



# The Catholic Register

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## British Relative Of Servant Of God Gallitzin Dies

### Princess Jean Galitzine Met Register Editor To Discuss Life, Good Works Of Father Demetrius Gallitzin

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By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein

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Princess Jean Galitzine, a British relative of the Servant of God Prince - Priest Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin, died Wednesday, December 14, 2016 in London. The widow of Prince George Galitzine was 91.

In 1998, Princess Jean's daughter, Princess Katya Galitzine, visited the United States, and while staying with family friends in California, met a woman whose home was in Loretto. That encounter led the Princess to visit Loretto that November, and to an invitation for me to meet her mother in London.

Princess Jean invited me to Sunday dinner at her home in Eaton Square on November 15, 1998. She was eager to learn more about her husband's missionary kinsman, but already had an impressive amount of material about the Prince - Priest at her disposal.

Prince George Galitzine, who left Russia at age three in 1919, in the party accompanying the Dowager Empress

Maria Feodorovna, was a keen and accomplished genealogist. Princess Jean brought out some of her late husband's papers, and pointing to one page said "Here's your man!" noting an entry referring to Father Gallitzin. The Princess also showed me a 1926 copy of the *Mariale*, the yearbook of Saint Francis Seminary in Loretto, which that year included many articles about Father Demetrius Gallitzin, and a 1931 letter to her late father - in - law, Prince Vladimir Galitzine, from Dr. I. A. Little of Johnstown, inviting the Prince to attend the centenary celebrations for the Prince Gallitzin Chapel House.

Prince George's files also included articles about Father Gallitzin from **The Catholic Register**, and from newspapers in Altoona and Johnstown.

Following Prince George's death in 1992, Princesses Jean and Katya honored him by founding the Prince George Galitzine Memorial Library in Saint Petersburg, Russia. The library is located in the Von Carlow Palace, the family home of the Prince's mother. Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, do-



PRINCESS JEAN GALITZINE

nated the first book to the library, and further volumes were a gift from Queen Elizabeth II when she made a state visit to Russia in 1994. Members of the British Royal Family, who shared a descent from the Russian Empress Catherine the Great with Prince George, continue to support the work of the library.

Princess Jean worked to collect books for the library, and organized fund - raising events to support it, often attended by her husband's royal relatives. She worked to establish a foun-

dation to support the library in the United States, and told me "The library is my life."

I met the Princess in a home that was filled with books and art objects connected with the history of her husband's family. The Princess was modest about that history and her place in it.

"When you have a great name," she said, "you have an obligation to add luster to it."

"You cannot rest on the laurels of the past. You must make your contribution as others have before you."

Jean, Princess George Galitzine, was born Jean Dawnay, March 22, 1915 in Brighton, England. During the Second World War she was part of the celebrated team of code breakers working at Bletchley Park, and served in Berlin at the Allied Control Commission following the surrender of German forces.

Following the war, Jean Dawnay pursued a career in modeling, and was the favorite model of designer Christian Dior, and wrote an autobiography, **Model Girl**.

She went on to a career in acting, and was hailed as the "new Grace Kelly." On television she was the hostess of BBC's "What's My Life."

She and Prince George Galitzine met in Rome in 1961 and were married there in 1963. Their only child, Princess Katya, was born in 1964. She and her son, George, survive.



**NATIVITY PLAY:** Participating in the annual Nativity Play at Saint Andrew Parish, Johnstown, on Saturday, December 24, 2016 were (left to right) First row: Donald Hillegas, Anessa Rapp, Vayda Korenoski, Macy Cordell, Haley Clement, Leah Cordell, Nicholas Jeffreys. Second row: Coordinators Arlene Seesholtz and Melissa Rapp, Eden Rapp, Lauren Miller, Ruby Korenoski, Edye Spangler, Kaitlyn Hillegas and Father Angelo Patti (pastor).

## Ecumenism

### Prayer Services

**Altoona:** Bishop Mark L. Bartchak hosted an Ecumenical Prayer Service with other local religious leaders on Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Bishop will take part in a second Ecumenical Prayer Service at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 29 at 3:00 p.m. at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 1000 Scalp Avenue, Johnstown.

## High Schools

### Enhanced Learning Option

**Boalsburg:** Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy continues to

celebrate the success of its Dual Enrollment program. The ingenious option for high school students seeking pre - college success is heading into its fifth year, after it came about in just the second year of the school's existence, in 2012. Since then, the program has continued to expand to reflect teacher and student interest.

The Dual Enrollment program allows Saint Joseph's students to take real college courses, which result in transferrable college credits. The courses are taught by Saint Joseph's faculty members with master's and doctorate degrees who are, in a sense, working as adjunct professors for the various partnering universities.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Proclaim! Television Ministry frequently shines the spotlight on the great Catholic schools throughout the Diocese. These segments often take our viewers inside the classrooms to see the faith-filled environment, high academic standards, and remarkable outreach to others. As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2017, I cannot help but recall some of the students, parents, and educators I have interviewed as part of those TV segments. Together, they symbolize this year's theme: **Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service**.

I think of Emma and Chloe, students at All Saints School in Cresson. The siblings enthusiastically told me about their prayer buddies – older students who accompany the younger students to Mass each week to worship God and experience His love and mercy. It is awesome to hear our students articulate their awareness and gratitude for their education in an environment where the Sacred Liturgy, daily prayer, the Word of God, seasonal devotions, and other acts of **faith** are integral to their education and formation.

Brothers Blaine, Marshall, and Garrett wanted me to know that their teachers at Saint Benedict School in Carrolltown inspire them to learn. Certainly academic excellence is synonymous with Catholic education. As more of our schools embrace a curriculum emphasizing Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, the Arts, and Math, our students are gaining even more **knowledge** for future educational and career opportunities.

Since faith and knowledge demand action, our students are also engaged in **service** to others. Maggie, Maddie, and Greta, members of the Service Club at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg, told me about their work with The Thirst Project, a non-profit organization that builds wells and brings clean drinking water to persons in other countries. Whether it is around the world or closer to home, our students are making a difference. I am so proud them! The word Catholic means universal. Our students have the universal perspective through which the Gospel is to be shared and lived everywhere.

