



The Catholic Register

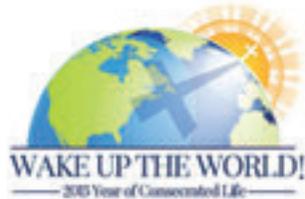
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Community, Shared Prayer Draw Vocations To Consecrated Life, Says Vicar

As the Church celebrates the Year of Consecrated Life, The Catholic Register will be featuring the life and ministries of religious communities of men and women serving in the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown.



By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein

Fifty - five years after joining the Conventual Franciscan Friars, Father Anthony Francis Spilka has a pretty good idea of what draws men and women to consecrated religious life.

“They are seeking community life, a life of shared prayer in community,” he reflected.

“Community is so very important,” he added, “a loving, supportive, fraternal community where prayer life is at the very heart, the very center of their life in common. Prayer is at the very center of everything that a religious man or woman does.”

That desire for community life and shared prayer, coupled with his attraction to the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi that drew him, as a 17 - year - old in 1960, to the Conventual Franciscan Friars, “and I still grapple

with all of that,” he said, even after professing his first vows in 1961, his solemn vows in 1965, and being ordained a priest in 1969.

Helping others grapple with the mystery of consecrated life is an important part of his ministry as the Bishop’s Vicar for Religious.

“Very simply, the Vicar for Religious is a liaison between the Bishop and the religious communities in the Diocese,” he explained. “As vicar, I make myself available to a community, or to an individual religious woman or man, who may have a concern or an issue. I’m there to provide assistance; to be a listening ear.”

Among his regular duties as Vicar for Religious, Father Anthony Francis said he coordinates a yearly day of recollection for all of the religious serving in the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese, bringing them together for conferences by a guest speaker,

the opportunity to go to confession, and to attend Mass together. He also coordinates the annual jubilee celebration when religious marking significant milestones are dinner guests of the Bishop.

“And I coordinate the yearly Mass, always televised, honoring religious, which the Bishop usually celebrates on the first weekend of February, when the universal Church is honoring religious,” Father Anthony Francis said.

His ministry to his fellow religious takes a more personal turn he noted, “whenever there’s a death among the religious in the Diocese. I make every effort to attend the wake and the funeral.”

Appointed to the position by Bishop Joseph V. Adamec in 2007, and reappointed by Bishop Mark L. Barchak in 2011, Father Anthony Francis said that as vicar he has a particularly close relationship with the Discalced Carmelite Nuns at the Monastery of Saint Therese of Lisieux in Loretto.

“They have a beautiful ministry of prayer,” Father Anthony Francis said of the nuns. “Their monastery is a real powerhouse of prayer.



Photo By Bruce A. Tomaselli

FATHER ANTHONY FRANCIS SPILKA
O.F.M. CONV.

“I serve as extraordinary confessor to the nuns, and go there once a month. The nuns will elect a new prioress in June. Before the election I will make a visitation of the monastery and write a report for Bishop Mark. Bishop Mark and I will attend the election together.”

Consecrated life is an important facet of the life of the Diocesan Church, according to Father Anthony Francis. “Men and women in vowed life integrate themselves into the life of the local Church by serving in a variety of ministries,” he said, “but above all, they are here to pray for the local Church.”

Father Anthony Francis, who is pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Johnstown,

noted that his own community now has only two friars in the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese. “Our numbers are down,” he said. “We don’t have the vocations we once did,” and his original province, Saint Anthony Province, merged last summer with Immaculate Conception Province to form a new, Our Lady of the Angels Province.

“We serve anywhere on the East Coast from Canada, to Florida,” he said. But when the friars gather, they like to share their vocation stories.

“And those stories are all so different!,” he laughed, “and yet they are all the same: You hear something in your heart, and you follow.”

Community

Blood Drive

Hollidaysburg: Star of the Sea Council 4245, Knights of Columbus, will hold its annual Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, April 6, from 12:30 - 6:00 p.m. at the Council home, 325 Bedford Street.

Bringing a non-perishable food item for the Saint Vincent DePaul Society food bank is encouraged and appreciated.

Breakfast

Altoona: The American Cancer Society of Central Blair is sponsoring a pancake breakfast and mini - health fair for all cancer survivors, caregivers and friends of the Relay For Life, Saturday, April 18 from 8:30 a.m. - noon at the Masonic Hall, 600 Jackson Avenue (behind Hoss's on Valley View Boulevard).

The event is free to all cancer survivors and caregivers; a free - will donation is asked from all others attending.

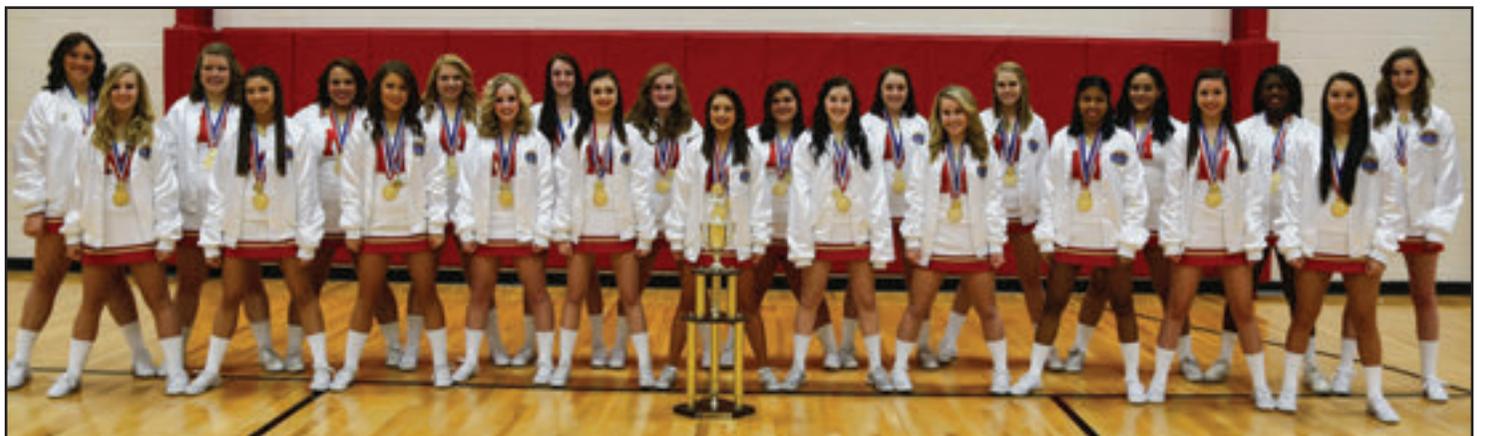
High Schools

Host Oxfam Banquet

Altoona: The Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School



LENTEN FOOD DRIVE: Students at Saint Andrew School, Johnstown, donated a total of 1,275 pounds of canned and dry - food items to the Saint Vincent DePaul Society. "We're very proud of our students," said Father Angelo Patti, pastor. "They took the food - drive very seriously as a part of their Lenten devotions." The donation to Saint Vincent DePaul was made in celebration of the 100th day of school.



NATIONAL CHAMPTIONS: The varsity cheerleaders from Bishop McCort Catholic High School, Johnstown, have been named the PIAA Competitive Spirit and UCA National High School Cheerleading Champions. Their winning performance is scheduled to air on ESPN2 Saturday, March 28 at noon. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Toni Miorelli, Bailey Hildebrand, Ashley Marone, Regan Grove, Somerlyn Wilson, Karagin Furfari, Lindsay Darcangelo, Keyli Smith, Iesha Favor, Maddie Dom, Breona Mackoff. Second row: Sierra Harper, Kassi Blair, Kali Haselrig, Kyaira Varner, Lexi Mitchell, Mia Rastall, Lexi Cheskiewicz, Casey Hoffman, Autumn Martin, Cantara Haselrig, Coryn Thomas-Porter and Claire Wherthey. Coaches (not pictured) are Dr John Walker, Lacey Ott, Jeanne Feathers, Nathaniel Callaway and Marisa Miller.

Mission Club recently hosted an Oxfam Hunger Banquet to create awareness of surrounding poverty and to raise funds for Oxfam America.

The Mission Club raised \$860.00 for Oxfam America from the banquet through do-

nation and sponsoring a dress-down day.

"After the event, one of our students made the following comment to Don Belsey, director of the Saint Vincent DePaul Food Pantry and one of the speakers, "Thanks for coming and sharing your stories. You changed my attitude toward the poor. I have a better understanding of the reasons that people are poor that are out of their control." For me, that one comment made all the planning and the work for the event worthwhile," said Teresa Jeffries, Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School Mission Club moderator and religion teacher.

All of the Bishop Guilfoyle

students received a ticket for either a low, middle or upper income lunch. The distribution was random and reflected the percentage of people in those income categories worldwide - 50 percent low income, 30 percent middle income and 20 percent upper income. The low income students ate lunch on chairs, the middle income ate at tables, and the upper income were served lunch at tables with tablecloths.

After lunch, students watched an Oxfam America power point presented by Bishop Guilfoyle Mission Club members, Alex Gburek and Andrew Potopa. Don Belsey of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society and Michelle Johnston of Catho-

lic Charities shared insights of the needs in our very own community.

Students also participated in activities around the school according to their Oxfam Hunger Banquet designated income class. The upper income had a party, middle income engaged in activities to simulate service-oriented jobs, and the poor participated in basic survival activities.

(Continued On Page 6.)

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Carmela Manago
Executive Director

13th Annual Basket Party

St. Andrew School, Johnstown
Sunday, April 12

Only 400 tickets available! No tickets will be sold at the door. Donation is \$8, which includes a boxed lunch, drinks, snacks and 25 tickets. Doors open at Noon, drawings begin at 2 PM. Tickets sold at School Office M- F, 814-288-2811

In The Alleghenies



BREAKFAST BENEFIT: The eleventh grade Confirmation candidates at Saint Mark Parish, Altoona, held an All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast Sunday, February 22, to raise funds for Family Services Incorporated; the funds are to be used for the renovation of the new Teen Shelter located at the corner of 17th Street and 6th Avenue in Altoona. The breakfast was part of the Confirmation class's project to "Live The Works Of Mercy" as they prepare for the Sacrament. The breakfast netted \$640.00. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Stephen Hunter, Lisa Hann (Family Services Incorporated), Trey Barefoot. Second row: Dylan Kahley, Jim Kulik (catechist), Rachel Pearlman and Father Ronald V. Osinski (pastor). Confirmation candidates not pictured include Mikayla Yanchik, Christian Wesner and Andrew Gressler.



