



The Catholic Register

Official Publication Of
The Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown

Volume LXXXIX, No. 24 Published Bi - Weekly (USPS 094 - 280)

www.dioceseaj.org April 6, 2015

Christ the Lord
is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men
and angels say,
Alleluia!
Raise your joys
and triumphs high,
Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns,
and earth, reply,
Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious
King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now
thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our
souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O
grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work
is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the
battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids
His rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened
paradise, Alleluia!



Soar we now where
Christ hath led,
Alleluia!
Foll'wing our exalted
Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him,
like Him we rise,
Alleluia!
Ours the cross,
the grave, the skies,
Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth
and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both
be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet
triumphant now,
Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection,
thou, Alleluia!

King of glory,
Soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this,
Alleluia!
Thee to know,
Thy pow'r to prove,
Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus
to love, Alleluia!

RISEN CHRIST: "The Resurrection of Christ" is portrayed in a painting by French artist Noel Coypel.

CNS/Bridgeman Art Library

-- Charles Wesley
1739



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Altoona, will celebrate Confirmation on Wednesday, April 8. Taking part will be (left to right) First row: Allison Bare, Alyson Stevens, Marina Scipioni, Sophia Vellone, Jacqueline Servello, Antoinette DelGrosso. Second row: Tyler McCloskey, Madison Bowser, Marina Shover, Jenna Gonsman, Sierra Stevens, Kaisha Singer, Domenic Ciambotti. Third row: Third Order Regular Franciscan Fathers Terrence Smith (parochial vicar) and Frank Scornaienchi (pastor), Michelle Johnston (catechist) and Dona Baughman (director of religious education).

Adult Formation

'Brewing The Faith'

Boalsburg: Sometimes it's easier to ask someone out for a drink, than it is to come to church. "Brewing the Faith" is for all people that are 40 years of age and above, and want to learn more about the Catholic faith. The events will be held at the Mountain View Club, 100 Elks Club Road, on Wednesdays

from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.. Dates, speakers and topics are as follows:

April 8: Father Neil R. Dadey, pastor, Our Lady of Victory Parish, State College: "The Role of the Priesthood Today"

April 15: Father Joseph T. Orr, pastor, Holy Spirit Parish, Lock Haven: "Annulments"

April 22: Deacon Dave Lapinski, Our Lady of Victory Parish, State College

April 29: Father George

Jakopac, pastor, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Bellefonte: "Catholic Morality"

These sessions are designed to promote fellowship, and insight on the faith for practicing and non - practicing Catholics, and those with an interest in the faith. For information call Ron and Denise Quinn at (814) 235 - 1361.

Parishes

Noted Choir To Sing

Patton: The Schola Cantorum Franciscana will sing two Masses at Queen of Peace Church, 907 6th Avenue, Sun-



NOVENA: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak was one of the guest homilists at the Infant of Prague Novena held at Saint Andrew Parish in Johnstown, in March. The Novena begins annually on the Third Sunday of Lent, which this year was March 8.

day, April 26. Music at the 9:00 a.m. (Ordinary Form) and 11:00 a.m. (Extraordinary Form) Masses will include Gregorian Chant and polyphony by French composers of the 16th, 19th and 20th centuries. The 11:00 a.m. Mass will feature Louis Vierne's monumental "Solemn Mass in C# Minor."

The Schola Cantorum Franciscana, under the direction of Professor Nicholas Will, is an elite 30 - voice liturgical choir comprised of students of Franciscan University of Steubenville as well as members of

the wider community. As an integral part of the university's Sacred Music Program, the Schola performs the best of the Church's musical patrimony, primarily within its intended liturgical context.

While the group's repertoire spans the breadth of the Catholic - Christian musical tradition, its specialization lies in music of the Renaissance and Baroque periods, and the 20th century.

(Continued On Page 3.)

Second Sunday of Easter

Celebration of Feast of the Divine Mercy



Sunday, April 12, 2015
2:30 p.m. - Adoration
3:00 p.m. - Divine Mercy Chaplet will be said.

There will be a special prayer for the **Feast of the Divine Mercy** at the Basilica of Saint Michael

This service will include the recitation of the Chaplet of Mercy, the Litany of Mercy and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Literature of the Devotion to Divine Mercy will be available. All are welcome.



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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



CURSILLO: Men's Cursillo #114 was held March 5 - 8, and Women's Cursillo #115 was held March 12 - 15 at Mount Saint Ann, Ebensburg. Taking part in the Men's weekend were (above, left to right) First row: Dave Risbon, Bob Morder, Greg Solomon, Rick Messina, Deacon Scott Little (spiritual advisor), Dan Donahue, Roy Holtz. Second row: Denny Previte (rector), Alex Svirsko, Dave Smith, John Messina, Chris Ringkamp, Chuck Ledney, David Lee, Paul Smith, Nick Banda, Mike Wagner, Bob Spargo, Tom Price, Stephen Quinn, Jason Morse (assistant rector), Father Larry Lacovic (spiritual director), Ron Stellabotte and Ray Becker. Participating in the Women's weekend were (below, left to right) First row: Gerri Isban, Elaine Pellas, Ann Shields, Millie Trotz, Gloria Rosenbaum, Kathleen Murnin, Mary Ann Grove. Second row: Deacon Scott Little (spiritual advisor), Lori Hogan (rector in training), Sandy Owens, Tasha Marasco, Susan Ketchum, Sue Smith, Paula Ledney, Anne Musser, Linda McKeon, Lisa Julian, Karen Bishop (Head Martha), Debbie Dougherty (musician). Third row: Mercedes Smith, Tammy Hollen, T. Morse, Elsie James, Kim Kline, Mary Molnar, Mary Ann Zanghi, Roseann Bennett (rector), Barb Bundy (assistant rector) and Angela Keslar. Father Alan Thomas (not pictured) was the spiritual director. Cursillo weekends are held in the Spring and Fall, provided that enough people are registered to take part. For further information contact Tom Price at (814) 674 - 5060 or Mercedes Smith (814) 266 - 4482.



(Continued From Page 2.)

Mission Trip

The Schola sings for a monthly Missa Cantata (Extraordinary Form) at Franciscan University's Christ the King Chapel, as well as numerous concerts and liturgies each semester both on campus and throughout the tri-state region.

Johnstown: Resurrection Parish is organizing a mission trip to Webster Springs, West Virginia, July 29 - August 2.

Webster Springs is a small town in the Appalachian Mountains area that has been hard hit

with long term poverty. The average household income in the town is less than 22,000 per year with over 60% of the town living below poverty level.

(Continued On Page 6.)



SAINT JOHN GUALBERT: Saint John Gualbert Cathedral Parish, Johnstown, will celebrate Confirmation on Thursday, April 9. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Father James Crookston (rector), Ali Smith, Abby Yanko. Second row: James Adamy, Gavin Homan and Brandon Wehner. Not pictured is Olivia Oravec.

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<p>Published Bi - weekly at 925 South Logan Boulevard Hollidaysburg PA 16648</p> <p>Phone (814) 695 - 7563 FAX (814) 695 - 7517</p>		

Point Of View

With her steps hastening and her breath quickening she ran with wild abandon to tell her dearest friends what she saw or more importantly who she met. She had to tell them first for surely without a doubt they would believe her. As her heart raced to the point she felt it would burst from her chest, she pushed opened the door. Before she could share with them the most wonderful news of all, her eyes locked with theirs and she began to weep in disbelief. There in front of her very eyes crouched her dearest friends hiding in fear, trembling uncontrollably from fright, desperate beyond despair. "No, No, No," she yelled, pulling them to their feet. "Get up our Lord is not dead! He is surely alive. Come and See!" she beckoned them, as her excitement and persistence permeated through the thick air. Only a few arose to go with her, with the others choosing to stay behind finding security in their hiding place. No matter how hard she begged her friends who chose to stay behind they would not listen. As she left the house with a much slower pace than she had come, she heard the mumbblings of a friend's words, "You are crazy from grief!" "You probably saw a ghost and if you knew any better you would come in here with us. Don't you realize the very ones who killed Him will be searching for us next?" Sickened with disbelief, she didn't look back but now ran harder and harder than before because she knew her story needed to be told.