As you can see, we have many reasons to celebrate this Catholic Schools Week. As always, I salute the students, parents, administrators, teachers, and staff. Thanks to their tireless commitment, we are truly building for the future. As I get ready to join in the Catholic Schools Week festivities, I want to share one more memory from a recent television interview. Tim, a parent at Holy Name School in Ebensburg, reminded me that parents should not consider Catholic education as a financial sacrifice, but rather an investment in their child's future. I could not agree more! May the Lord continue to bless our great **Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service**!

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Mark L. Bartchak

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

# In The Alleghenies



**DONATION:** Greg Karcher, manager at the Saint Vincent DePaul Family Kitchen in Johnstown accepts a donation of \$1,302.00 from Beth Pruchnic from Barbara's Hallmark in Johnstown. The money was raised through the "Gift of Giving" fundraiser held at both the Richland and Westmont Hallmark stores.

## Bishop Mark And The March For Life

On Thursday, January 26, the eve of the Annual March for Life, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will preside at a 7:00 p.m. Prayer Service at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The Bishop will offer a blessing for all those traveling to Washington DC to take part in the March.

Bishop Mark will journey to Washington on Friday, January 27, in company with Marchers from Queen of Archangels Parish in Clarence/Snow Shoe, Our Lady of Victory Parish in State College, and Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy, Boalsburg.

(Continued From Page 2.)

Currently, 35 juniors and seniors are enrolled in eight offered courses, resulting in a small teacher - to - student ratio and the opportunity for enhanced experiences. To take advantage of the program, students must acquire either a recommendation or faculty approval in the department of their interest.

The majority of the participating students have shown significant success—most earning above-average grades for college work completed.

The Dual Enrollment program aligns with the Saint Joseph's pillar of scholarship. "All students are required to reach beyond the ordinary, and find challenges," says Jean Kozak, counselor and admissions at

Saint Joseph's. "The Dual Enrollment program offers such opportunities. It is common for Saint Joseph's students to seek this early college experience."

"Students must display independence in learning," adds Kozak. "Those students who seek a more rigorous opportunity, and have developed independent study habits will quickly learn how to succeed. These qualities are intrinsic to college life."

Beyond the program's academic benefits, parents are happy to learn that Dual Enrollment is a cost - efficient means of acquiring college credits. In many instances, the additional fees for the program are less than 10 percent of the cost required for the same course at an accredited university. Courses begin at \$165, comparable to an average price tag of \$470-\$1,000 at many higher education institutions. The only added cost is a basic tuition fee, which is gen-

**The Catholic Register, January 23, 2017**

erally approximately 10 percent of the regular college fee. Textbooks are included in the price, and over the program's existence, it's been a rare occurrence for students to be unable to join the program due to financial constraints.

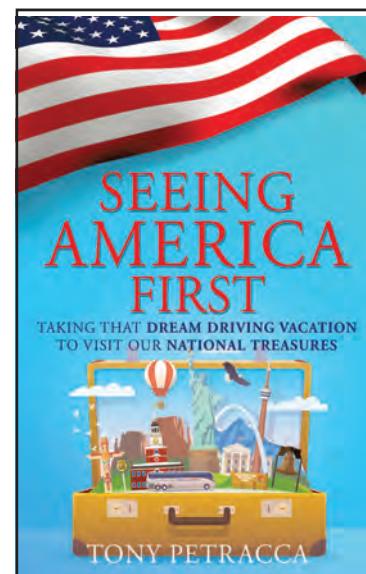
Whatever the case may be, Dual Enrollment seems to be a fantastic hit with the student body, as they recognize not only the educational value, but also the personal growth that results from the program. "Leadership and scholarship are the main pillars that the Dual Enrollment program emphasizes," said one participant. "The scholarship is evident, but the leadership qualities issue from independent thought and mature discussion. It takes a person of leadership to register for the Dual Enrollment course(s) and to succeed."

Courses offered include Intro to Literature, Western Civilization, U.S. History, Intermediate Spanish, Chemistry, Statistics & Probability, Calculus, and Physics. Current partnering institutions include Mount Aloysius College, St. Francis University, and the University of Pittsburgh. Each university approves of its respective proffered courses before they are available to students. Juniors and seniors are eligible for enrollment in the program.

## Prayer

### Carmelite Novena

**Loretto:** The year's first Novena to Our Lady of Mount



Carmel and Saint Therese, the Little Flower, offered by the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, opened yesterday, Sunday, January 22, and will conclude Monday, January 30.

All intentions submitted to the Carmelites will be remembered with the special Novena prayers after daily Mass.

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is given every Sunday and every First Friday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Benediction is followed by veneration of the relic of Saint Therese.

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

## Discipleship Talk

**Altoona:** Brother Vince Yeager, a Third Order Regular Franciscan Friar, will give a talk on "Discipleship" at the Cathedral Prayer Group at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, on Monday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Brother Vince is active in campus ministry at Saint Francis University, Loretto.

Music will be led by the Cathedral Prayer Group Music Ministry.

(Continued On Page 6.)

**By Father Anthony Petracca  
The Altoona-Johnstown  
Diocese**

**Father Anthony will say the 7:00 P.M. Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church in State College, this Wednesday, Jan. 25, followed by a book signing.**

**Available for \$16.99 from Amazon; Google Books; Barnes & Noble (order in-store or on-line).**

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## Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein  
**Adding Luster  
To A Great Name**

# Point Of View

I wasn't surprised this year when the Valentine's Day candy was on store shelves only days after the Christmas candy had been there.

I suppose I could mutter tsk-tsk, but the truth is I'm part of the problem: a consumer who loves to consume chocolate. So just about any excuse to buy some now is a good excuse.

Yes, chocolate and flowers are traditional Valentine's Day gifts -- or St. Valentine's Day gift, but no bags of M&M's or Hershey's Kisses feature any reference to sainthood -- and they're good options. In most cases. But not the only option. Often, not even the best option.

What are some better ways to mark the occasion, to tell family members and friends "I love you"? A few suggestions:

- - Commit not-so-random acts of kindness. Be friendly, generous and considerate to those closest to you. To those, too often, who are easy to overlook and underappreciate. Yes, some kindness is spontaneous, but some takes a little thought. A little planning. Perhaps more than a little effort.