LOCK HAVEN SCHOOL EXPANSION: The Lock Haven Catholic School is continuing its expansion project, with over two - thirds of the money needed raised for the new building which will include two new classrooms with bathrooms and a "gymcafeterium" (gymnasium/auditorium/cafeteria with full kitchen). The project is projected to be done in July, will be used for the 2015 - 16 school year. Special thanks are extended to Jim and Sheila Russo of M&R Contracting Company for their work on the project, and for their donation of hard hats to the students, and a book to the school library. Registrations are now being accepted for the new school year for grades 2 (one spot available) - 6. Please call the school at (570) 748 - 7252 to discuss opportunities for grades 7 and 8 in the middle school.

PONTIFICAL SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK - 2015

The Most Reverend Mark L. Barchak
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown
Celebrant and Presider



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

Passion (Palm) Sunday
March 29 -- 11:00 a.m.
Blessing of Palm and Pontifical Mass
Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown

Chrim Mass
Monday, March 30 -- 11:00 a.m.
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona

Holy Thursday
April 2 - 6:00 p.m.
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown

Good Friday
April 3
Morning Prayer -- 9:00 a.m.
Celebration of the Lord's Passion -- 12:00 p.m.
Tenebrae Service -- 7:30 p.m.
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona

Holy Saturday
April 4
Office of Readings -- 9:00 a.m.
The Easter Vigil -- 8:30 p.m.
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona

Easter Sunday
April 5 -- 11:00 a.m.
Mass of Our Lord's Resurrection
Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown

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Point Of View

After watching the Passion play with some of my closest friends and family, the so-called fun- living, God fearing, wise guy of the bunch asked the group a question. "If you had to pick a character from this movie who do you think you would be?" "As my mind went through the list of so called "good" guys or gals from the Passion events, he interrupted, "Oh yes, I forgot you have a choice of three..... Judas, the Betrayer... Peter the Denier or Pontius Pilate, the coward...." "What?" I said, "I am not even going to play this game. I am definitely not one of these characters for I would never betray, deny or hand Christ over to be killed!" "You may think you would never do this, but let me ask you some other questions," he added. "Bring them on," I said with a smirk and then within a moment my demeanor completely changed.

Have you ever chosen money over faithfulness to God? Consider this . . .

- Have you ever complained about giving money to the church but do not hesitate to go to a high ticket price sporting event or go shopping to buy the latest and greatest fashions or technological devices?

- Have you read the scriptures and see that God asks everyone to give the first fruits of our labors but then gasp at the thought of giving 10 % of your income knowing you get to keep the other 90% for yourself?

- Do you spend your time and money on family vacations, sports outings or events but hesitate to pay or spend time



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich
Hard Questions



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

to attend a Christian conference or retreat to strengthen your faith?

- Do you spend more money on your children's sports, after school activities, or toys and video games than you do supporting their Religious Education or Catholic School efforts?

Have you ever denied Christ? Consider this . . .

- Have you ever been embarrassed to sign yourself with the Cross and say grace before meals, especially in Public?

- Have you ever decided to not wear your Christian jewelry to an event, school or workplace because you may be criticized or perhaps made fun of by others?

- Have you chosen to fill your calendars with an overload of extra- curricular activities

leaving no time to minister or volunteer at your Parish?

Have you ever acted cowardly by not defending God, or our Faith? Consider this . . .

- Are you willing to have the courage to ask someone known to use God's name in a profane way, to stop doing so because it offends you and more importantly shows great disrespect to your God?

- Do you have the courage to vote pro- life, not allowing yourself to be fooled by the ever popular saying, "It is not just a one issue election!" Being courageous enough to realize that if the candidates are not open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit on Life issues, then they are probably not consulting God on other issues as well!

- Did you ever ponder this question - If you were called to a courtroom to testify that you are a Christian, would there be enough evidence, by your life's example to convict you?

Okay, I have a little bit of Judas, some of Peter and a bit of Pontius Pilate in me. I was not proud, in fact, quite disheartened. I may not have walked the dusty road to Calvary, but I have surely helped to pave the way. Father, forgive me, for I know not what I do! Blessings.



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
A Holy Year Of Community

Although he ministers in a community known as a parish, the vocation of a diocesan priest is in many ways as solitary as that of any hermit: he lives alone, he takes his meals alone, he prays alone. Very probably, he will die alone.

Having embraced that vocation with no regrets, I sometimes think it's paradoxical that my favorite heroes and heroines of the faith, my best friends in the great communion of saints, are the men and women, both religious and lay, who have founded communities. I have been especially inspired by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin of the Catholic Worker, Catherine DeHueck Doherty of Madonna House, Jean Vanier of L'Arche, Brother Roger of Taize, and Blessed Charles DeFoucauld and Little Sister Magdeleine of the Little Brothers and Sisters of Jesus. When I read their lives and their writings I am reminded that no one is truly alone, because we are all part of a great community of believers, what the author of the Letter to the Hebrews called "a cloud of witnesses," all of us united to God, in God, with God, and with each other as brothers and sisters.

Among my special friends in that communion is Venerable Catherine McAuley, foundress of the religious community I have known longest and best, the Religious Sisters of Mercy. The very name "Mercy" is itself a call to community. Pope Francis has declared that at the end of this year and extending into the next, there will be a Holy Year of Mercy. I am thinking of it as a Holy Year of Community.

I am thinking that way because of something I learned many years ago, in a Scripture study class at the Newman Center at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. I was introduced then to the Hebrew word "Hesed," which translates (roughly) to our word "Mercy." "Hesed" carries with it the idea of solidarity - - of standing in union with one another. It refers to God's solidarity with us, our solidarity with God, and our solidarity with one another. Mercy means that no one is ever truly alone, because we each bear one another's burdens. We share one another's joys. Wherever I go, God is there, and each of my brothers and sisters are there too, cutting across all boundaries of time and space. Hesed means Mercy; it means family; it means community.

In announcing the Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis said "No one can be excluded from the mercy of God. Everyone knows the way to access it, and the Church is the home that accepts everyone and refuses no one." These are the words of a man who was famously quoted as saying "Who am I to judge?," when asked to comment on someone's moral dilemma. Pope Francis practices what he preaches. Pope Francis has been called the Pope of Mercy, because for the past two years he has constantly and consistently called us to communion with God and with each other. He is the Pope of Community. He invites us all to stand united in God's embrace, embracing one another.

The Holy Year of Mercy, the Holy Year of Hesed, the Holy Year of Community can be a means of great good for the Church and the world if we resolve to take the call to community seriously; to accept everyone and to refuse no one, refusing to judge, knowing no strangers, seeing only brothers and sisters, united in God's love.

At Lenten Penance Service, Pope Announces Holy Year Of Mercy

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis announced an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy, to highlight the Catholic Church's "mission to be a witness of mercy."

"No one can be excluded from God's mercy," the pope said March 13, marking the second anniversary of his pontificate by leading a Lenten penance service in St. Peter's Basilica.

"I frequently have thought about how the church can make more evident its mission to be a witness of mercy," he said during his homily; that is why he decided to call a special Holy Year, which will be celebrated from Dec. 8, 2015, until Nov. 20, 2016.

The biblical theme of the year, he said, will be "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful," an admonition that applies "especially to confessors," the pope said with a smile.

Traditionally, every 25 years the popes proclaim a holy year, which features special celebrations and pilgrimages, strong calls for conversion and repentance, and the offer of special opportunities to experience God's grace through the sacraments, especially confession. Extraordinary holy years, like the Holy Year of Mercy, are less frequent, but offer the same opportunities for spiritual growth.

The doors of the church "are wide open so that all those who are touched by grace can find the certainty of forgiveness," Pope Francis said at the penance service, which featured individual confessions. It was part of a worldwide celebration of "24 Hours for the Lord," in which Catholic churches were staying open for prayer, eucharis-



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

POPE PREACHES: Pope Francis gestures as he preaches during a Lenten penance service in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican March 13. During the service the pope announced an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy, to be celebrated from Dec. 8, 2015, until Nov. 20, 2016.

tic adoration and confession.

At each of the dozens of confessionals in St. Peter's Basilica, as well as in simple chairs scattered along the walls, priests welcomed people to the sacrament. The pope removed his liturgical vestments and went to confession before putting on a purple stole and hearing the confessions of others.

"God never ceases to demonstrate the richness of his mercy over the course of centuries," the pope said in

his homily, which preceded the confessions. God touches people's hearts with his grace, filling them with repentance and a desire to "experience his love."

"Being touched by the tenderness of his hand," people should not be afraid to approach a priest and confess their sins, he said. In the confessional, one has "the certainty of being welcomed in the name of God and understood, despite our misery."

"The greater the sin, the

greater the love, which the church must express toward those who convert," Pope Francis said.

The Gospel reading at the penance service was the story of the sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. Every time one goes to confession, the pope said, "we feel the same compassionate gaze of Jesus" that she did.

Jesus' love, he said, allowed her to draw near, to

demonstrate her repentance and to show her love for him. "Every gesture of this woman speaks of love and expresses her desire to have an unshakable certainty in her life, that of having been forgiven."

"Love and forgiveness are simultaneous" in the story of each person, just as in the story of the sinful woman, he said. "God forgave her for much -- for everything -- because he loved her much."

Through Jesus, the pope said, God took the woman's sins and "threw them over his shoulder, he no longer remembers them."

Jesus' encounter with the woman took place in the home of a Pharisee named Simon. Unlike the woman, the pope said, Simon "isn't able to find the path of love. He remains stopped at the threshold of formality. He is not able to take the next step to encounter Jesus, who brings salvation."

The Pharisee is concerned only with following God's law, with justice, which is a mistake, the pope said. "His judgment of the woman distances him from the truth and prevents him from understanding who his guest is."

Jesus scolds Simon, pointing out how the "sinful woman" has shown nothing but love and repentance, the pope said. "Jesus' rebuke pushes each of us to never stop at the surface of things, especially when dealing with a person. We are called to look deeper, to focus on the heart in order to see how much generosity the person is capable of."

Pope Francis said he asked the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization to coordinate preparations for the Holy Year so that it would be "a new stage in the church's journey in fulfilling its mission of bringing the Gospel of mercy to each person."

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 2.)

During this school year, BG students participated in the Pope Francis Challenge, which collected more than 20,000 canned good/personal items for the less fortunate in our community along with BG's cereal drive in January, which resulted in 800 boxes of cereals being donated to the Saint Vincent DePaul food pantry.