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich
She Ran!

Mary Magdalene, the first person Jesus came to after His resurrection, had a story to tell and she was not going to let anyone stop her until she shouted this wonderful news to the entire world! She saw the Lord and she was absolutely sure it was Him. How was she so sure it was Jesus? Nobody could forget that gentle face, those kind eyes and the heart full of love. Mary knew Jesus deeply and personally because He was the only one in the world that actually took the time to know and love her unconditionally. It was that very same familiar love which beckoned her to come to the garden and find Him alive.

So was Mary an extra special friend of Jesus? Did she mean more to him than the others? Was she a little bit holier than the rest of them? The answers to these questions are a great big resounding, "No, No and No!" Mary wasn't anything special; in God's eyes, everyone is the same. However, Mary was exceptional in one way. Mary was different from the others because she wasn't hiding that morning she saw Him. Mary didn't let the past, the painful memories paralyze her. She didn't let the anxiety and fear of the future overcome her. Yes,

before she saw Him her heart was broken wide open with despair but she did not let her pain stop her from going out to the garden that morning to search for Him. Mary although, filled with pain and grief, stepped out in faith searching for the Lord and because her courage and willingness to go out despite her heartache, she found Jesus Alive!

So many times in our lives we are faced with a decision to stay hiding in our pasts, our pain, anxiety, doubt and fears, wandering if God is going to ever make His debut in our life. Or we could make a conscious choice, regardless how we feel, to run, run as fast as we can to go out and meet the Risen Christ. Jesus didn't endure the pain and suffering of Good Friday to leave us stuck and paralyzed. No! Jesus took all of our pain and sorrow to the cross so we can be free to live the very life He died to give us. God is calling us to come out of hiding and run to meet Him. So get up and put on your running shoes, for we Christians have Good News to share! In fact, it is the most wonderful news the world could ever hear. God is not dead! He is surely alive and so should we be. Happy Easter! Blessings!



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
Risking It All At Easter

Easter is a most risky holy day.

You don't believe me? Then you try dressing up in long, flowing vestments, and going out into the night on a windy street corner and try to light a fire without becoming a burnt offering. Or go processing up and down a linoleum – covered aisle with a bucket of Holy Water, merrily splashing and sprinkling it up and down, all the while trying to keep your footing without slipping and sliding in the little puddles that form on the floor. Every Easter I find myself thinking of all the warnings my mother issued when I was a kid: "Don't play with fire!" "Don't play in the water!" - - and there I go again, with fire and water being two of the most important elements of the long Easter Vigil.

Yes, Easter is a most risky holy day.

But that risk goes far deeper than the comic risks of battling to keep your vestments out of the flames or avoiding a fall in the middle of the aisle. The greatest risk of Easter is the risk that you will be transformed by the sheer beauty and wonder of it all, and will really and truly rise to new life with Jesus! There is power in Easter - - the power of conversion, the challenge of leaving aside the old and embracing the new. And therein lies the risk. Whatever is old and tried and true is comforting, comfortable, familiar. Whatever is new is risk writ large. Each step we take on Easter is a step into the unknown, a going forth to a place where we haven't ventured before. Easter is a stepping out of the old life of the empty tomb and into the new life of a blossoming garden. And no matter how often we have said that we want to go into the garden, we hanker for the empty tomb. We don't know how we might be transformed by the Easter experience. Will we even know ourselves on the other side?

Thank God we do not make this journey alone! At Easter we have set before us the example of men and women, boys and girls coming into the full Communion of our Church. They have assessed the risk and found it to be worthwhile. As they come to us full of hope for our support they do not realize yet how much their example supports us! We walk side – by – side at Easter with these new brothers and sisters in the faith.

And at Easter we walk side – by – side with all those who have been sharing the journey with us for many years long past. Familiar faces surround us on all sides as we take up our candles and spread the light from one to another. In her epic novel **In This House Of Brede**, Rumer Godden wrote of "a vision of the flame running from one church to another throughout Christendom, far around the world: new light, new joy, fresh hope." We are all in this together!

Ah! And there's the biggest risk of them all - - daring to risk to believe that we have a reason for joy, a reason for hope and that we find that reason in our communion with Jesus and with each other. But if you look at the faces all around you, illuminated by candlelight, how can you possibly doubt that there is a real reason to be joyful, a real reason to be hopeful? Your brothers and sisters have seen Jesus in the new light. Their presence at your side assures you that the risk is far outweighed by what is gained.

New light - - new joy - - fresh hope. New life with Jesus. More than worth the risk.

I recently asked a young woman if she had any ideas for an Easter message. She is currently in graduate school. Her response was basically, "I can't think about Easter because I have some really difficult work to do before this semester ends." The word "stress" was also mentioned in that exchange. I think you get the picture.

When is the best time, and what are the best circumstances for thinking about Easter? One internet blog offers three suggestions for a stress-free Easter celebration: plan ahead; make it about family and friends; and make your celebration fun!

There was no mention of the Easter bunny in these recommended tips, but neither was there any mention of our Risen Savior!

So what about planning ahead? The internet blog that recommends planning ahead posted this suggestion on March 20th, so I am not sure that the author's idea of just a couple of weeks really means planning ahead.

And what about focusing on family and friends, and making Easter fun, as suggested by the internet blogger?

Planning ahead for Easter for Christians is the focus of the 40 day journey of Lent. And the Gospel teaches us that in order for us to prepare for the joyful (i.e., "fun") celebration of Easter with family and friends, we need to acknowledge first the Cross of Jesus Christ through which he has saved us from the destructive and dehumanizing power of sin and death.

I cannot argue with a young woman who experiences the stress of graduate school. I have been through that experience. Everyone experiences stress in our daily living. It is an experience of the limits of our human nature to deal with a multitude of activities, challenges, and sometimes even disasters.

But the mystery of the Cross (in the Catholic tradition we often speak of the Way of the Cross) is that the suffering and death of Jesus is redemptive. It teaches us how we are to take up our crosses, whether big or small.

But it is more than that. It is God himself in the person of Jesus Christ, who took on the weight of all sin for all time so that we could be freed from the burden of the effect of sin in our lives now, and so that we could be prepared for the sharing of the graces of God's gift of salvation that we ought to celebrate in joy with family and friends.

That brings us to the core of our Easter celebration. We believe that Christ has died, and we believe that he is risen! And we believe that we who follow Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, are to have eternal life and one day be raised from the dead.

But there is no joy, no fun, in the celebration of Easter, unless we have first prepared. Don't be afraid if you must still make some last minute preparation. It can be as simple as a prayer of thanks to God for the gift of his only begotten Son Jesus Christ, who suffered and died on the Cross for us. And it can be as simple as asking Jesus to continue to be your companion on the journey of daily taking up your cross and walking toward him and with him because he really is the way, and the truth, and the life.

It is the Cross of Jesus which is our hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). Easter and the feast of his Resurrection is a feast of glory; one that is certainly worth sharing with family and friends. I pray that you will do that in your homes as you gather at table for food and fun!

And I invite and urge you to celebrate it first at the Lord's table, the altar at which we always recall his passion, death, and resurrection. And if the stresses of life and a lack of planning catch you unprepared for such a celebration, it's not too late. God is always kind, and merciful, and patient; very patient. Come to the Lord Jesus any time; in sadness, stress, joy, and thanksgiving.

Christ has died, and Christ has Risen! Alleluia! As he invites you to come to him, he awaits your invitation to join you in your Easter celebration whether you are ready or not.

A Blessed Easter to All! Share the good news with your family and friends!

+ Mark L. Bartchak



In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 3.)

The mission trip will consist of doing home repairs, building ramps, replacing roofs and other needed projects.