- - Listen. This suggestion seems so obvious and so simple, but it can be so easy to think "just not now." There are times -- inconvenient times -- when your loved one wants to talk about something, but you're tired, distracted or pretty sure you covered all of this last week, right?

It can help to keep in mind sometimes a person talks because he or she needs to talk, perhaps has to go over what



## Your Family

By Bill Dodds  
**Making Valentine's Day  
A Year-Round Commitment**

was talked about not very long ago. And it doesn't mean your spouse, family member or friend wants you to offer an opinion or a solution. What your loved one wants is for you to listen.

I'm reminded of times when my late wife would come home from work and say, "I want to tell you what happened at the office today, but I don't want you to offer solutions." It took me a few times to learn she was serious about that. And to keep my "I can fix that!" attitude in check.

- - Hug. Enough said.



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

- - Recognize and let that loved one use his or her God-given talents. This can be tough, especially as sons and daughters grow older. Discover those gifts and interests. Begin to develop them and then strive to make a living using them.

Perhaps you come from a long line of teachers and she wants to ... go into business.

Or maybe you've had a government job -- solid pay scale, good benefits -- and he's leaning toward a career in music.

It isn't just the gift holder who, at times, has to take a leap of faith. It's also those who love him or her.

- - Chocolates and flowers. Yes. OK. But maybe something more tailored to what your loved one loves. A special kind of chocolate. A variety of flower that brings back happy memories.

Not just dinner out and movie, but dinner at a place he or she prefers. (Or at a new place when your first choice would be the old tried-and-true.) And a movie that he or she would give two thumbs-up, but you would rate it ... (Can a person give half a thumb?)

And, of course:

- - Pray for and with each other. Often.

Meeting Princess Jean Galitzine in 1998 was one of the highlights of my tenure as editor of **The Catholic Register**. She made me welcome in her home, served me dinner, and shared her vast knowledge of her family's history. She laughed at the many variations in spelling the family name. "It all depended on the country they were in at the time," she said. "They spelled it the way that was easiest for the locals."

But something else that Princess Jean said that evening has stuck with me over the years; I quoted it her obituary on Page 1 of this issue: "When you have a great name, you have an obligation to add luster to it. You cannot rest on the laurels of the past. You must make your contribution as others have before you."

Princess Jean and her daughter, Princess Katya, chose to add luster to the family name by founding the Prince George Galitzine Memorial Library in Saint Petersburg, Russia, a tribute to their late husband and father. The library opened just a few years after the fall of the Iron Curtain. The Princesses added luster to their family name by their dedication to the good work of education carried out at the library.

All of us share a great name. We are called Christian. We share a name with Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the anointed Son of God. We are called to add luster to that name by good deeds -- by living lives of service and sacrifice as He did. This issue of **The Catholic Register** presents the inspiring stories of people who are doing, or who did, just that.

We report in this issue about Catholic Schools' Week. Luster is added to our name by the work of Catholic school teachers. Jesus was a teacher. The men and women serving in our Catholic Schools follow in His footsteps.

You will find in these pages a story about a New York City police officer, Detective Steven McDonald. Thirty years ago he was shot by a juvenile offender, and left paralyzed. Detective McDonald defied the odds and lived, and he defied the all too common wish to seek vengeance, by becoming an advocate for forgiveness and reconciliation. He echoed the words of Jesus, who on the cross cried out "Forgive them, Father . . ."

In this issue you will also read about Father Michael Scanlan, a Third Order Regular Franciscan Friar who revitalized the Franciscan University of Steubenville, making it a center for what has been called "The New Evangelization." Father Michael was a man on fire with love for God and God's holy people. His actions added luster to the names Christian, Catholic and Franciscan.

Adding luster to those same names was Father Andre Strittmatter, another Franciscan Friar, whose obituary appears on Page 15. Father Andre's career was quieter than Father Michael's; he was not someone who appeared frequently on television or in the pages of magazines and newspapers. He served faithfully without fanfare or fuss. In my years as pastor of Saint Monica Parish in Chest Springs, he was always willing to come to the parish to fill in for me, or to lend a helping hand. He added luster to the name "friend."

We might expect titled people, like Princesses, to be concerned with adding luster to their names for the sake of blowing their own horns -- being noticed and recognizing. Princess Jean was not like that; nor were the other people mentioned in this column. They added luster to great names because it was their obligation to do so. We share that obligation. The great name of "Christian" is ours. We are called to make it brighter, still.

# Pope To Bishops: Defend Children From Abuse

**By Carol Glatz**  
Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Stand up and protect children from exploitation, slaughter and abuse, which includes committing to a policy of "zero tolerance" of sexual abuse by clergy, Pope Francis told the world's bishops.

Wake up to what is happening to so many of today's innocents and be moved by their plight and the cries of their mothers to do everything to protect life, helping it "be born and grow," he said in a letter sent to bishops commemorating the feast of the Holy Innocents, Dec. 28. The Vatican press office published the letter and translations from the original Italian Jan. 2.

Just as King Herod's men slaughtered young children of Bethlehem in his "unbridled thirst for power," there are plenty of new Herods today -- gang members, criminal networks and "merchants of death" -- "who devour the innocence of our children" through slave labor, prostitution and exploitation, he said. Wars and forced immigration also strip children of their innocence, joy and dignity, he added.

The prophet Jeremiah was aware of this "sobbing and loud lamentation" and knew that Rachel was "weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled since they were no more."

"Today too, we hear this heart-rending cry of pain, which we neither desire nor are able to ignore or to silence," Pope Francis said.

"Christmas is also accompanied, whether we like it or not, by tears," and the Gospel writers "did not disguise reality to make it more credible or attractive."

Christmas and the birth of the son of God aren't about escaping reality, but are a way to help "contemplate this cry of pain, to open our eyes and ears to what is going on around us, and to let our hearts be attentive and open to the pain of our neighbors, especially where children are involved. It also means realizing that that sad chapter in history is still being written today."

Given such challenges, Pope Francis told the world's bishops to look to St. Joseph as a role model.

This obedient and loyal man was capable of recognizing and listening to God's voice, which meant St. Joseph could let himself be guided by his will and be

moved by "what was going on around him and was able to interpret these events realistically."

"The same thing is asked of us pastors today: to be men attentive, and not deaf, to the voice of God, and hence more sensitive to what is happening all around us," he said.