Higher Education

Luddy Scholarship

Altoona: The Monsignor Joseph M. Luddy Scholarship Foundation is accepting applications for its annual awards. The following criteria will be utilized in the selection process:

1. Applicants must be current or former residents of Blair County, Pennsylvania.
2. Financial need, established scholastic achievement and faculty recommendations will be considered.
3. Attendance or acceptance into a graduate education program in the fields of social work or the Roman Catholic priesthood. The social work program must be accredited by the

Council on Social Work Education and the priesthood - training program must be sanctioned by the Roman Catholic Church.

Application forms are available at colleges and universities in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. Students may also obtain an application by contacting the Monsignor Joseph M. Luddy Scholarship Foundation c/o The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation directly. Please call (814) 515 - 1182 or email (altfed@atlanticbb.net) to request an application. Completed applications and transcripts are to be submitted by May 1, 2015. Announcement of the award will be made in July.

The Foundation was established as a memorial to Monsignor Luddy's work in the fields of social services and the Roman Catholic priesthood. He was serving as the Director of Catholic Social Service for the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese as well as chaplain at Garvey Manor, Hollidaysburg, at the time of his death in 1984.

The intent of the Foundation is to offer an annual scholarship award. Individuals, fraternal, and civic organizations who wish to donate to the Foundation can send their tax deductible

contributions to the Monsignor Joseph M. Luddy Scholarship Foundation c/o The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation 1308 17th Street, Altoona PA 16601.

Ethics Lecture

Loretto: Saint Francis University will host its 23rd annual Ethics Lecture on Tuesday, March 24. This year's topic, "The Ethical Vision of Pope Francis," will be delivered by Jesuit Father Thomas J. Reese. The event will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art. It is free and open to the public.

Father Reese is a senior analyst for **National Catholic Reporter**.

Father Reese entered the Jesuits in 1962 and was ordained in 1974. He attended Saint Louis University, the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, and the University of California Berkeley, where he received a Ph.D. in political science. He worked in Washington as a writer and lobbyist for tax reform from 1975 to 1978. He was an associate editor of **America** magazine, where he wrote on politics, economics and the Catholic church, from 1978 to 1985 and editor-in-chief from 1998 to 2005. He was a senior fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center from 1985 to 1998 and 2006 to 2013.

While at Woodstock, he wrote the trilogy on the organization and politics of the church: **Archbishop: Inside The Power Structure Of The American Catholic Church** (1989), **A Flock Of Shepherds: The National Conference Of Catholic Bishops** (1992), and **Inside The Vatican: The Politics And Organization Of The Catholic Church** (1996). He also edited **The Universal Catechism Reader** (1990), an analysis of the first draft of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and **Episcopal Conferences: Historical, Canonical and Theological Studies** (1989).

On May 14, 2014, Father Reese was appointed by President Obama to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, an independent, bipartisan U.S. federal government commission that reviews the facts and circumstances of religious freedom violations and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress. His writings for the NCR do not necessarily reflect the views of the commission.

Father Reese is based in Washington, DC.

Ecumenical Lecture

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College invites regional clerics to a lecture entitled, "Read-

ing the Bible with our Feet on the Ground," on Thursday, March 26 at 12:30 p.m. in the Cosgrave Center. The featured speaker is international biblical scholar, author and educator Reverend Dr. Sharon H. Ringe. Her lecture marks the College's Ecumenical Lecturer for spring 2015. Dr. Ringe will address regional clerics at an Ecumenical Luncheon at the College. Registration is required for the Ecumenical Luncheon.

Sharon H. Ringe is professor of New Testament at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, she has also taught at Methodist Theological School in Delaware, Ohio; the Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana in San José, Costa Rica; the Seminario Evangélico Teológico in Matanzas, Cuba; and at the Russia United Methodist Seminary in Moscow. Dr. Ringe is the author of **Wisdom's Friends** and the **Westminster Bible Companion** volume on Luke. She is co-editor of the **Women's Bible Commentary**.

(Continued On Page 13.)

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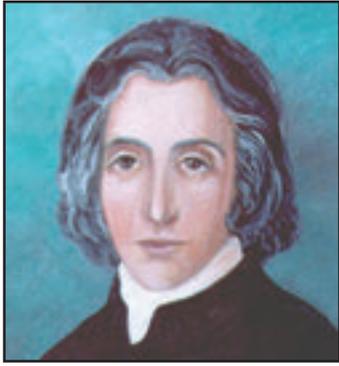
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A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840

Parents Of Saint Therese Will Be Canonized In October

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis is expected to canonize Blessed Louis and Zelie Martin, the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, during the world Synod of Bishops on the family in October.

Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, leading a conference Feb. 27 on the role of saints in the life of the church, announced that "thanks be to God, in October two spouses, parents of Saint Therese of Lisieux, will be canonized."

Blessed Louis and Marie Zelie Guerin Martin were married in 1858. The couple had

nine children, but four of them died in infancy. The five who survived -- including St. Therese -- all entered religious life. Zelie Martin died of cancer in 1877, at the age of 45; her husband died when he was 70 in 1894.

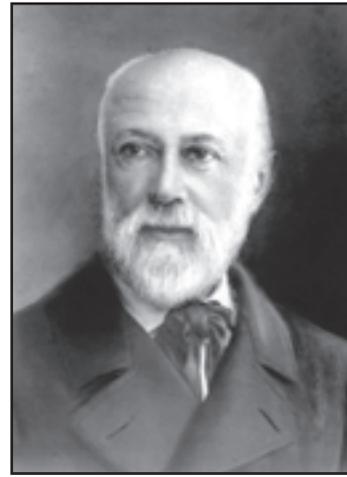
The couple was beatified in 2008. They are believed to be the first parents of a saint to be beatified, highlighting the important role parents play in their children's human and spiritual upbringing.

Following normal Vatican procedures, before their canonization the pope would have to recognize a miracle that occurred after prayers for the couple's intercession before God. The decree is expected to be signed before Easter.

The next step would be for the pope to consult with the church's cardinals and hold a consistory with cardinals present in Rome to announce the decision to proceed with the ceremony during the world Synod of Bishops on the family Oct. 4-25. A Vatican official said that meeting probably would take place in June.

According to the Lisieux shrine's website, a miracle being studied for the couple's canonization involves a little girl in the Diocese of Valencia, Spain. Born prematurely and with multiple life-threatening complications, Carmen suffered a major brain hemorrhage, which could have caused irreversible damage. Her parents prayed for the couple's intercession. The little girl survived and is healthy.

Pope Francis has a special devotion to St. Therese. The



CNS Photos/Courtesy Sanctuary Of Lisieux
BLESSED LOUIS AND ZELIE MARTIN



CNS Photo/Courtesy Sanctuary Of Lisieux

RELIQUARY: The reliquary holding the remains of Blessed Louis and Zelie Martin, parents of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face, is seen during their beatification Mass October 20, 2008 at the Basilica of Saint Therese in Lisieux, France.

pope used to keep a photo of the 19th-century French Carmelite nun on his library shelf when he was archbishop of Buenos Aires. He has said that when he has a problem, he asks St. Therese "not to solve it, but to take it in her hands and help me accept it." As a sign that she's heard his request, he said, "I almost always receive a white rose."

Before opening the October 2014 meeting of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family, Pope Francis venerated the relics of St. Therese, her parents and another couple, Blessed Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quat-

rocchi; the relics were brought to Rome specifically for prayers during the bishops' discussions about family life.

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**

131 South Pleasant Ave.,
Somerset, PA 15501
*(1 block east of
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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis
Mass In The Vernacular

ROME (CNS) -- Allowing priests to celebrate Mass in the language of the local congregation rather than in Latin allowed the faithful to understand and be encouraged by the word of God, Pope Francis said.

"You cannot turn back, we have to always go forward, always forward and who goes back is making a mistake," he told parishioners after commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first time a pope celebrated Mass in the vernacular following the Second Vatican Council.

"Let us give thanks to the Lord for what he has done in his church in these 50 years of liturgical reform. It was really a courageous move by the church to get closer to the people of God so that they could understand well what it does, and this is important for us: to follow Mass like this," he said as he left Rome's Church of All Saints March 7.

On the same date in 1965, Blessed Paul VI publicly celebrated Mass in Italian for the first time in accordance with the norms established by the Second Vatican Council.

In his homily at the parish, Pope Francis said people need to be able to connect the liturgy to their own lives.

"The liturgy isn't something odd, over there, far away" that has no bearing on one's everyday life, he said.

"The church calls us to have and promote an authentic liturgical life so that there can be harmony between what the liturgy celebrates and what we live out" with the aim of expressing in life what has been received in faith.

He said the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, "Sacrosanctum Concilium," defined the liturgy as "the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit."

While the liturgy is, in part, about doctrine and ritual, its real essence is to be "a source of life and light for our journey of faith," he said.

Going to church is not just about observing one's duty and "feeling right with a God who then must not be too 'bothersome'" afterward in one's daily life, he said.

People go to church "to encounter the Lord and find in his grace at work in the sacraments the strength to think and act according to the Gospel," he said.

"Therefore, we cannot fool ourselves, entering into the Lord's house and, with prayers and devotional practices, 'covering up' behaviors that are contrary to the demands of justice, honesty and charity toward others," Pope Francis said.

Authentic worship and liturgical celebrations should lead people toward "a real conversion" of heart by letting them hear "the voice of the Lord, who guides them along the path of rectitude and Christian perfection."

Just like Jesus sought to "cleanse" or purify the temple by driving out the moneychangers, people must continue to be committed to "the purification and inner cleansing of the church," the pope said, so that it be a spiritual place and not a superficial place of worship "made of material sacrifices and based on personal interests."

The pope said he hoped that commemorating the first papal Mass in the vernacular rather than Latin would remind people that the house of God is meant to be a source of spiritual strength, where they can hear his word and feel "not like foreigners but as brothers and sisters" who are united in their love for Christ.



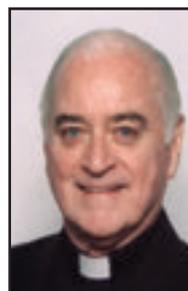
ONE MORE TIME: On April 27, 1989, Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, president - emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Universal Notre Dame Club, in Johnstown. Pictured are (left to right) Frank J. Pasquerilla, Dr. Wesley Posvar (president of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown), Congressman John Murtha and Father Hesburgh. Father Hesburgh died Thursday, February 26 at the age of 97.

Anyone can commit suicide. It's done all the time. But recently we have seen a movement toward legalization of assisted suicide.

