stewardship.

"On this issue, the pope has done what he has done since his election: He has illuminated and made new an age-old teaching of the church and in doing so, begun a new conversation in hopes of advancing the common good," he said.

The archbishop added that "whether one agrees or not with the scientific consensus on the link between human activity and recent climate change, the Holy

Father rightly makes the moral case that the need remains for us to act to protect the our environment. We must resist the 'throwaway culture,' the pope warns against, and seek ways in our daily lives to practice environmentally friendly behavior."

Across the country, the bishops of Alaska welcomed it "with joy and thanksgiving." In a joint statement quoting from it, Anchorage Archbishop Roger L. Schwietz, Juneau Bishop Edward J. Burns and Fairbanks

Bishop Chad W. Zielinski said: "At the heart of *Laudato Si'* we find this question: 'What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?'"

They noted that the pope deals with environmental issues within the context of the purpose of life and why human beings exist at all.

The Sisters of Mercy, based on Silver Spring, Maryland, said the pope "clearly connects concern for people who are poor with care for creation, which is central to us. ... We believe this is one of the great moral issues of our time and for us a compelling and urgent call to respond."

"In our ministries throughout the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Philippines, we see vividly the links between climate change and environmental degradation and the plight of immigrants, women and children, and those victimized by violence and racism," the statement said. "We worry about even greater suffering given forecasts for increased climate refugees, environmental-related conflicts and food crises if we do not act."

Joan Rosenhauer, executive vice president of U.S. operations for Catholic Relief Services, said the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency is "continuously encouraged by Pope Francis' commitment to the poor, and the relationship between the environment and our well-being." She said the pope's message "resonates with CRS as we work to help the most vulnerable around the world adapt to the effects of climate change."

The Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, which represent the leaders of U.S. religious congregations, said they welcomed the pope's call to care for one another by caring for all of God's creation. These leaders pointed out that women religious and men's religious orders have had a long history of standing with those most in need which

includes those who suffer the consequences of environmental degradation and the destruction of God's creation.

"The Holy Father reminds us of our biblical call to live in right relationship and to cooperate with God's design for our world. When we choose lives of simplicity, hope, and love we honor God's presence in our world; we grow closer to God and we build the community for generations to come," said Holy Cross Sister Joan Marie Steadman, LCWR executive director.

Capuchin Father John Pavlik, CMSM director, said: "We wholeheartedly support Pope Francis' encyclical on integral ecology and the urgent implications for addressing climate change. This is a matter of faith in the God of all creation who calls us to love, respect, and walk humbly with all of creation."

Pope Francis "challenges us today to go beyond the political, to go beyond the economic," said Archbishop John J. Myers of Newark, New Jersey. "He says squarely, clearly, simply, that we have a 'responsibility to nurture the earth, to nurture creation, to keep it and make it grow according to its laws.'"

Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha, Nebraska, encouraged "a thoughtful reading of the encyclical in the days ahead," urging people "to take personally the pope's call for conversion of heart."

"Pope Francis calls individuals, families, communities, corporations and nations to a fresh way of thinking and acting," he said. "As previous popes have done, he urges us to reject a utilitarian consumerism that does not preserve the environment for future generations and that shows a harsh disregard for the poor today."

Benedictine Sister Michaela Hedican, prioress of her order, called the document "a timely reminder to all of us who live in richer countries to take moral responsibility for the earth's environment."

May They Rest In Peace



Sister Mary Seton Wacker S.C.

Sister Mary Seton Wacker died Thursday, June 4 at Caritas Christi, the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Greensburg. She was 87, and had been a Sister of Charity since 1945.

Sister Mary Seton taught in the schools of the Dioceses of Altoona - Johnstown, Greensburg, Pittsburgh, Phoenix, and in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. She also taught at Red Cloud School and Holy Rosary Indian Mission, both in Pine Ridge SD.

Sister Mary Seton later served as sacristan at Assumption Hall and Doran Hall at Seton Hill, was a volunteer at Seton Hill's Reeves Library, and was a tutor for students studying English as a second language.

The funeral Mass for Sister Mary Seton Wacker S.C. was celebrated Tuesday, June 9 in the Chapel of the Assumption at Caritas Christi. Committal was in the Sisters' Cemetery at Seton Hill.