Like St. Joseph, "we are asked not to let ourselves be robbed of joy. We are asked to protect this joy from the Herods of our own time. Like Joseph, we need the courage to respond to this reality, to arise and take it firmly in hand."

The church weeps not only for children suffering the pain of poverty, malnutrition, lack of education, forced displacement, slavery and sexual exploitation, the pope said, she weeps "because she recognizes the sins of some of her members: the sufferings, the experiences and the pain of minors who were abused sexually by priests."

"It is a sin that shames us," he said, that people who were responsible for caring for children, "destroyed their dignity."

(Continued On Page 6.)

## Support For Survivors

Support for survivors of sexual abuse is available throughout the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. Survivors are encouraged to seek help through any of the following agencies.

### Bedford County

Your Safe Haven Inc.  
<http://www.yoursafehaven.org/>

(800) 555-5671

We are a comprehensive crime victims center and respond to victims of all crime whether it be through our office, the court system, the hospital, or police agency.

### Blair County

Family Services Inc.  
<https://www.familyservicesinc.net/>

(814) 944-3585

Crisis intervention and counseling, therapeutic counseling, legal and medical advocacy and accompaniment, information and referrals, safety planning, transportation, other supportive services.

### Cambria/Somerset Counties

Victim Services Inc.  
<http://victimsservicesinc.org/>  
(814)288-4961 and (800) 755-1983

24-Hour Hotline (1-800-755-1983) and Crisis Intervention; Counseling (Bachelors level, highly trained and experienced staff); Therapy (Master's level/licensed, highly trained and experienced staff, EMDR); Support Groups for Survivors of Sexual Abuse, Families of Homicide Victims, and others as requested/needed in the community; "Safe and Unsafe Touches" Individual Education Program for Children; Accompaniment to Medical, Police, and Justice System Proceedings; Court Preparation / Orientation to the Criminal Justice System; Assistance with Victims Compensation Claims; Victim Notification; Referrals to Other Resources; Prevention Education

Programs for schools/colleges; Professional Trainings on trauma, sexual abuse, victim-centered response, etc. (can be developed to meet your needs); Certified Mandated Reporter training (2 certified trainers on staff).

### Centre County

Centre County Women's Resource Center, Inc.  
<http://ccwrc.org/>  
(814) 234-5050

Crisis counseling, 24 hour hotline, legal & medical advocacy, information and referral, civil legal representation, emergency shelter, transitional housing, primary prevention programs, safe custody exchange/supervised visitation, support groups.

### Clinton County

Clinton County Women's Center  
<http://www.ccwcsafe.org/>  
(570) 748-9509

24 hour hotline service; Sexual Assault Protection Orders; advocacy and options counseling, support groups; medical advocacy; Prevention and outreach education; Safe shelter for victims of domestic violence, legal advocacy; PFA assistance; screening for TBI; referrals for community services; and children's advocacy.

### Franklin/Fulton Counties

Women In Need/Victim Services  
<http://www.winservices.org/home.aspx>  
(717) 264-4444

Direct services for dv/sa victims-ind. counseling, group counseling, legal advocacy including accompaniment, medical advocacy, hotline, prevention education, shelter, VCAP assistance, Sexual assault response team.

### Huntingdon/Mifflin/Juniata Counties

The Abuse Network  
<http://www.abusenetwork.org/>  
(717) 242-2444

Trauma-informed Empowerment Counseling, Support Groups, 24-Hour Hotline Counseling, Legal Advocacy and Accompaniment, Medical Advocacy and Accompaniment, Prevention and Awareness Educational Programs, Services are Free and Confidential.

## Reporting Child Abuse

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown are firmly committed to protecting children and young people. If you have any information concerning suspected sexual or other abuse of minors, you are urged to report it immediately to:

- - PA Child Line 1 - 800- 932 - 0313 (intake is available 24/7)
- - Pennsylvania Attorney General Hotline (888) 538 - 8541
- - Pennsylvania State Police Headquarters (717) 783 - 5599 or your local Pennsylvania State Police Station
- - Your local police department

If there is an indication of imminent danger, you should call 911 immediately.

The Diocese reports all information regarding sexual abuse of minors to law enforcement. You are urged to do the same. Anyone may and should report suspected child sexual abuse.

To report to the Diocese any suspected abuse of a minor, please call Jean Johnstone at (814) 944 - 9388.

## From The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

# The Gruesome Reality Of Abortion

In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe published a book that changed the course of American history. Her brutal depiction of slavery in **Uncle Tom's Cabin** illustrated the real human cost of the defining political controversy of her time. Stowe's tale of one fictional family's devastating experience with slavery is based on "a collection and arrangement of real incidents" which she describes as a "mosaic of facts." (A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin, 1858)

**Uncle Tom's Cabin** was an instant best-seller that brought the debate about slavery into most American homes. It changed what people knew and understood about it, and shed light on how our laws perpetuated the practice. When Americans in the North accepted the truth about slavery, their resolve to outlaw it strengthened. It was not enough to be personally opposed to slavery; they were willing to take up arms to end it.

Abortion is the defining political controversy of our time; but do we know and understand its real human cost?

A recent report shows that 31,818 abortions were committed in Pennsylvania in 2015. (This is 308 fewer than in 2014.) All but a handful of these abortions used one of three methods:

Medical/Non-Surgical. (11,314 abortions) For pregnancies up to 10 weeks, chemicals are used to end the life of the baby. A woman takes Mifepristone (RU-486) in the form of a pill at an abortion clinic. "By blocking the action of progesterone, mifepristone alters the endometrium (the uterine lining), induces bleeding, and causes the uterine lining to shed." ([www.medicationabortions.com](http://www.medicationabortions.com)) With blood and nourishment cut off, the baby dies inside his mother's womb. One or two days later, the woman takes another drug called Misoprostol (Cytotec) which causes contractions and bleeding to expel the dead baby from the womb.

Suction Curettage. (18,908 abortions) Also known as vacuum aspiration, this method is used between 5 and 14 weeks of gestation. Typically the woman's cervix is dilated then a plastic tube "is carefully and gently inserted into the uterus and then attached to a suction, or vacuum aspiration, machine. When the machine is turned on ... the contents of the uterus will be emptied ... To ensure that the abortion is complete, extracted tissue is examined immediately after the procedure." (The Abortion Resource Handbook (1997), pg. 152) In layman's terms, the living unborn child, now about 4-5 inches long, is forcibly

sucked out of her mother's womb. Then technicians count the arms, legs, head and torso to make sure all parts of the baby are accounted for.