It seems that the right to die soon becomes the duty to die. Given medical expenses in today's world, some are tempted to say that it costs too much money to stay alive. The physical suffering of the patient isn't the only worry. There's the added worry of the medical costs, which can make the patient feel guilty about receiving care.

Society is moving from the ideal of valuing life as a sacred gift into a slipshod vision of it as a dispensable burden. Can you see yourself on a sickbed hearing that your cancer treatments are too expensive? I, for one, as a prostate cancer survivor can tell you how glad I was to have enough insurance to pay for my surgery and follow-up treatment.

The nobility of the medical profession rests entirely on the commitment of its practitioners to do no harm, to care for all patients equally, rich or poor, young or old, famous or insignificant. The confidence with which a patient turns to his physicians depends on this ideal. It also spurs physicians to find innovative ways of helping the sick.



Spirituality For Today

By Father John Catoir
Life, Suffering And Death

The pleas of sick people, who are weary of suffering and have nothing to look forward to, are deeply distressing. As a priest visiting the sick and dying for more than 50 years, I readily admit that at times I have wished I could have put some patients who were suffering out of their misery. So I can easily under-

stand the doctors who face these painful decisions every day.

However, physicians long have been upholding the rule to do no harm. They may be weeping on the inside, but they know that killing patients will lead to a sentimental kind of medicine where patients and families dictate the treatment.

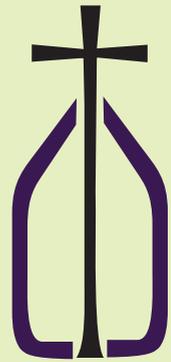
Catholics and other Christians have a theological understanding of suffering and death that gives rich spiritual meaning to a complete life well lived and one in which no one can take away the life of another person.

We can look for guidance at the passion of Jesus Christ, the coin that purchased our redemption. Our suffering, like the suffering of our Savior, transcends the hospital bed. Our suffering, united with the suffering of Christ on the cross, can have value if offered as a sacrifice for the salvation of souls.

The suffering of Jesus on the cross is a sacrifice of love worth imitating.



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein



Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Chronicle

Altoona Office: Blair, Bedford and Huntingdon Counties • Bellefonte Office: Centre and Clinton Counties • Johnstown Office: Cambria & Somerset Counties

VOLUME ONE • NUMBER FOUR

MARCH 2015

TO LOVE AND SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES

“You Did It for Me” Empowering the Faithful to Live the Scripture

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.

Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

- Matthew 25: 35-36, 40

As Catholics, these are words we are meant to live by. Catholic Charities exists to call the faithful to action, and to empower us to touch to lives of the hungry, the homeless, the poor, the sick, and the struggling.

Through Catholic Charities, an even more profound opportunity exists to make an impact. Not only can we support those in need, we can truly contribute to the betterment of society and the world. How?

Catholic teachings tell us that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society—that ALL people are made in the image of God and are

deserving of respect, love, and aid. We are mindful of the beliefs of others, and committed to breaking down barriers and extending a hand to our brothers and sisters in need, just as Jesus did, regardless of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, or handicap.

“As Catholics, these are words we are meant to live by. Catholic Charities exists to call the faithful to action, and to empower us to touch to lives of the hungry, the homeless, the poor, the sick, and the struggling.”

As Pope John Paul II said during the 1986 Catholic Charities USA meeting, “For your long and persevering service—creative and courageous, and blind to the distinctions of race or religion—you will hear Jesus’ words of gratitude, ‘You did it for me.’”

Amen we say to that.

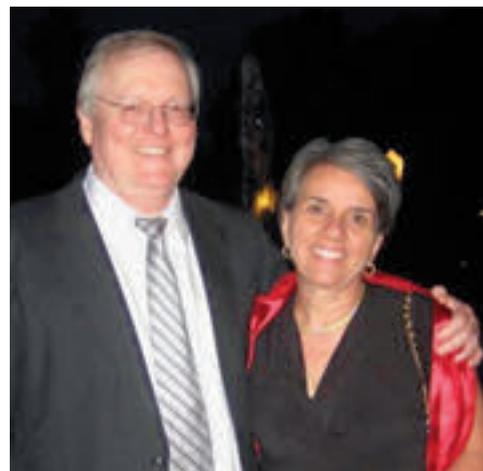
Serving Together in Faith Centre County Couple Enjoys Time Together as Volunteers

The Hanellys wouldn’t call themselves a “power couple,” but together, they make a big impact as volunteers for Catholic Charities.

“Without volunteer support, we could not assist the hundreds in our community in need of our services.”

Mary Anne followed in the footsteps of her husband, Bill, joining the Advisory Board. As board members, the Hanellys attend board meetings every other month to review what is going on in the Diocese, discuss budget and project progress, and assist with fundraising for the organization.

“Through Bill’s involvement I learned about all the great work that Catholic Charities does,” Mary Anne said. “As they often have married



Bill and Mary Anne Hanelly

Continued on page 4

In this issue...

Catholic Charities at work in your community

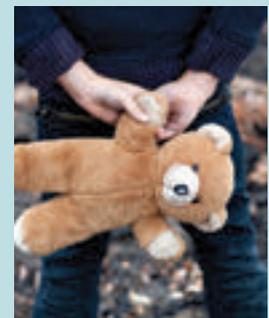
Providing Support, Safety, and Hope

The Martha & Mary House, Cambria County’s homeless shelter, is now open in Johnstown.



Stories of Homelessness in Our Region

The need for shelter could become very real to those in our community faced with an unexpected, devastating crisis.



Catholic Charities Services in Demand

Staggering statistics on those in central PA who need our help.



Guild of Guardians

Special society of benefactors formed.



Thank You to the Following Donors for Providing Generous Financial Contributions to The Martha & Mary House

Atlas Realty Management Company, Inc.
 Frank Bonanno
 Patrick & Isabel Buynack
 Cambria Care Center
 Cambria County Commissioners
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 Ann Marie Furman
 Marion Gaydos, in memory of Thomas Gaydos and Louise Kristofco
 Cindy M. George
 Phillip & Marilyn Goff
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 United Way of the Laurel Highlands
 Rose Varner
 Pamela Vescovi
 Von's United Beverage
 David Weber
 Wessel & Company
 Linda Wheeler
 Dale Wicks

Providing Support, Safety, and Hope: A Place to Turn for Individuals and Families Facing Homelessness

Martha & Mary House Opened March 2 to Offer Shelter, Planning, and Case Managers to Those in Need in Cambria County

The Martha & Mary House

Cambria County Emergency Homeless Shelter Program
 Operated by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

On Friday, February 27, Bishop Mark Bartchak and Catholic Charities hosted a blessing and ribbon-cutting at The Martha & Mary House—the new, official name of the emergency homeless shelter in Cambria County. Local organizations and officials, as well as local businesses and individuals who provided generous support, were on-hand to celebrate the official opening of the shelter.

This ambitious and much-needed project would not be possible without the many individuals, organizations, businesses, and churches of various denominations that provided generous financial support needed to open the doors. Ongoing community support will be necessary to maintain the shelter and the needs of those staying there. The shelter will provide much-needed help to individuals and families in Cambria County.

“Many of our generous donors and members of the Diocese and the community came out to show their support,” said Jean Johnstone,



Bishop Mark donated this beautiful painting of Martha & Mary to display in the shelter to keep our mission and inspiration top of mind.

Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. “We were honored to celebrate the beginning of this new program with the many people who made it possible.”

“We were honored to celebrate the beginning of this new program with the many people who made it possible.”

The Martha & Mary House will provide support, safety, and hope to individuals and families in the form of shelter, planning, and caring case managers, and will temporarily shelter men, women, and families who find themselves without a home. The shelter can accommodate up to 15 people and residents can stay for up to 30 days—enough time to secure financial stability and a more permanent residence.

How You Can Help

Ongoing Support for The Martha & Mary House

- Some opportunities are still available to “adopt” rooms in the shelter; businesses, organizations, churches, and individuals can learn more by contacting Jean Johnstone, Executive Director, at 814-944-9388
- Several churches have taken special collections or established special projects in support of the shelter; to organize a collection or drive for your church, contact Jean at the number listed above.
- Contributions can be made online at www.catholiccharitiesaj.org or by earmarking part of your Catholic Charities contribution to the Martha & Mary House using the form on page 3. You can also mail your donation directly to the shelter at 899 Bedford St., Johnstown, PA, 15902.

Stories of Homelessness in Our Region

On the surface, Annie* seemed to have it all: two young sons and a 10-year marriage. But behind closed doors, Annie was an abused woman. When she finally got the courage to separate from her abusive husband, she found herself alone with her two young children—one with special needs—and no place to turn.

“While we like to think that homelessness could never happen to us, the need for shelter could become very real if faced with an unexpected crisis.”

Due to the behavioral needs of her special-needs son, placement in another shelter setting was not successful. Thanks to community support of our shelter program, Catholic Charities was able to assist Annie and her sons

with shelter, links with agencies to get back into safe housing, and continued support during the first few months.

The people that we serve are the people you interact with every day—the cashier at the grocery store, the friendly face you pass on the sidewalk, or the parent standing next to you at the bus stop. While we like to think that homelessness could never happen to us, a friend, or a loved one, the need for shelter could become very real if faced with an unexpected, devastating family crisis, job loss, or medical emergency. We're here to help those in need as they weather the storm.



Local Need Continues to Grow

All three Catholic Charities offices are working to help a growing number of individuals and families seeking help, especially to afford fuel and basic items like rent, utilities, food, and life-saving medications. Each year, we make every effort to stretch our budget as far as we can to help as many people as possible. Believe it or not, average requests range from \$250 to \$450, a seemingly small amount to help a person or family eat, keep warm, or stay in their home.

Johnstown Office:

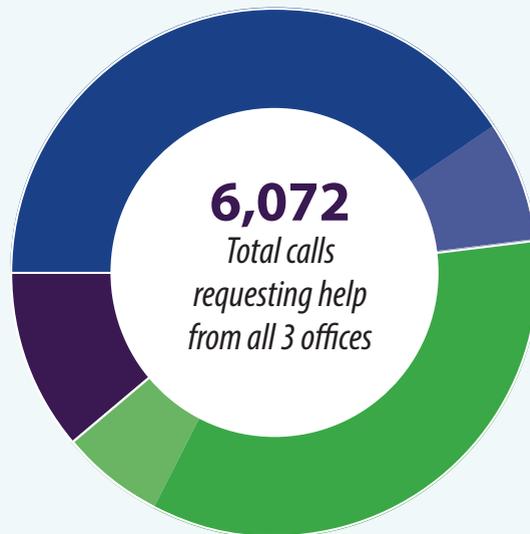
- **2,476** EFA requests for a total of **\$635,692** or **\$257** per request
- **446** Fuel calls for a cost of **\$170,254**

Altoona Office:

- **2,101** EFA requests for a total of **\$637,674** or **\$303** per request
- **385** Fuel calls for a cost of **\$148,225**

Bellefonte Office

- **664** EFA requests for a total of **\$291,877** or **\$440** per request



THANK YOU: Truly Blessed by Support from Many

Guild of Guardians and All Donors Make an Impact

In every issue, we report on the growing need in our community for the services we provide. Catholic Charities is truly blessed to receive financial support from generous donors from within our Diocese, our community, our business community, and various organizations who provide grants and other funds.