The trip is open to anyone ages 15 - years or older. 14 - year olds may take part in the trip if a parent accompanies them. The trip is absolutely free to participate, however all team members will be asked to help in fund raising efforts to help pay for construction material, travel and meals.

For more information please call Terry or Annette Deitz at (814) 255 - 6757 or (814) 242 - 4244. Adult registration deadline is April 15.

Adults 18 and older must complete the Diocesan Protecting Gods Children certification and also required back ground checks) High School student registrations (under 18 - years - of - age) must be received by June 15 to be able to participate.

Prayer

Radio Ministry Holy Hour

Bellefonte: WJVM - FM 90.3 is celebrating its first an-

niversary as the Catholic radio voice of Central Pennsylvania. The station has been proclaiming the truths of the Catholic faith and the power of Christ's mercy to more than 100,000 residents of the diocese since April 3, 2014.

Voice of Divine Mercy, the non - profit organization that manages and operates the station, established WJVM - FM to reach the communities of the Diocese's Northern Deanery: Lock Haven, Bellefonte, Pleasant Gap, Centre Hall, State College and Tyrone. As the local affiliate of WAOB® in Latrobe, WJVM's offerings include prayers, devotions, scriptural reflections, original programs, and the unthinkable, moments of silence. With traditional commercial breaks replaced by chant and sacred music, some listeners have likened the station to a mini - monastery in their home or car!

The radio apostolate will celebrate its feast day, Divine Mercy Sunday, on April 12. A special Holy Hour will take place at Saint John the Evangelist Church, Bellefonte, at 3:00 p.m. and will include the Divine Mercy Chaplet and a homily by Benedictine Father Boniface



READERS: Five seminarians at Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, were instituted to the Ministry of Reader on Monday, March 23 by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop of Altoona - Johnstown. Pictured are First row: (left to right) Andrew Boyd, and Benedictine Brothers Lawrence Machia, Joachim Morgan, Martinho Zevallos - Chavez and Brother Dominic Leo. Second row: Bishop Roger Foys, Bishop of Covington KY, who concelebrated the Mass; Bishop Mark, who was the main celebrant and homilist; Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, Saint Vincent Archabbey, chancellor; and Father Timothy Whalen, rector of Saint Vincent Seminary.

Hicks, a monk of Saint Vincent Archabbey who serves as the programming director and on - air host for WAOB®. There will also be an opportunity to receive the Lord's mercy and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Penance at 4:00 p.m.

"Catholics striving to live the Gospel each day, in ordinary ways, need to be reminded of the presence of God's mercy in their lives," said Sheryl Balkey, a member of Voice of Divine Mercy. "Through WJVM's programming, we hope to encourage our neighbors to open their hearts to the healing power of that mercy and to encourage our fellow Catholics to grow in their faith."

Balkey also noted that radio is a valuable evangelization tool that still manages to reach people where they are, especially when they are commuting or traveling.

"To hear a Gospel proclamation or a prayerful reflection during these times of everyday busyness is a wonderful blessing," she said.

The members of Voice of Divine Mercy extend an invitation to all to experience the gift of Christ's mercy by attending the Holy Hour. To learn more about the station or the event, visit www.wjvm.org.



JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE: On Saturday, March 7, students from Saint Benedict School, Johnstown, participated in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) competition at Penn State Altoona. Participants included (left to right) First row: The School's representatives and results of Regionals are as follows: Jennifer Durica, Erika Seitz, Liam Mowery. Second row: Rachel Nagy, Julia Simendinger, Abigail Instone. Third row: Connor Coyle, Kasey Miljenovich, Tessia Robison. Not pictured: Cassidy Tercek. Award winners included: 1st Award - Connor Coyle, Jennifer Durica, Rachel Nagy, Erika Seitz, Julia Simendinger and Cassidy Tercek; 2nd Award - Abby Instone, Kasey Miljenovich, and Tessia Robison; 3rd Award - Liam Mowery. Rachel Nagy was also the recipient of the Mickey Maholtz Physics Award. The 1st Award winners will continue to State competition at Penn State Main Campus in May.

Divine Mercy Retreat

Loretto: The Campus Ministry department at Saint Francis University is hosting a Divine Mercy Weekend retreat, Friday,

April 10 - Sunday, April 12 at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on campus.

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Roast Beef Dinner Spring Festival

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

St. Demetrius Parish.
Gallitzin
Church Hall

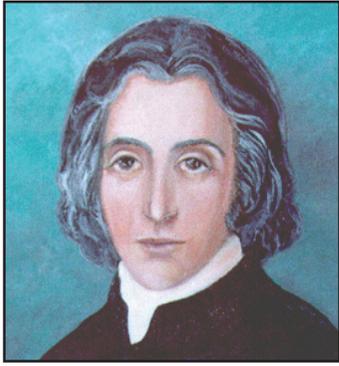


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A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840

Newly - Published Books Make Life, Work Of Gallitzin Accessible

A search for "Demetrius Gallitzin" on the popular retail site Amazon.com yields 106 titles about or references to the Prince - Priest, Servant of God Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin.

Included in the list are biographies of the Apostle of the Alleghenies by 19th century

contemporaries of the Prince including Benedictine Father Peter Henry Lemcke, and historians Orestes and Sarah Brownson.

Also included are popular titles such as **The Prince Who Gave His Gold Away** and **Prince Dmitri's Mountaineers**, by Sister Mary Fides Glass, a

Cresson native and Sister of Charity of Seton Hill, and **Mitri** by Daniel Sargent. The Glass and Sargent books made the story of the Prince - Priest familiar to young people in the 1940s and 1950s and beyond.

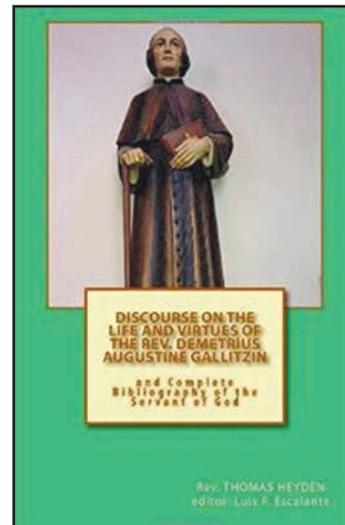
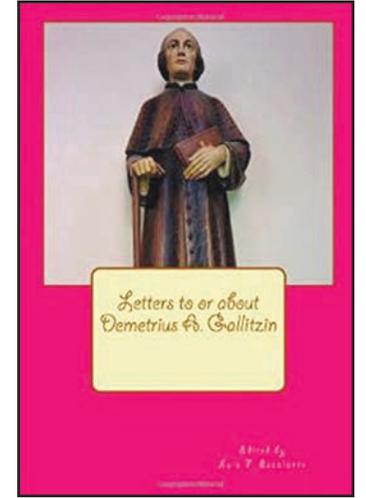
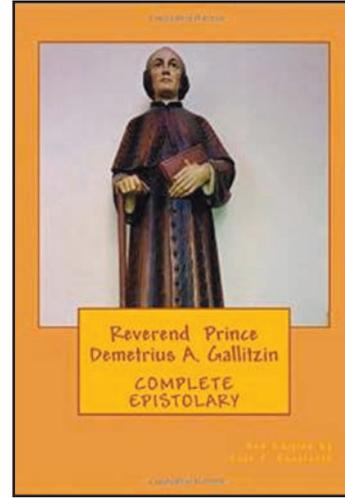
The 2001 biography of Father Gallitzin, **Apostle Of The Alleghenies** by Dr. Matthew Bunson and his mother, Margaret, is also featured on the Amazon list, as well as reprints of some of Father Gallitzin's own writings.

Since 2013, the listing of Gallitzin - related titles has been enriched by the work of Father Luis Escalante, Roman Postulator of Father Gallitzin's Cause, who has published three volumes, available in paperback editions, or for downloading to a Kindle device.