Dilation & Evacuation. (1,588 abortions) This particularly gruesome method is used for later term abortions between 13 and 24 weeks. Abortions after 24 weeks are illegal. The woman's cervix is dilated. The amniotic fluid is suctioned out first, and then the doctor inserts a sharp instrument to dismember the live baby inside the womb. The tool has sharp teeth that firmly grip the child's arms, legs, torso, and head. One by one, the body parts are forcibly ripped off and removed from the uterus. The baby's head at this stage is too big to pull out intact, so the doctor will crush it before pulling it out. Babies at this second trimester stage have fingerprints and toenails, and they can feel pain. Their mothers start to feel them kicking; and many babies born at 20 weeks will survive outside the womb. ([abortionprocedures.com](http://abortionprocedures.com))

A new legislative session has begun in Harrisburg presenting fresh opportunities to shape pro-life public policy. With faith, perseverance, and the courage to tell the truth, abolitionists in the 19th century outlawed slavery. Will citizens 150 years from now say the same about us and abortion?

-- A.B. Hill



CNS Photo/Kevin Lamarque, Reuters

## In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 3.)

### Pro - Life

#### Local March For Life

**Loretto:** In order to promote the pro - life message, Saint Francis University will hold a March for Life, or March on the Mountain, on Friday, January 27 for those that cannot attend the national rally.

"The more people that stand up and proclaim life the better -- whether it's in Washington, DC.;

whether it's in Loretto; whether it's in small towns all across the United States" said Paul Girardi, associate director of Campus Ministry at Saint Francis. "For people who proclaim the sanctity of life, I think it's important that their voices are heard."

Saint Francis' event will begin with the recitation of the Rosary at 10:30 a.m. in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus. It will be followed by several guest speakers. The walk itself will begin with a short prayer at 11:00 a.m. in front of the Chapel. The March will then commence around the mall, and will conclude at approximately 11:55 a.m. for those that wish to attend the noon Mass.

Everyone is invited to take part in the entire walk or for only a portion of the event, but all are encouraged to come out

and show support for the cause. Some pro - life signs will be provided for the walk, but all are also free to bring their own.

The March on the Mountain is sponsored by the Saint Francis University Campus Ministry Department and the Knights of Columbus Council #8222.

### Auction

**State College:** Citizens Concerned for Human Life of Centre County will hold their 35th Annual Pro - Life Auction Saturday, February 4, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 850 Stratford Drive.

Doors will open at 9:00 a.m. for the indoor garage sale, silent auction and 50/50 drawing. Pastries, sandwiches, hot dogs and homemade desserts will be on sale.

## Pope To Bishops: Defend Children From Abuse

(Continued From Page 5.)

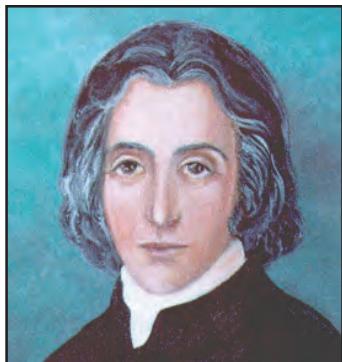
Deploring "the sin of what happened, the sin of failing to help, the sin of covering up and denial, the sin of the abuse of power," the church also begs for forgiveness, he said.

"Today, as we commemorate the feast of the Holy Innocents, I would like us to renew our complete commitment to ensuring that these atrocities will no longer take place in our midst. Let us find the courage needed to take all necessary measures and to protect in every way the lives of our children, so that such crimes may never

be repeated. In this area, let us adhere, clearly and faithfully, to 'zero tolerance,'" he said.

The pope urged the bishops to remember that Christian joy doesn't ignore or sugar-coat reality, but "is born from a call" to embrace and protect life, "especially that of the holy innocents."

He asked they renew their commitment to be shepherds with the courage to acknowledge what so many children are experiencing today and to work to guarantee the kind of conditions needed so their dignity will be respected and defended.



## A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

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

## Ohio Diocese Opens Cause Of Stigmatic Woman

By Catholic News Service

### CANTON, Ohio (CNS)

-- In the fall when the Diocese of Youngstown formally opened the sainthood cause for an Ohio woman known for her life of prayer and spiritual gifts, more

than 1,000 people filled St. Peter Church in Canton.

It was standing-room-only at the Mass to officially open the cause for Canton's Rhoda Wise, known for her healing gifts and the stigmata, wounds that resemble those of Christ on the cross.

Though raised a Protestant, Wise (1888-1948) later



RHODA WISE

embraced Catholicism and was devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the rosary and St. Therese of Lisieux, known as the "Little Flower."

People of all ages, most from Stark County, but many from out-of-state, came to Wise's home parish church for this first step in her journey to possible official recognition as a saint. Msgr. Robert Siffrin, diocesan vicar general and moderator of the curia, was the main celebrant.

The number of people at Mass "shows how many people she touched while she was alive or after (her death)," said Father Edward Beneleit, pastor of St. Peter, told **The Catholic Exponent**, Youngstown's diocesan newspaper. "It shows the devotion to her. This is the crowd that is really faithful."

Among those who claimed miraculous healing from Wise was Mother Angelica, founder of the Eternal Word Television Network, who said she was

**The Catholic Register, January 23, 2017**

cured of a painful stomach ailment after praying with Wise, who led her in a novena to St. Therese of Lisieux. Our Lady of Angels Monastery in Alabama, which Mother Angelica also founded, for years supported the Rhoda Wise Shrine, which was built in the home of Wise and surrounding property in Canton.

With her cause officially opened, Youngstown Bishop George V. Murry declared her a "servant of God." A postulator has been named, and a local tribunal will open an inquiry into her life. Tribunal members will examine any writings Wise left, any historical records about her and any testimony from people who knew her and make a recommendation to Bishop Murry.

The diocese in turn will make a recommendation to Congregation for Saints' Causes at the Vatican, which then reviews the gathered information. If the congregation finds she led a heroic life of Christian virtues, the church bestows the title "Venerable."