Without this support, we simply could not fulfill the mission we've been called to champion. All of us at Catholic Charities extend our sincere appreciation.

Recently we established the Guild of Guardians as an opportunity for those who can to pledge a \$1,000 annual gift to Catholic Charities. We are grateful to

"I am proud to support Catholic Charities through the Guild of Guardians because our goal is to help the least fortunate among us in a dignified way, while providing services and a structure to help people help themselves. Catholic Charities does all this with a limited budget and a big heart. I can't think of anything more important."

—Jan Andrews, Board Member, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

the individuals and families who have already made their commitments of support. Commitments can be fulfilled on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis, and are unrestricted, meaning they can be

applied to the greatest area of need. More information is available online at www.catholiccharitiesaj.org, or by calling 814-944-9388.

All gifts to Catholic Charities enable us to provide a holistic combination of social services including life skills education, counseling, and family stabilization through Emergency Financial Assistance. These programs remove barriers to self-sufficiency and wholeness. Our services are tailored to the unique circumstances of the people we serve.

Without ongoing support, Catholic Charities would not be able to consistently provide counsel, guidance, and support in our communities. When we come together to help those most vulnerable, we do the work of Christ.

From the Executive Director:

Our Community Members Rely on Catholic Charities During Lent and Throughout the Year



During Lent, Catholics in our community and around the globe are being called upon to contribute to charity to honor the pillar of almsgiving. We encourage your generosity this season, and implore that you consider Catholic Charities among your annual giving this spring. With your support, we can continue shaping the future for individuals and families in need right here in our community.

But, I hope you'll go a step further and remember your neighbors in need throughout the entire year. The numbers to the left are a staggering representation of the people in our community who approached us for assistance in 2014. But what's even more staggering is the number of local community members in need to whom we were not able to offer help. At the end of the day, our reach is only as big as our budget.

The individuals and families who ask for our help often just need a little boost to help them get back on their feet. Whether it's helping with a

"Whether it's helping with a medical bill or assistance with an extraordinarily high heat bill following a financial crisis, Catholic Charities helps to break the cycle of poverty in our community."

medical bill or assistance with

an extraordinarily high heat bill following a financial crisis, Catholic Charities helps to break the cycle of poverty in our community.

This Lent, consider those in our community who could use your help—the waitress at the restaurant you frequent, a parent of a student in your child's class, or the family next to you in the pew this Sunday. Each donation made to Catholic Charities stays in our community to help those who need it most. Please put the pillars of Lent into practice and make a gift to Catholic Charities this season.

In Sincere Gratitude,

Jean D. Johnstone, Executive Director

The official registration and financial information of Catholic Charities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Yes! I want to help my neighbors in need.

I want to make a difference to people in our community who need it most. Please accept my contribution of:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$35 Other \$ _____

I'd like to earmark \$ _____ of my gift to the Martha & Mary House

I'd like to receive more information about joining the Guild of Guardians

Check enclosed, made payable to: Catholic Charities

Donate online: www.catholiccharitiesaj.org

Please add me to upcoming email communications:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

1300 12th Avenue
P.O. Box 1349
Altoona, PA 16603

Inspiration from Pope Francis

In his 2014 Message for Lent, Pope Francis reminds us to make our hearts firm (James 5:8) by helping through acts of charity. He says **“Lent is a favorable time for showing [our] concern for others by small yet concrete signs of our belonging to one human family.”**

The Pope also calls on us to reflect the Lenten pillars throughout the year. He says, **“Every Christian community is called to go out of itself and to be engaged in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, especially with the poor and those who are far away. The Church is missionary by her very nature; she is not self-enclosed but sent out to every nation and people. Her mission is to bear patient witness to the One who desires to draw all creation and every man and woman to the Father. The Church follows Jesus Christ along the paths that lead to every man and woman, to the very ends of the earth (cf. Acts 1:8). In each of our neighbours, then, we must see a brother or sister for whom Christ died and rose again. What we ourselves have received, we have received for them as well. Similarly, all that our brothers and sisters possess is a gift for the Church and for all humanity.”**

Need Help?

Call or visit a Catholic Charities location near you

Main Office Locations

Altoona Office:

Blair, Bedford & Huntingdon Counties
1300 Twelfth Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601
Phone: (814) 944-9388

Johnstown Office:

Cambria & Somerset Counties
321 Main Street, Suite 5G
Johnstown, PA 15901
Phone: (814) 535-6538

Bellefonte Office:

Centre and Clinton Counties
213 East Bishop Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Phone: (814) 353-0502



Nominate Deserving Individuals in Our Community for Humanitarian Awards

Annual Catholic Charities Recognition Dinner Honors Individuals Demonstrating Exceptional Service

Our Annual Catholic Charities Recognition Dinner is approaching quickly. Each year, we award select individuals with the **Matthew 25 Youth Humanitarian Award** and the **Monsignor William M. Griffin Humanitarian Award**. It's time to nominate deserving individuals in our community!

The Matthew 25 Youth Humanitarian Award is given to up to two elementary and up to two high school students for demonstrating exceptional service to their communities, specifically the poor and needy. Award winners receive a scholarship for tuition/school/college expenses and a plaque recognizing their achievements. The winners, their parents, and the person nominating the student will be invited to attend our June 3rd dinner as our guests.

To nominate a student, please visit our website and download the nomination form. **Return it by April 24, 2015 to:**

Catholic Charities, Inc.
Recognition Award Nomination
P.O. Box 1349
Altoona, PA 16603-1349

The Monsignor William M. Griffin Humanitarian Award is given to individuals demonstrating a significant, long-term commitment (professional or volunteer) to serving the poor, marginalized, and most vulnerable within our diocesan community.

To make a nomination, complete the nomination form on our website and a one-page letter of recommendation.

Return it by April 24, 2015 to:

Catholic Charities, Inc.
Monsignor William M. Griffin Award
P.O. Box 1349
Altoona, PA 16603-1349

**You can also email your nomination form to jjohnstone@dioceseaj.org or fax it to 814-941-2677.*

Serving Together in Faith...Continued from page 1

couples serving together, it sounded like a great fit for my skills and interests, while benefitting my community.”

As a board member, Mary Anne knows firsthand the unique impact that Catholic Charities makes on individ-

“[Catholic Charities] does not turn people away; it may be the last chance for those in need to receive comfort and hope.”

uals and families in our community. Although her role is not hands on, it is rewarding to Mary Anne to know that she's helping to fulfill the mission of Catholic Charities and expand its impact through her fundraising assistance and support work.

“As public services cannot cover everyone, Catholic Charities steps in to ensure no family or individual is left out in the cold,” she said. “Our organization does not turn people away; it may be the last chance for those in need to receive comfort and hope.”

Bill spends his days as a financial professional, while Mary Anne has been a stay-at-home mom to four children. And, Mary Anne exemplified her passion for volunteering for her children, offering her time and talent in various school, church, and civic organizations. She's been Cub Master, room mom, and a CCD instructor for every grade, and was active in many areas of high school PTO including president.

The Hanellys attend Our Lady of Victory in State College, where they serve as Eucharistic ministers, readers, and members on the RCIA team. They are also part of Second Sunday Ministry, attending Mass at Rockview State Penitentiary with the prisoners, fulfilling the call of Jesus to visit the imprisoned. Mary Anne also regularly volunteers with Meals on Wheels and St. Vincent de Paul.

Catholic Charities is blessed to have the generosity and dedication of committed volunteers like Mary Anne and Bill Hanelly. Without volunteer support, we could not assist the hundreds in our community in need of our services. We thank all our volunteers who make our organization and operations possible.

“Only in heaven will we see how much we owe to the poor for helping us to love God better because of them.”
- Mother Teresa



Question Corner

**By Father Kenneth Doyle
Stem - Cell Research
And Cures**

Q. I have a child with Type 1 diabetes. Currently there is some research being done toward a cure for this disease, but it involves embryonic stem cells. Should I refuse to hope for a cure that comes through this method? And if a cure does happen to come from this research, am I barred from using it for my child? (Yorktown, Virginia)

A. I certainly understand your deep concern for your child's health and your strong desire to do everything morally permissible to help. The Catholic Church is sometimes portrayed as opposing all stem-cell research. That is incorrect. What the church opposes is the particular type of research that involves the destruction of human embryos.

As the Vatican indicated in No. 32 of "Dignitas Personae," a 2008 document "On the Dignity of the Human Person," the destruction of even one human life can never be justified in terms of the benefit that it might conceivably bring to another.

The church, on the other hand, does strongly support research using adult stem cells. In fact, the Vatican in 2013 hosted a conference of medical experts to promote that research.

I have seen no reports to date of any lasting and verifiable cures from the use of embryonic cells. However, stem cells from adult tissue and from umbilical cord blood are already providing healing treatment, particularly for victims of strokes and vascular disease.

So I would think that your stronger hope for a cure for diabetes might lie in the type of research that is morally permitted and encouraged by the church.

As for your hypothetical question, whether you might morally use a cure discovered from embryonic research, I have not yet seen a definitive answer to that from Catholic moralists, but I think that I can deduce one.

In 2005, the Pontifical Academy for Life released a study regarding the use of vaccines derived from aborted human fetuses. The academy felt

that the use of such vaccines was permissible but only in the absence of ethical alternatives. However -- and this is probably a telling difference -- the academy noted that those particular fetuses had been killed for reasons entirely unrelated to the production of vaccines, and so the nexus is remote.

By contrast, embryonic stem-cell research involves the ongoing destruction of human embryos for the very purpose of medical research. So it seems to me that the use of the fruits of such research would not be morally permissible, since it would offer tacit support to such harmful experimentation.