Father Escalante's works, which make the life and ministry of the the pioneer missionary accessible to a new generation of readers, includes:

- - **Demetrius A. Gallitzin: Complete Epistolary;**
- - **Letters To Or About Demetrius A. Gallitzin: From The Acts Of The Beatification Process;** and
- - **Discourse On The Life And Virtues Of The Reveremd Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin And Complete Bibliography Of The Servant Of God.**

The two volumes of letters were published on November 18, 2013 and August 4, 2014. The **Discourse** is the most - recently published of the three



"This is the first annotated edition of the oldest biography of the Servant of God the Reverend Prince Demetrius A. Gallitzin (1770-1840) and the third volume of a collection edited by the Roman Postulator of the Cause, with the purpose to make available some of the historical sources of this relevant figure of the early American Church. In addition, we have included the first complete bibliography of Prince Gallitzin, in order to promote further studies. This publication cannot be possible but for the hidden work over several decades of Frank and Betty Seymour from Loretto, who silently collected original editions, letters and any kind of documents related with the Reverend Prince."

works, appearing in print on August 27, 2014. It's author is Father Thomas Heyden, a contemporary and co - worker of Father Gallitzin.

On the Amazon website the book is described thus:

Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

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

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

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

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

+ + +

Kindly send information about favors granted to:
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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis
Mercy Needed For Justice

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Those who are corrupt, hypocritical and rigidly follow the letter of the law do not know what mercy is, and there can be no justice without mercy, Pope Francis said at a morning Mass.

"Corruption distanced them from understanding mercy, from being merciful. And the Bible tells us that the right judgment is precisely in mercy," he said at the Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae March 23.

The pope's homily looked at the day's lengthy reading from the Book of Daniel in which two judges falsely accused the pious woman, Susanna, of infidelity after she refused to give in to their lustful desires.

"They were depraved judges, they were corrupted by vice, in this case lust," the pope said, according to Vatican Radio.

The day's Gospel reading from John offered another account of leaders casting judgment, this time against a woman guilty of adultery. However, the pope said, she was accused by scribes and Pharisees whose hearts were corrupted by being too rigid in observing "the letter of the law."

"These men were not saints, they were corrupt -- corrupt because this kind of rigidity can only keep going with a double life," he said. "Those who are rigid are -- to use an adjective Jesus gave them -- hypocrites, they lead a double life," he said.

The pope said there is another passage in the Bible in which a widow turned to a judge who "did not fear God and took care of no one: he cared about nothing, he only cared about himself," he said, referring to Luke's parable of the persistent widow. This judge, he added, was "corrupted by money, by prestige."

All of the corrupted judges -- the businessman, the depraved and the rigid -- "do not know one word -- they did not know what mercy was," the pope said.

All three women -- "a saint, a sinner and one in need, allegorical figures of the church -- suffer judgment without mercy, both civil and ecclesial. And where there is no mercy, there is no justice," he said.

"When the people of God voluntarily approach to ask for pardon, to be judged, how many times, how many times, they find one of these" corrupt judges, he said.

Those who are filled with vice "are capable of trying to exploit" others, he said. Those who only think about making deals "do not give oxygen to that soul, they don't give hope," and those who rigidly adhere to the law "punish in the penitent that which they are hiding in their own soul."

All of them lack mercy, which is one of the most beautiful words found in the Gospel, Pope Francis said.

He said the day's Gospel reading (Jn 8:1-11) contained a passage "that moves me very much." The reading describes everyone gradually leaving after Jesus said only those without sin should cast a stone at the woman accused of adultery.

He said, citing Jesus' words to the woman when they find everyone has gone: "Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir." "Neither do I condemn you" -- one of the most beautiful words because it is full of mercy.



ONE MORE TIME: Four Sisters of Mercy and two lay teachers made up the faculty of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus School in Altoona during the 1965 - 1966 academic year. Pictured are (left to right) Sister Mary Giuseppe, Sandra McGregor, Sister Mary Francis DeSales (principal), Sister Mary James Robert, Sister Angelina Marie and George Terza. The school had been dedicated October 3, 1960.

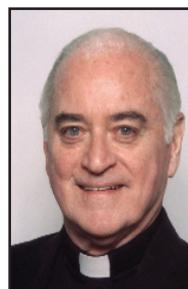
The kingdom of God is within you. We've all heard this truth, but few fully understand it. When I sign my letters, I often write, "May the Lord be your strength and your joy."

It's a way of reminding people that they can rely on the spirit within to do the heavy lifting. To protect yourself from needless worry, you have to know how to enjoy the present moment.

Think for a moment that the Lord wants you to carry your cross with courage, and he wants to banish needless worry. A holy person is one who listens to the words of Jesus and even through life's trials and tribulations strives to obey them. We all face troubles of one kind or another in life but with knowledge of God's presence we can help to surpass the challenges that fall on us. God is with us in the best and the worst moments.

Start with this simple statement: "Yes, Lord, I want to be holy." Once you say yes to the Lord, your main task is to trust him. Trust is the purest way to show your love.

As you know, the enemy of trust is doubt. Doubt can cloud



Spirituality For Today

By Father John Catoir
Moving Closer To God
In Ordinary Ways

your best intentions and weaken your spirit. It is basically a fear that you may be a fool for believing in the supernatural.

Don't be taken in by those who urge you to doubt everything unless you can prove it scientifically. Those who do that build their houses on sand and encourage others to do the same -- a clear case of the blind leading the blind.

Take responsibility for your holiness and happiness. Train your will to say, "Yes, Lord, I believe, I trust you with my whole heart." Don't live in the mental swamp of doubt and guilt because if you do, you're always going to feel miserable and unworthy.

Strive for a clean conscience. Renew your good intentions. Go to confession. Begin again and get back to holy Communion on a regular basis.

Never say, "Why do I have to go to Mass?" That's like saying, "Why do I have to thank God?"

God has given you everything: your life and your ability to love and be loved. Attending Mass is the best way to say thank you to God.

The Mass is a ritual of thanksgiving. Be grateful in all circumstances. God wants you to live gladly because of his love. Put on the will to take charge of your thoughts. The reward will be great.



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
How To Host
An Unmarried Couple

Q. My Catholic nephew has been going with a girl for 12 years; recently they sold their individual homes and moved into a new house together. She has wanted to get married for some time, but he is not interested in marriage. They live in the northern United States, while my wife and I live in the South.

They plan to visit us soon and expect to stay in our home. I am concerned that they will want to sleep in the same bed and am wondering whether I would be doing something wrong if I allowed it. Can I consider that they are actually already married by common law? (Tabb, Virginia)

A. Why not take a stand? Why not be the faithful disciple Christ calls you to be, even if it takes some courage (which Jesus said that it would)? Have an honest "heart-to heart" with your nephew. Tell him that you look forward to seeing him and his girlfriend but that to host them as a married couple, sharing a bedroom, would create for

you a moral dilemma.

Explain to him that you are committed to the Catholic view of marriage as a public and lifelong commitment and that you would feel guilty for supporting an arrangement you consider to be morally wrong.

Who knows? He might say, "I can understand that, and thanks for being honest. Do you have two bedrooms we can use?" Your conversation might even prompt him to reconsider their relationship and think about getting married. Or, on the other hand, he may say, "Forget it then!" and be angry at you for a long, long time. In any case, his reaction is beyond your control. Your only responsibility is to be faithful to your principles, and you can take comfort in having done that.

As to whether they might already be married by common law, probably not. Common-law marriage -- which allows persons who live together as man and wife for a sufficient time, with no formal religious or civil

ceremony but with the intent of having a permanent and exclusive relationship, to be granted the legal rights of married couples -- is recognized in only nine states in the U.S. and the District of Columbia.

Besides, it's irrelevant in the context of your question since the church requires that, for a Catholic, marital consent be exchanged formally before a priest or deacon and two witnesses (or, with the proper dispensations, before another official authorized by the state.)