The next steps would be beatification and canonization. In general, two miracles are needed for sainthood -- one for beatification and the second for canonization.

Prayers for Wise's cause will take place in the evening on the first Thursday of each month with Mass, rosary and eucharistic adoration, said Karen Sigler, director of the Rhoda Wise Shrine.

Capuchin Father Joseph Tuscan, a member of the board of the Rhoda Wise Shrine, who attended the Oct. 7 Mass, noted that Pope Francis keeps saying "for the new evangelization we have to go out to the fringes. The house where she lived was (located in) a poor place, is still a poor place and it's very unimimidating."

"People come there who are not religious, people who are Catholics, fallen-away Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims, people with no religion, because they are fascinated by the story. Everyone who comes there experiences a sense of peace," Father Tuscan said. "In a certain way, everyone who comes in takes one step closer to God."

The priest said Wise re-

ally suffered throughout her life, dealing with financial disaster, the death of a young daughter, an alcoholic husband, as well as her own serious health issues. During one of her hospital stays, before she became a Catholic, a nun told her about the rosary and St. Therese.

Wise reportedly experienced her first apparition of Jesus May 28, 1939, and about a month later had an apparition of Jesus with St. Therese. Wise was cured of her stomach cancer, which was considered incurable by her doctors, who had sent her home to die. On Aug. 15, 1939, St. Therese is said to have miraculously healed Wise of a broken foot.

"Everyone suffers, but in a way, Rhoda Wise, aside from being a witness to the people on the fringes, is an answer to the question of human suffering," Father Tuscan added. "Rhoda wasn't crushed by her suffering. She became a source of hope. And I think that perseveres."

According to Wise's writings, there was a continuous stream of visitors -- mostly strangers -- at her house. As many as 10,000 people came on one day during the height of the devotion, Sigler said.

Though it might be a colossal disruption to most, those who knew her, including some of her grandchildren who were present that night, said that Wise welcomed everyone -- those desperate to be healed or freed or calmed -- in her tiny, three-room house.

"It was a normal house. We had arguments, dinners at the table, bath time, yard work, house work. It was our home," said Tammy Schuette of Salem, Wise's granddaughter. "To us, it was not unusual when people came to the door at 10 o'clock."

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## 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, forever 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**

# Word of Life



## The Pope Teaches

**By Pope Francis  
Pontiff Prays For Homeless**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Looking out over St. Peter's Square where icicles hung from usually bubbling fountains, Pope Francis prayed for the homeless.

The freeze in Rome, subzero temperatures in large parts of Europe and heavy snowfalls in many areas in early January forced the closure of roads and schools and were blamed for at least a dozen deaths.

"In these very cold days, I think and I invite you to think of the people who live on the streets, struck by the cold and, many times, by indifference," Pope Francis told people in St. Peter's Square Jan. 8.

"Unfortunately, some have not survived," the pope told people who had bundled up against the midday chill to recite the Angelus prayer with him. "Let us pray for them and ask the Lord to warm our hearts so that we can help them."

Because of the cold weather, the papal charities office instituted a 24-hour open-door policy at the shelters it runs with the Missionaries of Charity for homeless men and homeless women. Usually the shelters open in the evening and close in the morning.

Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner and point man for Pope Francis' aid to the homeless around the Vatican, was unavailable for comment Jan. 9. However, Italian media reported that he left a van and another automobile from his office unlocked and parked outside the Vatican over the weekend so the homeless could take turns using it for shelter.



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

**HELPING THE HOMELESS:** A Missionaries of Charity nun stands in the doorway as men enter a center run by the order for an evening meal at the Vatican Jan. 7. The Vatican undertook several initiatives to offer more help to the homeless in the midst of unusually cold weather.



**ONE MORE TIME:** On February 13, 1980, parishes from Cambria County's Mainline communities held an appreciation dinner for religious education teachers at the Velvet Villa in Portage. Teacher and clergy from Saint Agnes Parish in Cassandra, Saint Bartholomew Parish in Wilmore, and the Portage parishes of Assumption, Saint John the Baptist, Sacred Heart and Saint Joseph, took part.

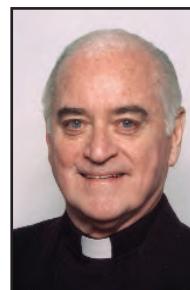
Perfectionists are often exhausted. They don't know how to relax. It's important to realize that being perfect is not as important as being at peace with who you are.

There's a lesson to be learned from those less fortunate than ourselves. The blind and the disabled often have a certain calmness about them. They have come to terms with their limitations. They've learned to live with being an imperfect human being.

Self-acceptance is a necessary part of life, and that goes for everyone. God never asked you to be perfect. The divine commandment, "Love your neighbor," includes the phrase, "as (you love) yourself." To love yourself, first try to understand yourself by stressing the fact that you are God's child. You are on equal footing with everyone else.

Our heavenly Father sees that you are good, because everything he made is good (Gn 1:31). He loves you and is preparing a place for you in heaven. When you are at peace with yourself, you will no longer have to worry about what others think. All you have to do is be grateful for the gift of life, and strive to maintain your self-respect.

The Lord doesn't expect you to be perfect. He knows you're human and that you make mistakes. What he wants from you is your trust. He said, "Come to me, all you who labor



## Spirituality For Today

**By Father John Catoir  
Accepting Yourself  
As God Does**

and are burdened, and I will give you rest." You can trust that this invitation is both sincere and ongoing.

If you are brave enough to love yourself, and strong enough to forgive yourself, and generous enough to assist others in their needs, you will be a happy, contented person. And then you will begin to find some advantages in being imperfect.

This theme is found in a children's book by Shel Silverstein, called **The Missing Piece**. It's a parable that captures the importance of self-acceptance. The story is about a circle that had a broken section. There was a missing piece in its circumference, and because it was incomplete, it could only roll along very slowly.

As it did, it chatted with the worms and admired the beautiful flowers. Then one day, it found the missing piece, and it was put back in place. The circle was perfect again.

It quickly began rolling along, now at a more rapid pace. How different the world seemed when it was going fast. Gradually, the circle realized that by

being perfect, it was going much too fast to appreciate the joy of mingling with the beauty surrounding it.