Q. My "good Catholic" neighbor insists that all Muslims are jihadists.

When I tried to tell her that the only two Muslims I've known were good people (and that not all Muslims are terrorists, anymore than all priests are pedophiles), she was vehemently dismissive. I would like you to tell me if her belief is that of the Catholic Church or if she more likely developed it from watching Fox News. (City of origin withheld)

A. You should introduce your "good Catholic" neighbor to the insights of Pope Francis. In his 2013 apostolic exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel," he very clearly stated the following in No. 253: "Faced with disconcerting episodes of violent fundamentalism, our respect for true followers of Islam should lead us to avoid hateful generalizations, for authentic Islam and the proper reading of the Quran are opposed to every form of violence."

In November 2014, Pope Francis was asked by reporters about the violence against Shiite Muslims and Christians in Syria and Iraq at the hands of the Islamic State. He said once more that it was wrong to equate Islam itself with violence, called the action of ISIS "a profoundly grave sin against God" and invited Muslim leaders to issue a global condemnation of terrorism to help dispel the stereotype.



For The Journey

**By Effie Caldarola
In Giving And Sharing,
We May Find Conversion**

There was a time in medieval history and in some places even later when believers would use extreme methods of self-discipline, or self-punishment, during Lent, as a penance for sin.

We're most familiar with these practices from movies we've seen, or in my case, the historical novels I enjoy reading.

Hair shirts that bit at the flesh, chains around the body's midsection, self-flagellation, these all had their day as accepted practices. Today, they seem barbaric and unhelpful to the spiritual life. But to practitioners, they seemed like a practical and literal way to emulate the sufferings of Christ.

What strikes me as I journey through Lent this year is how much Scripture points us in precisely the other direction. Rather than torture our bodies for the sake of inflicting pain, the readings for Lent constantly remind us that what needs changing is our hearts.

Lent is not a time of intellectual attainment or rigid promises or determinations that this year Lent will achieve a certain goal for us. It's not a time when we "give up" chocolate in an effort to lose weight. Lent is a time of "metanoia," a wonderful word that describes a transformative change of heart.

Take the reading from Ash Wednesday: "Rend your hearts, not your garments" (Jl 2:13).

You could spend a prayer period just pondering what it would mean to render your heart during Lent. An open heart is not telling God what we think we need but listening for the soft voice of God speaking our name.

A few days later in the readings, in Isaiah, the prophet spells out what type of fasting God desires. We are to break unjust fetters and let the oppressed go free, share our bread with the hungry (Is 58:1-10). If we deprive ourselves, says Isaiah, it's so we can share our excess with those who have little.

That's where the three pillars of Lent intersect: prayer, fasting, almsgiving. The tallest pillar is prayer. Without hearts that are ready to listen, Lent goes by with little transformation.

But with a renewed commitment to prayer, we turn our fasting into works of mercy, our self-discipline into actions, which makes us people for others. Our almsgiving flows from this, a renewed commitment to steward our resources in a more generous and life-giving way.

Blessed Teresa of Kolkata often spoke of ways opening up the heart in prayer: "Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at his disposition, and listening to his voice in the depth of our hearts."

I don't know about you, but my life has plenty of struggles without adding a hair shirt to my daily routine. The world has enough pain that if we devote ourselves to trying to make a bit of a difference, we won't need to add any self-flagellation.

Lent points our hearts outward, from the silence of prayer to the world whose very real pain we embrace.

Annunciation Of The Lord First Century Feast ~ March 25



According to the revised New American Bible, the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel tells Mary she has been chosen to be the mother of God, the Son, is the exact moment of the Incarnation. The encounter, with Mary's questioning and acceptance, is described in Luke 1: 26-38. This liturgical feast, first celebrated in the East, was introduced in Rome between 660 and 680. The oldest liturgical books called it "Adnuntiatio Domini," the Annunciation of the Lord, but during the Middle Ages it was popularly celebrated as a Marian feast, the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary. The 1969 revision of the Roman liturgical calendar restored the feast as a solemnity of the Lord and restored its ancient title.

Holy Years Proclaimed To Encourage Spiritual Renewal Of The Church

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- A holy year as a time of spiritual renewal has its biblical roots in the jubilees observed by the Jewish people at 50-year intervals, when debts were pardoned and slaves were freed.

The term "jubilee" itself comes from the Hebrew word "yobel," meaning a ram's horn, which was used to make the trumpet that signaled the beginning of this time of forgiveness.

For the Catholic Church, a holy year remains a time of great spiritual significance, and emphasis is placed on the examination of conscience and conversion, the forgiveness of sins, reconciliation, concrete acts of solidarity and initiatives to restore justice.

The jubilee is called a holy year because it aims to encourage holiness, strengthen faith in Christ and inspire greater communion within the church and society.

The first Holy Year was proclaimed by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300, when thousands

of Christians from throughout Europe came on pilgrimage to Rome. Among those who journeyed to the Eternal City for the first celebration was the Italian poet Dante Alighieri, who is commonly said to have found the inspiration for his "Divine Comedy" during that pilgrimage.

In the 15th century, Pope Paul II set a 25-year timetable for holy years, which has been the norm since, in order to allow each generation the possibility of experiencing at least one holy year.

As a way to stress the importance of forgiveness and renewing one's relationship with God, plenary indulgences are offered during holy years. An indulgence -- that is, the remission of temporal punishment for sins -- is customarily granted to those who make a pilgrimage to Rome and fulfill certain other conditions: reception of the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist, visits and prayers for the intention of the pope and performing simple acts such as visiting the sick.

Those who do not make a pilgrimage to Rome can gain the

same indulgence by receiving penance and the Eucharist and praying for the pope during a visit or a community celebration in a church designated by the local bishop.

The Holy Door, symbolizing the doorway of salvation, marks the "extraordinary" spiritual passage offered the faithful during a jubilee year. There are only seven Holy Doors: four at the major basilicas in Rome and one each in France, Spain and Canada.

On Christmas Eve 1999, St. John Paul II changed the traditional Holy Door ritual at St.

Peter's Basilica when he did not strike the wall sealing the door. Instead, he pushed open the Holy Door -- the wall had been dismantled beforehand.

Bishop Piero Marini, then-master of papal liturgical ceremonies, said, "Elements of the old ritual which have become obsolete will be replaced by others which better express the biblical and liturgical significance of the Holy Door."

When Pope Alexander VI opened the Holy Door on Christmas 1499, "he used a mason's hammer, and the blows were not completely symbolic; the pope



CNS Photos/Paul Haring

HOLY DOOR: The Holy Door is pictured in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Friday, March 13.



Discalced Carmelites Announce World Day Of Prayer For Peace

The Discalced Carmelite Friars and Nuns have announced that a special World Day of Prayer for Peace, in honor of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus will be celebrated Thursday, March 26. Saturday, March 28 is the actual anniversary of the Saint's birth.

Pope Francis will initiate the Day of Prayer at his regular morning Mass in the chapel of the Casa Santa Marta at the Vatican.

Because of the renovations now ongoing at the Carmelite Monastery in Loretto, the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of the Monastery of Saint Therese of Lisieux will not hold a public observance of the Day of Prayer, but invite their friends throughout the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown to unite with them in prayer that day.

Catholic School Principal Needed

St. Anne School in Castle Shannon, PA, is currently accepting applications for Principal. Applicants must be practicing Catholics, have a minimum of five years successful teaching experience and possess a valid Pennsylvania Professional Certificate. This opportunity is best suited for a proactive, energetic professional with innovative ideas to lead the students and faculty toward excellence in faith formation, academics and technology. The successful applicant will collaborate with the pastor in achieving the aggressive goals outlined in the recently adopted five-year strategic plan ([viewable at www.saintanneschool.org](http://www.saintanneschool.org)). Those qualified and interested in applying should submit the following by March 31: 1) letter of introduction addressing the requirements listed above; 2) resume; 3) five professional references with contact information; and 4) a brief essay addressing the value of the contemporary Catholic school. Materials should be sent to Father Michael A. Caridi, Saint Anne Parish, 400 Hoodridge Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15234. They may also be e-mailed to him at mcaridi@stanneparish.com.

tried to break through part of the wall," Bishop Marini said. For centuries, the opening ceremony included a long pause to allow masons to finish taking the wall down before the pope crossed the threshold.

In addition to an "ordinary" holy year set at 25-year intervals, occasionally a special jubilee is proclaimed to mark some outstanding event. The custom of these so-called "extraordinary" jubilees began in the 16th century, and they can vary in length from a few days to a year.

There have been 26 "ordinary" holy years so far, the last one being the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. There were no jubilee celebrations in 1800 and 1850 because of political turmoil at the time.

There have been two extraordinary jubilees in the last century: 1933, proclaimed by Pope Pius XI to mark the 1,900th anniversary of Christ's redemption, and 1983, proclaimed by St. John Paul II to mark 1,950 years since the redemption.

Accompanied By Father Anthony Francis Spilka O.F.M. Conv.
Pastor of Saint Francis Of Assisi Parish, Johnstown

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Second Anniversary Interview: Pope Talks About His Election, The Papacy, Future

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- When Pope Francis went out onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica for the first time, he said he did not prepare what he was going to say, but "I felt deeply that a minister needs the blessing of God, but also of his people."

He did not know if it was right to explicitly ask the thousands of people in St. Peter's Square to bless him, so instead he asked them to pray that God would bless him, he said. And he bowed for their prayers.

Marking the second anniversary of his election March 13, Pope Francis spoke about the conclave that elected him in 2013, about his life the last two years and about the future in an interview with Valentina Alazraki of Mexico's Televisa.

The pope even joked about the reputation Argentines have for being proud or haughty. "You know how an Argentine commits suicide?" he asked Alazraki. "He climbs to the top of his ego and jumps!"

And, he said, while he doesn't hate being pope, he is not a fan of the travel involved and he really would like to go out of the Vatican unrecognized, perhaps "to a pizzeria to eat a pizza."

"I have the feeling that my pontificate will be brief," he said. "Four or five years. I do not know, or maybe two, three. Well, two have already passed. It's just a vague feeling."

Perhaps, the pope said, it is like the kind of trick a gambler plays on his mind by convincing himself -- when he places a bet -- that he will lose; when he does, he is not disappointed. "I do not know what it is, but I have the feeling that the Lord put me here for a brief time.... But it is just a feeling. So I keep the possibility open."

Pope Benedict XVI's discernment that he no longer had the energy to carry out the office and his decision to resign to a life of prayer was courageous, Pope Francis said, and it opened the door for popes in the future to do so with greater ease.

But, the pope said, he is opposed to setting an age limit, for example, 80, for a pope's ministry. While for some theologians "the papacy is a sacrament," he said he would not go that far, but "it is something special."