Father Louis J. Mulvehill

Father Louis J. Mulvehill, a senior priest of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown residing at Garvey Manor Nursing Home, Hollidaysburg, died Monday,



June 8 at UPMC Altoona. He was 86.

Father Mulvehill was born in Johnstown on November 22, 1928, the son of the late Walter A. and Adelaide (Ager) Mulvehill. Father Mulvehill was the last surviving member of his immediate family.

He was preceded in death by three brothers: Charles, John Duane and James; and by three sisters: Eileen, Marie, and Sister Mary Crescentia of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Baden.

Surviving are nieces and nephews.

Father Mulvehill attended Saint Patrick School, Johnstown, and completed high school studies at Saint Fidelis Preparatory Seminary in Herman. He attended Saint Francis University in Loretto and Saint Charles College in Catonsville MD, and completed his studies for the priesthood at Saint Mary's Sem-

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

inary in Roland Park, Baltimore, where he received the licentiate in sacred theology degree. Father Mulvehill also took special post - graduate courses in accounting at Robert Morris College in Pittsburgh.

Ordained a priest by the late Bishop Richard T. Guilfoyle at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona on May 16, 1953, Father Mulvehill was named parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish, Altoona, and and instructor at Altoona Catholic High School. He served as parochial vicar at Saint Columba Parish in Johnstown before being assigned to Saint Mark Parish in Altoona in 1958. He served the parish successively as parochial vicar, parochial administrator and pastor until 1987.

Father Mulvehill was named pastor of the former Saint James Parish, South Fork, in 1987, and two years later was also named pastor of the town's Saint Anthony Parish. In 1995 the parishes merged to form Most Holy Trinity Parish.

Father Mulvehill retired from active ministry and was granted senior priest status on July 14, 2004. He resided at John Paul II Manor in Cresson until becoming a resident of Garvey Manor.

The funeral Mass for Father Louis J. Mulvehill was celebrated Thursday, June 11 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, with Bishop - Emeritus Joseph V. Adamec as the principal celebrant. Committal was at Grandview Cemetery, Johnstown.



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

OUR COMMON HOME: Delicate purple flowers cluster around the base of the statue of Our Lady of the Alleghenies at her shrine in Loretto. The wonders of nature are among the gifts of the earth -- designated by Pope Francis as "our common home" in his new encyclical letter on the environment.

U.S. Catholic Leaders Laud Pope's Encyclical Letter On Environment

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- U.S. Catholic leaders lauded Pope Francis for his encyclical, "Laudato Si", on Care for Our Common Home, for calling all to be good stewards, for putting "a human face" on environmental issues and for starting "a new conversation" on the urgent need to protect all of creation.

As soon as the long-awaited document was released at the

Vatican June 18, statements of reaction quickly followed.

Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president of Catholic Charities USA, said she hopes the encyclical's message will "inform, inspire, and influence discussion about how our obligation to care for creation is as essential as our responsibility to care for each other."

She said the encyclical "promises to shine a light on our moral obligation to care for all of God's creation, from our neighbors who are marginal-

ized to the earth that nourishes us all."

Bishop Peter A. Libasci of Manchester, New Hampshire, said the pope's encyclical "envisions a world growing closer, rather than consumed by war and dissension, and stresses that there is a connection between care for the earth, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and our own interior peace."

(Continued On Page 15.)



A Statement From Bishop Mark On The Encyclical 'Laudato Si'

The encyclical letter issued on June 18, 2015 by Pope Francis reminds us that the earth is our common home. It is shared as the living space of billions of people. Everything created by God that we find in this earthly home is for the common good of all, so we must care for it and thereby care for one another.

In this regard, Pope Francis focuses on the idea of 'integral ecology', connecting care of the natural world with justice for the poorest and most vulnerable people.

Pope Francis also speaks of a 'humane ecology,' in which the God-given dignity of every human person must be respected and promoted as a principle that is more significant than the principles of economics or technology that seem to move what goes on in our world today.

In addition to some reflections on the idea of creation given in the Book of Genesis, Pope Francis comments on other Biblical teaching and he cites the teachings of his predecessors, including especially Saint John Paul II and Pope - Emeritus Benedict XVI.

There is much for us to discover and rediscover in this encyclical Laudato Si, and it comes at the right time for us to consider our situation on this planet which is our common home.

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