The lesson is that being imperfect has its advantages. You gain a certain humility that enables you to relate to those around you with more appreciation and compassion. Self-acceptance, warts and all, will bring a sweet joy that no one can ever take from you.

Besides all that, perfectionists do not always win social acceptance. People can become annoyed with them or jealous and impatient with their "holier than thou attitude." Personal integrity is much more important than worldly approval.

Mistakes are human. If you slip and fall, so be it; get up and begin again. "Your sins are forgiven," says the Lord of mercy. By accepting yourself, your life will have more meaning and be more satisfying.

You always have an eternity of happiness in heaven awaiting you. Put all that together and begin accepting yourself now, and enjoy your precious life. God wants you to be happy.



## Question Corner

**By Father Kenneth Doyle**  
**Cremation**  
**And Burial At Sea**

**Q.** I am a lifelong Catholic and served 28 years in the Navy. As a junior officer, I saw the ashes or bodies of deceased sailors buried at sea; I decided at the time that this is what I want done with my body after I die, and I have not changed my mind.

Recently, I shared that decision with some of my fellow parishioners, and one of them said that a new directive from the church provides that a Catholic can no longer be buried at sea.

If that is really the case, I don't see what I am doing remaining in a Catholic parish; in fact, it might be time for me to change to a different Christian denomination that will be there for me at the end of my life. (Virginia Beach, Virginia)

**Q.** I am aware that the Catholic Church has traditionally discouraged cremation, but I am confused as to why. For centuries, cremation has been accepted by most cultures as a somewhat more humane way

of dealing with the remains of a loved one.

With a standard burial, the person's remains are left to "rot in the ground." Does it have something to do with an eventual "resurrection"? And is the presence of a body required for that resurrection? If so, what would be left of Christians from, say, A.D. 200? Surely by now there is nothing left of them to raise. (Corydon, Indiana)

**A.** The two letters above are typical of many that I receive and reflect people's continuing fascination with the disposition of bodily remains. That interest was heightened in October 2016 when the Vatican issued an instruction regarding burial practices for Catholics.

That document was issued at the request of bishops in several nations in response to the growing practice of cremation and the lack of specific church guidelines on the disposition of cremains. The instruction reiterates that the church, while not

opposed to the practice of cremation, continues to recommend a traditional burial.

The document specifies that either the body or the ashes of the deceased should be buried in sacred ground and that cremains should not be kept in private homes or scattered on land or at sea, nor "preserved in mementoes, pieces of jewelry or other objects."

Burial in sacred ground, said the Vatican, prevents the deceased from being forgotten and encourages family members and the wider Christian community to remember the deceased and to pray for them.

The church's Code of Canon Law has continued to express the preference for burial over cremation because the burial of human remains, in the church's mind, reflects a greater esteem for the deceased and more clearly expresses the Christian belief in an eventual resurrection, when the person's body and soul will be reunited.

As the Vatican's 2016 instruction says, "Burial is above all the most fitting way to express faith and hope in the resurrection of the body" and shows "the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person, whose body forms part of their identity."

That same instruction does note, though, that "cremation of the deceased's body does not affect his or her soul, nor does it prevent God in his omnipotence from raising up the deceased body to new life."

In response to the Indiana letter writer's concern about the decomposed remains of the Christian buried in A.D. 200, we don't know mechanically how the eventual reunion of body and soul will occur and leave that -- as the Vatican does -- to the wisdom of the Lord.

And as for the Virginia writer's preference for burial at sea, he can relax. The new Vatican guidelines do not prohibit that, so long as the body or cremated remains are buried in a dignified and well-protected container. (Catholics should consult with their diocese for further instructions, since standards can vary from diocese to diocese.)



Marianne Cope  
 1838 - 1918  
 Feast - January 23

Barbara Koob was born in Germany, and moved to the United States with her family when she was 2. She entered the Sisters of St. Francis in Syracuse, N.Y., serving for 20 years as a teacher and hospital administrator. In 1883 she traveled with six sisters to Hawaii to minister to people with Hansen's disease, then known as leprosy. In 1888, they opened a home on Molokai for women and girls with the disease, and continued the work of St. Damien de Veuster after his death. Mother Marianne died on Molokai; her feast is her birthday. At her canonization in 2012, Pope Benedict XVI called her "a shining example of the tradition of Catholic nursing sisters and of the spirit of her beloved St. Francis."

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## For The Journey

**By Effie Caldarola**  
**Gratitude And Goodbyes**

The sun rose this morning in dramatic flourishes of pink and orange. Never mind that later the clouds and the gray winter reasserted themselves as members of my family left for the airport.

I am grateful for the memory of standing in the front room with my youngest daughter and marveling at the stunning moment that was today's brief sunrise.

Today was a day full of farewells, and hers would be the first. She would be on her way to the airport by 8 a.m. We hugged, many times, and I told her I wished that she and I had had more time just to talk, the two of us, and she said, "But, Mom, I call a few times a week."

And I struggled to know how to say, "But that's not quite the same thing."

During the first third of January, our home devolved into happy, exhausting chaos. Because of work and other family obligations, our immediate family, which lives in four different time zones, was not together for Christmas.

So even though the poinsettias were drooping, our family gathered for a late celebration that began on New Year's Eve and stretched beyond Epiphany. With two 20-somethings who still like to party, a 2-year-old granddaughter who likes to rise with the dawn, and her parents who reluctantly rise with her, the dead quiet of night was sometimes hard to pin down to a decent block of time.

Under the best of conditions, I sleep poorly and a full house on different schedules is not conducive to rest for the insomniac. And no matter how much seven people love one another, and are genuinely easy to get along with, there's an occasional moment of stress.

Nevertheless, the chaos that sometimes reigned was a benevolent ruler, and we had fun.

But those goodbye days are tough.

My goodbye morning was full. A neighbor needed me because this was the day her second child would be born, and she had to be at the hospital to be induced by 8 a.m. Her best-laid plans were unsettled by a 2-year-old with a fever who suddenly couldn't go to day care as usual. A grandfather drove all night to spend the day, but I was needed to help bridge the gap between the parents' departure for the hospital and his arrival.

In the meantime, my three kids, one son-in-law and my 2-year-old granddaughter prepped for three trips to the airport while I played next door with a 2-year-old who had no idea his world was about to be rocked.