Asked about reports that he received about 40 votes during the 2005 conclave that elected Pope Benedict, Pope Francis refused to answer, "although I could tell because now I have the authority to speak."

As for the 2013 conclave, he said he had no inkling until the lunch break March 13 "when something happened," cardinals started coming up to him and asking about his health. "When we returned in the evening, the cake was cooked. Everything happened with just two ballots. It was a surprise for me as well."

During the voting, he said, he was praying the rosary, which was his normal practice and brings him a great sense of peace. "The same thing occurred then, which for me was a sign that it was God's will. Peace. And even today I have not lost that sense."



CNS Photo/Maria Grazia Picciarella, Pool

ROYAL VISITORS: Pope Francis meets Belgium's King Philippe and Queen Mathilde during a private audience in the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican Monday, March 9.

The cardinals at the conclave interrupted his rosary when he had reached the two-thirds vote necessary to be elected. "They asked me if I accepted. I said yes. I don't know if they made me take an oath, I don't remember."

Questioned about the 2014 extraordinary synod and the upcoming Synod of Bishops on the

family, particularly regarding the acceptance of homosexual persons and Communion for divorced and civilly remarried couples, Pope Francis said some people have "unrealistic expectations," but he is convinced God wants the church to focus on better serving families.

"The family is in crisis," he said, and it is not the age-old crisis of infidelity, but the future of marriage itself.

"I think the Lord wants us to face this," Pope Francis said, including through improved "marriage preparation; accompanying cohabitating couples; accompanying those who do marry and are raising a family; supporting those whose marriages have failed and are in a new union; preparing them for the sacrament of marriage, (because) not everyone is ready."

As for the reform of the Roman Curia, which Pope Francis said really was the "last (royal) court" existing in Europe, he said, "the appearance of a court can be maintained," but the Curia must be a group of people and structures "at the service of the church, at the service of the bishops."



Spaghetti Dinner
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Betty Ann Bensor
1st Grade teacher at Saint Benedict School in Carrolltown, to off-set cost of cancer treatments.

\$8.00 Adults \$4.00 Children Ages 6 - 12

Saint Benedict Church Hall, Carrolltown
March 29, 2015
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Basket Auction 

Will be held during dinner

Carmelite Community of the Word 13th Annual Paschal Festival

Hands & Hearts

Haiti
FÈT

Friday, April 10, 2015
Holy Name Parish Hall
500 N. Julian St.
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Doors open at 5:45 p.m.
Social: 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Program: 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: Adults \$30 Children under 13 \$15
Ticket Deadline: March 30

Join us for an evening of good food, storytelling, music and activities that have been part of our ministry in Haiti. Allow us to share our experiences with you and to broaden your understanding of the people of Haiti whom we have come to call *Zanmi nou*, (our friends).

To purchase tickets or for more information, Contact: CCW Incarnation Center 814-886-4098 or contact any CCW sister.



SCHOOL SPIRIT: Students from Saint Benedict School in Carrolltown enjoy a fun moment with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak at Junior High Youth Day 2015. They were among the 260 young people who attended the event on Sunday, March 15 in Ebensburg.

‘Joy’ Focus Of Youth Day

(Continued From Page 16.)

“I hope you see in this event how much God cares about you and loves you,” he said. “That care and love is shown by all these adults who are here to support and guide you today and in your parishes. That care and love is shown in this celebration of the Holy Eucharist in which we are reminded of the death of Jesus on the cross so that we can have eternal life and for the gift of His Body and Blood, which is the spiritual food that we need to keep us going with all of the challenges that we experience.”

Judging by their comments and enthusiasm, students got the message.

“Before today, I wasn’t really sure how to rejoice in the Lord, and the speaker is actually showing us how to rejoice in the Lord and how this is possible,” said eighth grader Emma Hoover, a member of Saint Matthew Parish in Tyrone. “I really enjoy that I can have fun while learning about Christ and have other people with me.”

Logan Gottshall of Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Creson gave the day a thumbs-up.

“I’ve had lots of fun spending time with friends,” he said. “It shows us more ways we can advance our faith outside of go-



MUSIC MAN: Will Smith, a speaker and musician from the Diocese of Greensburg, served as the keynote presenter at Junior High Youth Day 2015. Smith is seen here leading the music during Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak to close out JYHD.

ing to Mass.”

Junior High Youth Day is just one of several events sponsored by the Youth Ministry Office each year. Swope encourages parents and parishes to have their young people take advantage of the programs.

“Once they come, they always come back, so I think the only challenge is just getting them to come and hear the messages that we have, and they always appreciate it and go out of here with smiles on their faces,” Swope said.

Guest Commentary

Charities Director Offers Clarification On Funding For Martha And Mary House

Editor’s Note: Jean Johnstone, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, addressed the following letter to the editor of Johnstown’s *Tribune Democrat*, in response to a letter published there questioning the funding for the newly - opened Martha And Mary House.

On February 27, more than a year and a half since the last homeless shelter in Cambria County closed, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown joined the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority, United Way of the Laurel Highlands, Cambria County commissioners, and many generous donors for the blessing of The Martha & Mary House, an emergency homeless shelter program.

Catholic Charities received generous donor and grant support to fund appliances, furniture, home goods, supplies, and operational expenses to open the doors. Catholic Charities will continue to work to raise funds for ongoing expenses. I’d like it to be clear to our donors and supporters, that the Redevelopment Authority obtained government grants to complete \$600,000 in major renovations to the facility. We are extremely grateful for all their work and support. Contributions to Catholic Charities for the shelter project were used exclusively to furnish, outfit and equip the facility for its opening, and new contributions will cover operating expenses for this much-needed community resource.

The people of Cambria County demonstrated the true meaning of community with their generosity. Donations to Catholic Charities for this project came from all over Cambria County from: organizations like the United Way, the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, and Lee Initiatives; businesses and their employees; churches of various denominations and their parishioners and members; and individuals and families who have a passion for helping their neighbors in need.

The Martha & Mary House will provide support, safety, and hope to individuals and families in the form of shelter, planning and caring case managers, and will temporarily shelter men, women, and families who find themselves without a home. The shelter can accommodate up to 15 people and residents can stay for up to 30 days—enough time to secure financial stability and a more permanent residence.

On behalf of the staff, board of directors, and volunteers of Catholic Charities, I offer my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the generous community support for this vital project, and for our mission to love and care for our neighbors as ourselves.

Sincerely,
Jean Johnstone, Executive Director
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown



LIVING STATIONS: As part of their observance of Lent, the eighth grade students at Saint Benedict School, Carrolltown, presented the Living Stations of the Cross to the members of the parish and school communities.

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 6.)

The Mount Aloysius College Ecumenical Lectures are provided in cooperation with judicatory heads of Christian denominations serving the Southern Allegheny region. The group sought to provide continuing education for Christian

ministers of all denominations through the institution of the Ecumenical Luncheon and Lecture event.

The genesis of that vision was an extraordinary gift of a 13,000 volume theological library to the College which has created an ecumenical resource unparalleled in the region. This

Collection has been expanded to approximately 18,000 volumes and is housed in the College's Ecumenical Studies Library.

Clerics wishing to register for the Mount Aloysius College Ecumenical Luncheon can register online at www.mtaloy.edu/ecumenical or they can contact Mr. Shelley Campbell at (814) 886 - 6335.

Staging 'As You Like It'

Cresson: The Mount Aloysius College Theatre Department will present William Shakespeare's "As You Like It" on March 26, 27, and 28. The curtain goes up each night at 7:30 p.m. in historic Alumni Hall. All area students will be admitted free of charge. Adult admission is \$5.00.

Nathan Magee, director of the Mount Aloysius College Theatre Department anticipates three great nights of Shakespeare's "As You Like It" and thinks the community will agree.

"This play is one of Shakespeare's most beautiful comedies," he said. "The story of Rosalinde is just as relevant today as it was 400 years ago. This young woman pushes the boundaries of what is accepted by her society and in doing so discovers something about herself. This cast and crew have worked incredibly hard and I am very excited for everyone to see

their work."

The Mount Aloysius College Theatre Department produces four shows each academic year. Productions include a variety of genres, including comedies, musicals, dramas, classical pieces, student - directed plays and nights of sketch - comedy improvisation.

Last spring the Mount Aloysius Theatre Department earned two drama awards from the prestigious Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for their production of "Godspell."

Mount Aloysius student Courtney Edmundson, received a certificate of merit from the Kennedy Center for her technical work as the show's stage manager and the entire Mount Aloysius "Godspell" cast received a certificate of merit for their ensemble work on the show.

The Thursday, March 26 performance will be professionally interpreted for deaf attendees. Mount Aloysius College is one of only 40 US colleges that offer American Sign Language interpreting programs.

The interpretation is a warmly extended hospitality to the region's deaf community. For more information on the American Sign Language degree program visit the Mount Aloysius College website at www.mtaloy.edu.

Prayer

Retreat For Women

Portage: "Clay In The Potter's Hand," a retreat for women, will be offered by the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at their novitiate house, 1872 Munster Road, from 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 17 to noon, Sunday April 19.

This weekend retreat is offered to women seeking to remain clay in the Potter's hand, where we allow God to continually form us anew.

It includes: prayer, conferences, quiet reflection, Holy Mass, Confessions, group/individual conferences (as requested), rest, meals and fellowship.

The suggested donation, which is not required, is \$50.00.

To register, call Mother Jacinta Miryam at (814) 505 - 2290, by Wednesday, April 15.

Roast Beef Dinner Spring Festival

Sunday, April 12, 2015
11:30 AM to ???

St. Demetrius Parish.
Gallitzin
Church Hall

Games, Baskets, Bake Sale

Adults \$8.50 Children \$5.00

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Now Showing

‘Second Best’ Feels Second Rate

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Based on its ingratiating surface, the comedy sequel “The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel” (Fox Searchlight) might be categorized as the sort of film that, while safest for adults, could also be appropriate, at a stretch, for well-grounded teens.

Closer analysis, however, reveals underlying elements that make director John Madden’s follow-up to his 2012 ensemble piece “The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel” a morally mixed journey not to be undertaken without the passport of a sea-

soned judgment.

In returning to the eccentric Indian hostelry that served as the primary setting for his original movie, Madden doesn’t spare much thought for viewers unfamiliar with that earlier opus. The roll call of guests that makes up a part of the Marigold’s morning routine -- and that serves as a precaution against any resident’s death in the night going unnoticed -- presents us with, but fails to introduce, repeat characters.