Q. As a cradle Catholic (and a survivor of 12 years of Catholic schools), I am fairly rigid -- not only in my Catholic beliefs but also in the etiquette of the Mass. So I was quite shocked last Sunday when our pastor told the congregation at the start of the 5 p.m. Mass that he would be shortening the Mass so that he could make the 6:30 p.m. performance of the play "Wicked" at a downtown theater.

He began the Mass two or three minutes early, and his homily was less than five minutes. Also, he did not recite the Nicene Creed but instead recited a shorter prayer and then jumped right into the petitions. I feel sort of cheated and would like to know whether this is acceptable. Does it really count as a Sunday Mass when we did not recite the profession of faith? (Atlanta)

A. Not to worry. It did "count" as a Sunday Mass. But just a couple of observations: It's never a good idea to start a Sunday Mass early. Many people seem programmed to arrive precisely at the hour scheduled (and some, a few minutes later).

Next, the length of the homily is not regulated by law. There's a lot to be said for a five-minute talk -- so long as it relates the Scripture to the daily life of the worshippers.

As for the creed, the Apostles' Creed is specified as an acceptable alternative to the Nicene Creed.

And, finally, the phrase "too much information" comes to mind. Did the congregation really need to know that the priest was rushing downtown to make the opening curtain?



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
A Story Of Simple,
Nonjudgemental Love

It was a chilly March night, but as we gathered around the fire pit on the patio, it seemed that winter's back had been broken and we were on the cusp of spring.

Our three children, and our new granddaughter, were home for a long weekend, and we were observing our family tradition of sipping a libation under the moonlight even if it meant bundling up against the Midwest's persistent north wind.

We and our kids live in four different time zones, so we must observe traditions when we can. There's nothing like the warmth of fire in the darkness to bring out laughter and good conversation.

The next day, with my guests asleep upstairs, I was struck that the day's Lectionary reading was the story of the prodigal son. It's a favorite of mine, filled with valuable lessons about parenting and family and forgiveness. The prodigal's father is one of Jesus' most descriptive portrayals of God, and how can we not marvel at such a description as we gasp at the idea of such a God?

If you haven't spent time with the story of the prodigal son lately, I suggest it would be worthwhile (see Luke 15:11-32).

The father rejoices even as he sees his son in the distance, the son who has done everything we parents would be appalled at. He has squandered his share of the family wealth in a life of debauchery. He has resorted to tending pigs -- unclean in his tradition -- and even coveting their food. How does the father feel when he sees this disappointing offspring far off on the horizon?

He feels unbridled joy and forgiveness.

Often, when I read this story, I picture myself as the son, stumbling home starving, embarrassed and well aware of my sinful stupidity. Sometimes, I identify with the older brother. I've been so faithful, I've stayed the course. Why not kill the fatted calf for me and not this spoiled brat of a brother?

But anyone who has ever been a parent can also identify with the prodigal's father. Parenting teaches you a lot about love. Jesus uses the father to say: This is how God loves you, and this is how you should love.

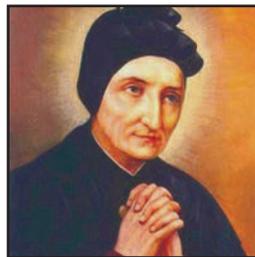
My kids are all adults now. I love them dearly, but like any parent, I've occasionally disagreed with a lifestyle choice or been tempted to offer direction where none was appropriate. How many of us have scars on our tongues from the times we've refrained from ill-timed nagging or disapproving comments or the unhelpful "I told you so"?

As I sat at morning prayer and thought about the prodigal's family relationships, my eyes drifted out the window to the cold fire pit and the empty patio. I thought of how proud I am of the love that my children have for one another. I appreciated how they work to arrange their schedules so that they can visit at the same time. They love to be together. They keep in touch. They extend this loving attitude to extended family and to large networks of friends.

I can't imagine any one of them as the older brother. Instead, I imagine them running down the road to welcome a sibling home, ring and sandals in hand, lots faster than I would. Like the father, no questions asked.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola reminds us to find God in all things. Sometimes, in this weary world, that's tough to do. But I realized God had been in our circle that night around the fire pit, and I felt a lot of gratitude for simple, nonjudgmental love.

Magdalen Canossa
 1774-1835
 Feast - April 10



This foundress, born to a noble family in Verona, Italy, lost her father at age five and was abandoned by her mother when she remarried. Choosing religious life over an advantageous marriage, Magdalen first joined the Carmelites, but left when she saw that their strict rules of enclosure would prohibit her charitable works. She began a new community, the Canossian Daughters of Charity, in 1799 by bringing two poor girls into her own home. The institute spread throughout Italy, and Magdalen helped found an order of priests and a third order for laypeople. Canossians minister today in Italy, Latin America and the Philippines. Magdalen, who was canonized in 1988, famously said, "Those who love are never tired, since love knows no burden."

Genocide Survivor Shares Message Of Forgiveness

Photos And Text
By Bruce A. Tomaselli

Human beings can reach the depths of depravity with startling speed.

In 91 days in 1994, the Hutu tribe in Rwanda massacred over 1 million Tutsis.

Home to home the Hutus, consumed by evil and hatred, travelled systematically hacking and shooting their friends and neighbors to death. They were hungry for the power controlling their country would give them.

Immaculee Ilibagiza, a Tutsi and Catholic, was caught up in the genocide. Her story is not only one of a miraculous survival, but one of a tremendous faith that has allowed her to forgive the very men that murdered nearly all of her immediate family, aunts and uncles.



PRAYERFUL MEETING: Immaculee Ilibagiza gives Kiera Chirdon of Dysart a Rosary of the Seven Sorrows and a prayer book following Ilibagiza's appearance on March 19 at Saint Francis University in Loretto. Chirdon, 13, is a member of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish in Altoona. Ilibagiza told the story of her escape from the genocide perpetrated by the Hutu tribe on the Tutsi Tribe during the civil war in Rwanda in 1994.

Ilibagiza presented her story to a packed JFK Student Center on Thursday, March 19 on the campus of Saint Francis University in Loretto. Her visit was sponsored by the Diocesan Commission for Life and Justice.

Articulate, genuine, and well educated, Ilibagiza is world renowned as a Catholic speaker of faith, hope and forgiveness. She recounts the story of those dark days in her autobiography, **Left To Tell**.

In it she recalls the 91 days she lived, along with seven other women, hidden in a 3' x 4' bathroom. The women subsisted on insects and an occasional meal of beans. "I hid in the bathroom for 91 days, she said, "but it was in there that I found my true self." Ilibagiza lost 40 pounds and could see every bone in her body.

With axes, machetes, and clubs with nails, the Hutu Tribe killed three out of four persons of the Tutsi Tribe.

The genocide was the result of anger that simmered in the stomachs of the Hutu Tribe, who considered the Tutsis the elite. They felt the Tutsis were more educated and had better living conditions.

The Hutus' rage was fueled by their leaders who promised them huge tracts of land and banana plantations if they killed. The killing began when the plane of the Tutsi president was shot down. Immediate chaos ensued.

"I was away at school completing my master's degree and decided to come home for the Easter holy days," recalled Immaculee. "At 6:00 a.m. on a Wednesday morning my brother came into my room with the

news that the president was dead. I thought, my God, they're going to kill us all." By the time it was all over, she learned that her mother and father, and two brothers had been murdered. Another was away at school and escaped execution.

But, those 91 days in hiding led Immaculee to the depths of her feelings, where she discovered a deep, intimate faith in God, and the healing power of forgiveness amidst the most dire circumstances in her young life.

Immaculee and the other women were saved by a Hutu minister, a friend of her father. He gave them sanctuary in that bathroom even though he would certainly be killed for harboring members of the enemy Tutsi tribe had they been found.

By her own admission Immaculee's Catholic faith wasn't strong, but she found herself

begging God to free her from the misery.