Thus newcomers to the story will have to discover for themselves the variety of romantic difficulties besetting the inmates of this innovative -- and very pleasant -- substitute for an old-age home. Would-



CNS Photo/Fox

THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL: Dev Patel, Richard Gere, Tina Desai, Diana Hardcastle, Judi Dench and Ronald Pickup star in a scene from the movie “The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.” The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

be couple Evelyn and Douglas (Judi Dench and Bill Nighy), for example, are too reticent to follow through on their feelings for each other.

Recovering lothario Norman (Ronald Pickup) is having difficulty adjusting to his newly exclusive relationship with girlfriend Carol (Diana Hardcastle). So much so, that Norman fears his idle complaints to a local cabbie during an inebriated taxi ride, together with his extravagant overpayment of the fare, may have been mistaken for a request to have his style-cramping companion eliminated.

Marriage-minded Madge (Celia Imrie) is spoiled for choice, unable to decide which of her two ardent -- and eminently eligible -- suitors she should accept.

As for Sonny (Dev Patel), the good-hearted young man who shares management duties at the Marigold with sharp-tongued former guest Muriel (Maggie Smith), his preoccupation with expanding their business interferes with the preparations for his wedding to fiancée Sunaina (Tina Desai).

His striving for new heights also leads Sonny to decide, im-

pulsively, that self-identified novelist Guy Chambers (Richard Gere) is really the undercover inspector hotel-chain magnate, and potential Marigold investor, Ty Burley (David Strathairn) has dispatched to evaluate the lodging.

A vast pool of veteran talent and the appeal of Patel’s grandiloquent patter serve as reliable resources for Madden. But, in drawing once again on material that originated with Deborah Moggach’s 2004 novel “These Foolish Things,” Madden takes unwed liaisons and living arrangements as a given.

O! Parker’s screenplay, moreover, seems to stack the emotional deck against the long-lived, though turbulent, marriage uniting Douglas with acerbic Jean (Penelope Wilton). The film contains acceptability of divorce, benignly viewed premarital situations, several sexual references, at least one use of profanity and a few crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. 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 29 -- On this Passion Sunday, Father Lubomir Strocok, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Altoona, discusses the spiritual significance of Holy Week for both the faithful and for priests.

April 5 -- On this Easter Sunday, Bishop Mark welcomes Frank Albert, a 100-year old member of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish in Johnstown. Mr. Albert will share his secrets for a long, healthy, and happy life.

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11 a.m. - Noon WWCP - TV FOX Channel 8

Proclaim!
10:30 a.m.

A half - hour of local Church news and features

May They Rest In Peace



Sister Grace Weis O.S.F.

Franciscan Sister Grace Weis, formerly known as Sister Mary Rosalia, died Sunday, February 22 at Mount Alvernia, Millvale, Pittsburgh.

For 40 years, Sister Grace ministered as a teacher in the schools of the Dioceses of Altoona - Johnstown and Pittsburgh.

She later served as librarian at Mount Alvernia High School, and in the business offices at Mount Alvernia and Saint Francis Hospital Convent, Pittsburgh.

She is survived by cousins.

The funeral Mass for Sister Grace Weis O.S.F. was celebrated Friday, March 27 in the chapel at Mount Alvernia. Committal was in the Sisters' Cemetery.



**Sister M. Teresina Bridges
S.C.**

Sister Mary Teresina Bridges, 98, died at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in Greensburg, on Monday, March 2.

A native of Johnstown, Sister Teresina entered the congregation of the Sisters of Charity on September 8, 1932, from Our Lady of Mercy Parish. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Elizabeth (O'Connor) Bridges, a sister, Dorothy Snyder, a brother, James, and her first cousin, Sister of Charity

Jean Frances Peters; she is survived by nieces.

She earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in education from the University of Pittsburgh. Sister Teresina taught in schools of the Greensburg and Pittsburgh dioceses for 25 years. Then she opened and served as principal for Saint Jane DeChantal School in Bethesda MD and Our Lady of Lourdes School in Abbeville LA.

She served as school supervisor in the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese, 1962 - 1965. She subsequently ministered as a principal at schools in Greensburg and in Tucson, AZ. She was honored by the University of Arizona for her contribution to professional programs for educators. She returned to Greensburg in 1990, and managed the Greensburg Central Catholic High School bookstore.

The funeral Mass for Sister Mary Teresina Bridges S.C. was celebrated Thursday, March 5 in the Chapel of the Assumption at Caritas Christi. Committal was in the Sisters' Cemetery at Seton Hill.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of Charity, DePaul Center, 144 DePaul Center Road, Greensburg PA 15601.



**Sister M. Dorothy Huber
S.C.**

Sister Mary Dorothy Huber, 88, died at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in Greensburg, on Saturday, March 7.

An Altoona native, Sister Mary Dorothy entered the congregation of the Sisters of Char-

ity on January 1, 1950, from Holy Rosary Parish, Juniata.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Oscar and Christine (Kline) Huber, three brothers, Edward, Wilfred and Morgan Huber and two sisters, Dorothy Ropp and Mary Marr and a cousin, Sister of Charity James Louise Krug. Surviving are two brothers, LeRoy and Joseph Huber and four sisters: Eleanor Ryan, Dolores Alexander, Berenice DeJean, and Olean Kieffer, nieces and nephews.

Sister Mary Dorothy earned a bachelor's degree in European history / English from Seton Hill University. In 1952, she was assigned to the management of the bookstore at the University, a position she held until 1976.

In 1976, Sister Mary Dorothy was missioned to Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, Altoona, where she organized the service and retreat programs for the students. She was certified as a hospital chaplain and ministered at Mercy Hospital in Altoona from 1986 until 1995. She then volunteered her services at the Saint Vincent de Paul Society's Caring Ministry in Johnstown, until failing health forced her retirement to Caritas Christi in 2001.

A strong advocate for the poor, Sister Mary Dorothy was instrumental in organizing "Project Hunger" an outreach effort that provided food baskets for the hungry. She made sleeping mats for children in Honduras, crocheted scarves and mittens for the needy, and participated in fund - raising efforts for the Westmoreland County Food Bank.

The funeral Mass for Sister Mary Dorothy Huber S.C. was celebrated Tuesday, March 10 in the Chapel of the Assumption at Caritas Christi. Committal was in the Sisters' Cemetery at Seton Hill.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of Charity, DePaul Center, 144 DePaul Center Road, Greensburg PA 15601.

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

Cardinal Egan Dead At 82

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Cardinal Edward M. Egan, who retired as archbishop of New York in 2009, died March 5. The cause of death was cardiac arrest. He was 82.

After collapsing at his residence that afternoon, he was taken to NYU Langone Medical Center, where doctors pronounced him dead at 2:20 p.m.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York told Catholics of the archdiocese he was saddened to tell them "our beloved" Cardinal Egan "has gone home to the Lord."

Cardinal Dolan in his statement said that Cardinal Egan "had a peaceful death, passing away right after lunch today, with the prayers and sacraments of his loyal priest secretary, Father Douglas Crawford, in his residence at the Chapel of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary."

He said the retired archbishop was rushed from the residence to the medical center, where he was pronounced dead.

Pope Francis offered his condolences in a telegram to Cardinal Dolan.

"I join you in commending the late cardinal's noble soul to God, the father of mercies," the pope said, "with gratitude for his years of episcopal ministry among Christ's flock in Bridgeport (Connecticut) and New York, his distinguished service to the Apostolic See, and his expert contribution to the revision of the church's law in the years following the Second Vatican Council."

A former auxiliary bishop of New York, then-Bishop Egan was named to head the Diocese of Bridgeport in 1988 and was appointed as archbishop of New York in 2000. He was named a cardinal in 2001.

In the planning stages for Pope Benedict XVI's 2008 visit, Cardinal Egan put a constant focus on the spiritual side of the visit, organizers said at the time. He wanted the visit to be



CNS Photo/Gregoray A. Shemitz

**CARDINAL EDWARD M.
EGAN**

spiritually enriching for as many people as possible, and not just Catholics.

During his tenure as head of the New York Archdiocese, Cardinal Egan also had to tackle a budget shortfall and changing demographics. That led to parish realignment decisions in 2007, 10 parishes closed, another 11 merged with other parishes, and five new parishes were established. A year earlier nine schools had to close.

In retirement, Cardinal Egan assisted in the works of the New York Archdiocese. For the Vatican, he served on the Council of Cardinals for the Study of the Organizational and Economic Problems of the Holy See for five years and participated in the 2005 conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI.



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Young People At Junior High Youth Day, Reminded True Joy Comes From Jesus Christ



SELFIE CENTRAL: Besides posing for traditional photos with individuals and parish groups, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak also joined in many “selfies” with students at Junior High Youth Day. He is seen here with Michael Gatmaitan (left) and Brent Zierer, members of Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown.

**Photos And Text
By Tony DeGol**

Life can be challenging. So during those trials, how does one not lose sight of the joy that comes only from God?

“Using the letters of the word ‘joy,’ remember Jesus and Others before Yourself,” an animated Will Smith advised the group of students on hand for the annual Junior High Youth Day. “It is very important that we are positive at all times. Happiness is fleeting, but true joy comes from Jesus Christ.”

This year’s theme for Junior High Youth Day, sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, was “Rejoice in the Lord Always.”

It is a message that is important for young people who face problems that may seem small to adults, but can sometimes test students’ faith.

“We need to learn that even when times are difficult, we need to rejoice in the Lord because He is there for us no matter what,” said Francine Swope, JHYD organizer and the Diocesan director of Youth Ministry, Religious Education, and Sacramental Preparation. “Those are the times we need Him the most, and by rejoicing in what we have and being appreciative of all those little things, that’s what will bring us closer to Him.”

About 260 students from grades six, seven, and eight turned out for the event held Sunday, March 15 at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg.

Besides keynote addresses by Smith, a nationally recognized speaker and musician from the Diocese of Greensburg, the day included an opportunity for Reconciliation and Mass with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak.

In his homily, the Bishop told the story of an 11 year old boy who battled a form of bone cancer. Despite chemotherapy and radiation, the cancer spread, and the boy lost part of his leg.

Although he was initially angry, Kevin eventually realized the good he experienced from doctors and nurses, his parents and siblings, his friends and classmates.

“Kevin finally understood that even when we have bad experiences, it doesn’t mean that God stops loving us; it doesn’t mean that God doesn’t care; and it doesn’t mean that we are being punished,” Bishop Mark said. “Kevin finally understood that even when life is hard, you and I can rejoice in the Lord always.”

Calling the young people present at JHYD “the Church,” the Bishop saluted them for the good things they do.

(Continued On Page 12.)

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