At one point the marauding murderers entered the house where the women were hiding and began systematically searching for them room by room. "We were so scared they would find us and I thought it was all over. The handle to the bathroom door was slightly turned, but they never entered," she said.

"Up until then I had my doubts about God. But, God heard me in that bathroom," she laughed. "I was shocked. He was the only friend I had, God. I promised Him at that moment I would never lose my faith again. I felt this was a sign and my time had come to believe."

(Continued On Page 11.)



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WELCOME: Immaculee Ilibagiza received a warm welcome to the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown from Bishop Mark L. Barchak, and (at right) from Sister Vivian Nchuaaji (left) and Sister Delphine Apinjoh (right), Sisters of Saint Ann from the central African nation of Cameroon, ministering with their Sisters at Mount Saint Ann in Ebensburg.

(Continued From Page 10.)

Ilibagiza had plenty of time to pray and to search her heart. "All I had was a rosary, which I prayed 27 times each day," she said. "After reciting it a few times I found myself in a place of peace, away from all of those things that were poisoning my life." She has a passion for the power of the rosary.

She prays the Seven Sorrows Rosary and has a great belief in its power.

But, Ilibagiza came to a crossroad as she recited the Lord's Prayer. "Every time I repeated 'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us,' I felt I was lying to God.

"I didn't mean it and I didn't want to forgive," she remembers of the anger and hate that welled up inside her for all of the atrocities that had been committed on her people. "I began to skip that part of the prayer," she laughed.

But, she then came to a realization, "The Lord's Prayer is not man-made. I was so confused, but for the first time in my life I surrendered to Him. I prayed 'I am defeated God, please help me. How do I forgive, and how do I mean it?'"

Remembering the words of Jesus Christ on the Cross, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do," Immaculee knew she could only do one thing: forgive her Hutu neighbors who murdered her family. "Like the men who nailed Jesus to the cross, I realized the Hutus didn't know what they were doing. They lacked love and they hungered for power."

The depths of her forgiveness was boundless. A year after the murdering ended, Ilibagiza was invited to a local prison to approach the man who had murdered most of her family.

"I cried as I approached him. I reached out to him, and by God's grace I was able to forgive him." She even posed for a picture with him. The head of the

jail was astonished and didn't understand.

"I wanted revenge, but I realized that would only prolong the hatred. I pray that the same grace that touched my heart would touch you so that you will grow in your faith and forgiveness."

Immaculee moved to the United States in 1998, and wrote her best-selling book. She now

works for the United Nations and travels the world spreading faith, forgiveness and love.

All of the proceeds from her books go directly to a house she and her brother have built as a place of prayer and healing. It is offered to Our Lady and dedicated to the memory of their family. It is built on the very ground where the family home once stood.

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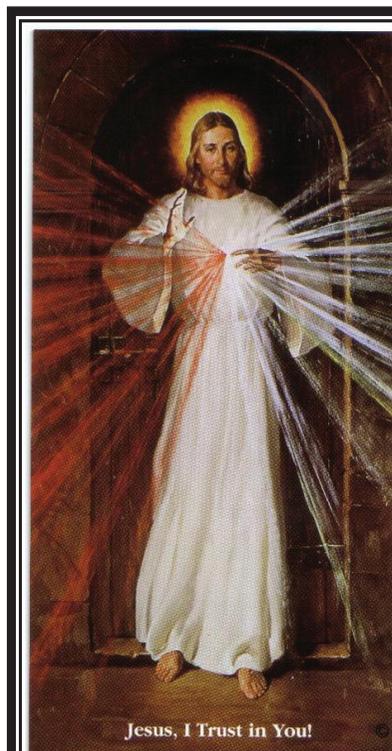
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Second Sunday of Easter

celebration of the

Feast of Divine Mercy

Sunday, April 12, at 2 p.m.

Saint Catherine of Siena, Duncansville

Guest presider and homilist:

Rev. Anthony Petracca

The service will include: a talk on Divine Mercy, the recitation of the Chaplet of Mercy and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

A video on Devotion to the Divine Mercy and the life of Saint Maria Faustina will be shown at 12:30 p.m.

All are welcome!

Literature on the Devotion to the Divine Mercy and Novena booklets will be available!

Chrism Mass

(Continued From Page 16.)

Bishop Mark drew upon the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who before his conversion would give alms to lepers, but was loathe to touch them.

After he came to know the Lord, Francis spent time in a home for lepers, and there learned, through daily contact with them that “to see and touch lepers was something sweet, not bitter,” said Bishop Mark.

“Fluids from the wounds of the lepers became the ointment of anointing to the Saint,” the Bishop stated.

There is a sweetness in ministering to others, Bishop Mark said, and “that sweetness comes from the Holy Spirit through the people that we serve.”

He urged the priests present to renew their promises of service to look into their hearts and to see whether or not they



Photo By Bruce A. Tomaselli

RECEIVES OILS: Lois Duncan of Sacred Heart Parish, Altoona, receives her parish’s oils from Father Andrew Stanko, dean of the Allegheny Deanery.

did not find that to be so. The Bishop reminded the priests that their renewal of commitment “is not just a formality like reciting the Pledge of Allegiance,”

but a challenge to go deep into that part of oneself where the demands of Christ’s call to ministry are made known to each priest’s soul.



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

Communion Distribution And Purification

The chalice has not been offered to the faithful during this past flu season nor was there the shaking of hands at the Sign of Peace. On Holy Thursday, April 2, at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, the distribution of Holy Communion will be under both kinds. And all will return to the practice of shaking hands at the Sign of Peace.

The option to receive from the chalice is offered to all at Mass; however, common sense and good judgment determine if one drinks from the chalice. Whenever anyone has a cold, cough or sore throat, one should not receive the Precious Blood from the chalice.

As the Diocese returns to offering the chalice to the faithful at Mass, here is a review of the Church’s directives in the third edition of the Roman Missal. After the priest and deacon have concluded their Communion, the priest then distributes Communion to all the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, assisted by the deacon, and then hands the sacred vessels to the Extraordinary Ministers for distribution of Holy Communion (Norms for the Distribution of Holy Communion under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States of America, Number 38). The faithful (which includes Extraordinary Ministers) are not permitted to take the consecrated bread or the sacred chalice by themselves and, still less, to hand them from one to another (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Number 160).

Following the distribution of Communion, remaining Consecrated Hosts are returned to the altar where they are consumed or taken to the tabernacle; remaining Precious Blood is returned to the altar and consumed immediately (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Number 163). The purification of vessels takes place insofar as possible at the credence table (General Instruction, Number 279). The deacon always purifies at the credence table, otherwise, the priest may purify at the altar (General Instruction, Numbers 163 and 183).

The purification of vessels should be done expeditiously and reverently. These guidelines are offered by the Diocese. A small amount of water is poured into one of the vessels and then poured into each succeeding vessel, ending with the presider’s chalice. If there are multiple ciboria and chalices, once the chalices have been wiped, then the ciboria can be wiped with the purificator placing the particles of Consecrated Bread into the main chalice. The contents of the main chalice are consumed by the deacon or priest. One wipe of all vessels with a purificator should remove any particles of the Consecrated Bread or any droplets of the Precious Blood. The vessels are then ready for cleansing following Mass. While the purification of the sacred vessels is necessary, purification is never to prolong the Mass.

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In Special Holy Year, Pope Francis Wants To Share Experience Of Mercy He Had As A Teen

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis' decision to convoke a special Holy Year of Mercy has its roots in the event that led a teen-age Jorge Mario Bergoglio to the priesthood.

Pope Francis has recounted the story several times in the past two years. On one occasion early in his pontificate, he told members of Catholic lay movements about his faith journey, particularly the importance of growing up Catholic and the influence of his grandmother. Then he said:

"One day in particular, though, was very important to me: Sept. 21, 1953. I was almost 17. It was 'Students' Day,' for us the first day of spring -- for you the first day of autumn. Before going to the celebration I passed through the parish I normally attended, I found a priest that I did not know and I felt the need to go to confession. For me this was an experience of encounter: I found that someone was waiting for me. Yet I do not know what happened, I can't remember, I do not know why that particular priest was there whom I did not know, or why I felt this desire to confess, but the truth is that someone was waiting for me. He had been waiting for me for some time. After making my confession I felt something had changed. I was not the same. I had heard something like a voice, or a call. I was convinced that I should become a priest."

Over and over again, Pope Francis tells people: God is always there first, waiting for you; the sacrament of confession is an encounter with the merciful God who is always ready to forgive those who seek pardon; and recognizing how merciful God has been with you should make you merciful toward others.

The pope frequently talks about Caravaggio's painting of the "Calling of St. Matthew" -- a tax collector. And he chose

his motto from the Venerable Bede's homily on the Gospel story where Jesus sees Matthew, says "follow me," and Matthew does.

The pope's motto is "miserrando atque eligendo," which St. Bede used to describe Matthew, calling him "wretched, but chosen."

Talking about the call of Matthew, Pope Francis told young people in the Philippines in January, "That morning, when Matthew was going off to work and said goodbye to his wife, he never thought that he was going to return in a hurry, without money, to tell his wife to prepare a banquet. The banquet for the one who loved him first, who surprised him with something important, more important than all the money he had."

Irish Jesuit Father James Corkery, a professor at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University, said the pope's Jesuit training, specifically through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, built on his experience of mercy as a young man.

The first week of the exercises is about "meditating on my sins, being aware that I am a sinner and also being aware that I am beloved by God," he said. The meditation on personal sins ends with an invitation to have a "colloquy" or prayer conversation with God the father about mercy.

While the text of the Spiritual Exercises seldom uses the word "mercy," Father Corkery said the concept is clear in repeated uses of the words "gratitude," "wonder" and even "shame."

"The whole movement of the first week is to enable the person to realize they haven't been great, but they are loved -- like, amazingly loved," he said. The experience helps the person "lean back into God's mercy and kindness," accepting while knowing it is undeserved.

St. Ignatius "gets you to reflect on how you haven't been perfect and then he gets you to



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

POPE FRANCIS

"Why not accept a flood of mercy from God and then drench other people with the same -- I think that's his idea," Father Corkery said. "Don't be stingy, not with mercy."

be filled with wonder and awe that the Lord could show you all this kindness," Father Corkery said. "Ignatius has an immense sense that God did something for him and that links up with the consciousness of mercy."

Pope Francis' motto, "wretched, but chosen," shows that Pope Francis and St. Ignatius are on the same page when it comes to being overwhelmed by God's goodness and mercy, the Irish Jesuit said.

Another point in St. Ignatius' teaching and one Pope Francis often repeats, he said, is that while human beings are sinful, "we don't need to languish in that" because God has forgiven us and is calling us to move on.

At the March 13 penance service announcing the Holy Year, Pope Francis gave a homily on the Gospel story of the sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. "Thanks to Jesus," the pope said, "God threw her many sins over his

shoulders and remembers them no more. That is because this is true: when God forgives, he forgets."

The Holy Year, he said, should be a time of "joy to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God" by reaching out and offering "consolation to every man and every woman of our age."

Pope Francis, Father Corkery said, is "absolutely unbridled" in the way he speaks about mercy, including the task of all Christians "to be portals of mercy for anyone who seeks it."

"He wants no lack of gener-

osity," he said. "That's the song he's singing and he's not going to stop, as we know. That's the year he's called."

The Jesuit said the pope knows from his own experience that "you would be stuck, you would not be able to move forward, if you did not know there was mercy at your back." And for Pope Francis, moving on and reaching out are key.

"Why not accept a flood of mercy from God and then drench other people with the same -- I think that's his idea," Father Corkery said. "Don't be stingy, not with mercy."

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He is a powerful intercessor with God for all those who are seeking good health.

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

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

Please remember my intentions at the Shrine:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Intention: _____

Now Showing

'Bible' Series Admirable, But Flawed

By Christopher Heffron
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- The opportunity to watch a biblical interpretation on the big or small screen can be a mixed blessing.

It's certainly something of a novelty, given the current television culture, to see the story of Jesus' earthly life -- or its aftermath -- unfold in a mass-media format. Yet audiences are at the mercy of the directors' vision of the New Testament -- and of its leading personalities.

Franco Zeffirelli's sweeping 1977 miniseries "Jesus of Nazareth" artfully told the story of the Savior's birth, ministry, death and resurrection. But some critics at the time bemoaned its mostly lily-white roster of stars.

Director Mel Gibson's 2004 movie, "The Passion of the Christ," may have wooed audiences to the tune of \$600 million

worldwide. Yet it was met with controversy over its harsh violence and what many considered the anti-Semitic lens through which Gibson focused on the events he recounted.

For most of the following decade, there was a lull in Scripture-related offerings -- and faith-hungry television viewers felt it. Producers Mark Burnett and Roma Downey have devoted the last few years of their careers to changing that.

With their production company, LightWorkers Media, they produced 2013's "The Bible," a 10-hour History Channel miniseries watched by over 13 million viewers, according to Nielsen. "Son of God," a feature film based on footage originally shot for the miniseries, was released to theaters a year later.

Now Burnett and Downey have given us the 12-week miniseries "A.D.: The Bible Continues," premiering on NBC Easter Sunday, April 5, 9-10 p.m. EDT.

While the project will obviously be welcomed by audiences looking for faith-affirming television, the results are uneven.

"A.D." begins as Jesus (Juan Pablo Di Pace) is condemned to the cross by Pontius Pilate (scenery chaser Vincent Regan). In the immediate wake of his death, the apostles, though united in mourning, are otherwise divided, aimless and scared. Relations between Jewish leaders and Roman officials are worsening by the day -- a dynamic of mounting tension that the series captures well.

Much of the action in the first two episodes centers on Peter (Adam Levy), John (Babou Ceesay) and Simon the Zealot (Fraser Ayres) who are in hiding as they await Jesus' resurrection. Peter, struggling with doubts over his master's promised return, is also wrestling with the shame of having denied him.

In these early moments, Levy is given the creative space to paint a portrait of a man crippled by despair and exhaustion, but clinging to shards of hope -- and the actor never makes a false move. The remaining apostles -- many of them portrayed by unknown players -- realistically convey a kind of fight-or-flight panic.

Mary Magdalene (a powerful Chipo Chung) and Mary the mother of God (Greta Scacchi, who rises above her own miscasting) are unwavering in their faith in the Lord's promise. And it's that subtle push-and-pull between the believers and the doubters that generates moments of truth and discovery.

But not all of the story lines are captured quite so well. Pilate, in a total departure from the Gospel figure, isn't a morally conflicted leader trying to keep the peace with the turbulent masses. Instead he's a cartoonish, sepia-lit villain straight out of the "300" franchise.

Hampered by a lazy script, Regan, no slouch of an actor, is given little more to do in the series than oscillate between lethargy and rage. The latter is directed mostly at the high priest, Caiaphas (Richard Coyle), Jesus' primary antagonist.

Some of Pilate and Caiaphas' heated exchanges -- so



CNS Photo/Courtesy Arenas Group

A.D.: THE BIBLE CONTINUES: Juan Pablo Di Pace portrays Jesus in the 12-week miniseries "A.D.: The Bible Continues," premiering on NBC Easter Sunday, April 5, 9:00 - 10:00 p.m. EDT.

overwrought they feel as though they've been lifted from an old episode of the 1980s nighttime soap "Dynasty" -- disrupt from the central narrative. A safe haven for viewers can be found with the remaining apostles.

Jesus' initial return is handled with admirable restraint. But when he departs again at the Ascension, the darkened skies open to a light show resembling an aurora borealis on steroids.

Such overdone special effects only complicate a simple story. Jesus came to redeem, after all, not to dazzle.

Indeed, it's precisely the least garish moments that are most effective: Mary Magdalene's almost wordless reunion with the risen Lord is simply stunning; Peter's inner battles are conveyed beautifully in Levy's pained face; and Ceesay's representation of John's quiet indignation provides some of the series' most memorable scenes. In these moments, "A.D." will truly resonate with audiences.

Burnett and Downey should be commended for presenting Christian audiences with spiritually rich programming. Even so, they would be wise to apply a less-is-more approach as the series progresses. Additionally, there are a handful of intense moments -- including the Crucifixion -- that might be too graphic for younger viewers.

The series, to its credit, encourages us to consider the sheer gravity of Jesus' sacrifice -- which is a powerful tool for Lenten reflection. Similarly, as the risen Jesus appeals to his brothers to go out into the world and risk death to share the Good News, viewers are likely to feel an inner spiritual urge to apply this missionary command to the circumstances of their own lives.

Burnett and Downey's project is, in sum, an admirable -- though flawed -- glimpse into fledgling Christianity.

The miniseries continues Sundays through June 21, 9-10 p.m. EDT each night.

Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

April 12 -- On this Divine Mercy Sunday, two representatives from local Catholic radio station WJVM - the Voice of Divine Mercy - talk about their radio ministry.

April 19 -- Michaela Gresko, a member of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Loretto and student at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg, shares her thoughts after just being confirmed by Bishop Mark.

Sunday Mass Broadcast Live from the Cathedral of

the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona
10:00 a.m. WFBG Radio, 1290 AM

Sunday Mass Telecast

Live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral
Downtown Johnstown
11 a.m. - Noon WWCP - TV FOX Channel 8

Proclaim! 10:30 a.m.

A half - hour of local Church news and features

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 6.)

Leading the retreat will be Father Philip Scott, founder of the Family of Jesus the Healer religious community in Peru.

The retreat will feature praise and worship, confessions, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, a healing service and talks by Father Philip, focusing on the healing love of God the Father.

There is no charge for the retreat, but free - will offerings will be accepted.

For more information, contact mtinker@francis.edu or rforwalt@francis.edu.

Nun To Speak

Altoona: Sister Miriam James of the Society of Our Lady of the Trinity will speak Monday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. in a presentation sponsored by the Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

A nationally known evangelist and conference speaker, Sister Miriam James has appeared on EWTN's "Life On The Rock."

She will be in Altoona for two days speaking at Catholic high schools.

A free - will offering will be accepted.

Outdoor Masses

Loretto: The Diocesan Vocation Office is once again holding Masses at the Outdoor Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies this summer.

Masses begin at 7:00 p.m. on Memorial Day Weekend and finish on Labor Day Weekend. Please bring your own lawn chair.

In case of inclement weather, Mass will be held inside the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel.

For more information, please call the Diocesan Vocation Office at (814) 472 - 5441.



CNS Photo/Nancy Wiehce

SAINT FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

'Golden Thread' Links Year Of Mercy And Saint Faustina

By Laura Ieraci
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The rector of a Rome sanctuary dedicated to Divine Mercy said he sees a "golden thread" connecting the upcoming Holy Year of Mercy and the message Jesus conveyed to St. Faustina Kowalska nearly 85 years ago.

Father Jozef Bart, rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit, said the three most recent popes all "insisted on this message of mercy," starting with St. John Paul II, who canonized St. Faustina in 2000 and declared the Sunday after Easter to be Divine Mercy Sunday.

St. Faustina was a Polish Sister of Our Lady of Mercy. She had visions of Jesus saying he would show mercy to those who prayed for it and shared it with others. The Church of the Holy Spirit, just a block from St. Peter's Square, has a side chapel dedicated to Divine Mercy.

Father Bart, who was born in Poland but is a priest of the Diocese of Rome, said Pope Francis' Year of Mercy is the culmination of the church's official recognition of the message of Divine Mercy.

"It seems that heaven is in a great rush to come help this world that truly has many problems, that is sick and wounded," he said.

Pope Francis surprised Catholics March 13 by announcing the special Holy Year, which will begin Dec. 8, 2015, and end Nov. 20, 2016. The biblical theme is "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

"Pope Francis does not simply want to dedicate a year to mercy or to call a meeting of the bishops on mercy. Pope Francis will open the Holy Door so that it can be a year for mercy," he emphasized.

God's mercy is for all of humanity -- believers and non-believers alike -- and Christians are called to bring this message to the world for all to receive, Father Bart insisted.

Reflecting on the challenge of bringing God's mercy to non-believers in a secular society, Father Bart described mercy as "a point of encounter with all peoples," particularly through what are traditionally called the corporal acts of mercy, such as tending to the sick, the hungry and the imprisoned. Through these concrete actions, "I can reach all souls, whether they believe or not," he said.

In his frequent catecheses on mercy, Pope Francis seems to be "convincing us of the truth of mercy," said Father Bart. Fundamental to this pontificate is the call to "go out to the peripheries" to bring God's mercy to all people who suffer, he added.

Many people who have made mistakes in their lives "think there is no place for them in the heart of God," Father Bart said. He attributed this to the human tendency "to erase from our hearts" those people who have been hurtful or who have made grave mistakes.

"But God will never do that," he said.

God, through his mercy, grants people "new life" when they place themselves before him, even with all of their wrongdoing, mistakes, weak-

nesses and fragility, the priest said.

Father Bart acknowledged that the message of God's mercy is not new; it is the message of the Gospel. But the church's mission, at every point in history, is "to introduce humanity to God's mercy and to make this mercy known," he said. And St. Faustina "shed new light and gave a particular vigor to the message of mercy preached by the church."

To live mercy is to have an open heart, to be compassionate and full of tenderness toward others, just as "Jesus ripped open his heart for us on the cross, before our hardness of heart," he explained. A merciful heart is moved by the needs of others and springs to action to resolve their hardships.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group April, May & June Schedule



Monday, April 13th, 7 PM, Praise & Worship, Sr. Miriam James SOLT—speaker. Sister recently appeared on EWTN's *Life on the Rock*.

Monday, April 27th, 7 PM, Praise & Worship, Bob & Marci Sutton—speakers.

Monday, May 11th, 7 PM, Praise & Worship, Fr. Christopher Panagoplos TOR—speaker, "St. Francis Today—Go and Rebuild My House."

Monday, May 18th, 7 PM, Praise & Worship, Sr. Linda LaMagna CCW—speaker, "Forming Intentional Disciples."

Monday, June 1st, 7 PM, HEALING MASS, Fr. Bill Kiel—main celebrant. Fr. Bill, a priest from the Diocese of Greensburg, has a healing ministry.

Monday, June 8th, 7 PM, Praise & Worship—Jimmy Roland—witness talk.

Monday, June 22nd, 7 PM, Eucharistic FESTIVAL of PRAISE, Fr. Bob Hilz TOR—homilist. Eucharistic Adoration with worship music & prayers for healing.

**All Prayer Meetings will usually conclude with intercessory prayer for healing. You are warmly invited to join us in the main body of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.*



Photos By Bruce A. Tomaselli

SACRED CHRISM: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak received sweet-smelling balsam from Deacon David Lapinski, and then, assisted by Deacon John Rys and Acolyte Kevin Nester, emptied it into a container of pure olive oil to be consecrated as the Sacred Chrism. Candidates for Confirmation presented the oil to the Bishop.



Chrism Mass

We Are ‘Anointed’ By Those We Minister To

By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein

When we allow ourselves to get close to the people we are ministering to, we Christian people will find that those folks are “anointing us” even as

we reach out to “anoint them,” Bishop Mark L. Bartchak explained at the Chrism Mass celebrated Monday, March 30 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.

(Continued On Page 12.)

Photo By Bruce A. Tomaselli

OILS FOR THE PARISHES: Diocesan and Cathedral staff members, assisted by parishioners of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, prepared the individual bottles of oil for distribution to the parishes.



PERIODICAL RATE MAIL

The Catholic Register

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