Even my husband was flying out on business. I felt lonely and as I looked at my little friend, I marveled at how it seemed just yesterday mine were that age and I had felt as if they were mine to keep.

Fortunately, I wasn't gone long and was home to spend the last couple of hours with a shrinking circle of family. By 1 o'clock, I was home from the airport to an utterly silent house. I started dusting, discarding the last stale Christmas cookie, putting the first of many loads of sheets and towels in the wash.

But I was also drawn into the silence, a silence filled with gratitude. I'm pulled toward poetry at such moments, a form of prayer for me.

So I took Mary Oliver from the shelf. Within her pages, she told me, "If you want to talk about this/ come to visit. I live in the house/ near the corner, which I have named Gratitude."



Photos By Tony DeGol

**KNOWLEDGE AND SERVICE:** Catholic Schools are communities of knowledge and service. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak addressed that theme in his letter for Catholic Schools' Week 2017 on Page 2 of this issue. In the photo at left, (left to right) Garrett, Marshall, and Blaine Farabaugh, joined by their mother, Monica, are proud supporters of the Catholic school tradition and the knowledge they have gained at Saint Benedict School, Carrolltown. In his letter Bishop Mark wrote of the Service Club at Saint Joseph Catholic Academy, Boalsburg, and club members (left to right) Maggie, Maddie, and Greta.

## Catholic Schools' Week Celebrates Rich Tradition

(Continued From Page 16.)

At 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1, the students of Holy Trinity Catholic School, Altoona, will have a "Trashin' Fashion Show in Father Kelly Hall. They will recycle trash into clothing and accessories and wear them to school.

Some schools will emphasize reading like Northern Cambria Catholic. The school has adopted a camping theme for their activities. One of them is called

"Camp Read A Lot" where parents are invited to attend and read at the Reader's Theatre at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 3.

In addition, Holy Trinity Catholic School will hold an All School Book Fair from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at Barnes and Noble Book Store in at the Logan Town Center. They will host guest readers at the Book Fair.

There are other activities celebrating Catholic education such as movie days, Crazy Sock Days, and Fell Out of Bed Like This Day. Schools will host pot-luck dinners, swimming and ice skating parties. There's even a day when kids will wear their clothes backward.

Lock Haven Catholic will hold Mind - Set Activities based on academics. "We have incorporated Religion and the Arts in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics program (STEM)," said Jo-Ann Semko, assistant director of Education for the Diocese. STEM is a program started by the U.S. Department of Education several years ago.

"Our program is known by the acronym (STREAM) Sci-

ence, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math. We want children to understand they should always strive to expand their knowledge; to improve their personal and academic growth."

Students, teachers, administrators, parents and benefactors will be celebrated throughout the week through various activities. Catholic School education enjoys a rich history.

Catholic Schools Week is a celebration of why we are here," said Sister Donna. "We continue the heritage of Catholic education established by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton 208 years ago, and still going strong."



**PIONEER EDUCATOR:** A sculptural group depicts Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton instructing children in the nation's first Catholic school over 200 years ago. Catholic Schools' Week is an annual celebration of the rich tradition of Catholic Education dating back to pioneer educators like Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and the many teachers who followed in her footsteps.



### Discipleship

A talk by  
Br. Vince Yeager,  
T.O.R.  
Mon., Jan. 23,  
7:00 pm  
Praise and  
Worship,  
Fellowship and  
Healing Prayer

All are Welcome!

**Cathedral Prayer Group**  
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

# Pope: Upcoming Synod Needs Young People's Voices

By Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

## VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Pope Francis asked young people to tell him, their bishops and pastors about their hopes and struggles and even their criticisms.

In preparation for a meeting of the Synod of Bishops focused on youth, the pope wrote a letter to young people, saying the church wants "to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith, even your doubts and your criticism."

"Make your voice heard," the pope told young people. "Let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls."

The pope's letter was released Jan. 13 along with the preparatory document for the synod. The document includes a series of questions to be answered by national conferences of bishops and other church bodies. The responses, along with input from young people themselves, will form the basis of the synod's working document.

Pope Francis chose "Young people, faith and vocational discernment" as the theme for the synod gathering, which will be held in October 2018.

Young people will have an opportunity to contribute to the working document by submitting reflections "on their expectations and their lives" through a dedicated website -- [www.sinodogiovani.va](http://www.sinodogiovani.va) -- that will be launched March 1, said Bishop Fabio Fabene, undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops.

In his letter, Pope Francis referred to God's call to Abraham. The Old Testament patriarch, he said, "received a compelling invitation, a challenge, to leave everything and go to a new land. What is this 'new land' for us today, if not a more just and friendly society which you, young people, deeply desire and wish to build to the very ends of the earth?"

"A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts,



CNS Photo/Bob Roller

**WORLD YOUTH DAY:** Pope Francis waves as he arrives for a welcoming ceremony during the 2016 World Youth Day at Blonia Park in Krakow, Poland. As the Catholic Church prepares for a meeting of the Synod of Bishops focused on youth, the pope wrote a letter to young people saying the church wants "to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith, even your doubts and your criticism."

your desire to change and your generosity," Pope Francis told young people. "Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit who proposes bold choices; do not delay when your conscience asks you to take risks in following the Master."

The synod preparatory document offered three chapters for reflection by bishops and youths, which it defines as people roughly between the ages of 16 and 29: young people in today's world; faith, discernment and vocation; and pastoral activity.

Through the synod, the document said, "the church has decided to examine herself on how she can lead young people to recognize and accept the call to the fullness of life and love, and to ask young people to help her in identifying the most effec-

tive ways to announce the Good News today."

The church, it said, needs to evaluate its pastoral approach to young people living in a rapidly changing world where globalization, technological dominance, as well as economic and social hardships pose significant challenges to discovering their vocational path.

"From the vantage point of faith, the situation is seen as a sign of our times, requiring greater listening, respect and dialogue," the document said.

A special focus of the synod, it said, will be "on vocational discernment, that is, the process by which a person makes fundamental choices, in dialogue with the Lord and listening to the voice of the Spirit, starting with the choice of one's state in life."

Specifically for Christians, it said, the question is: "How does a person live the good news of the Gospel and respond to the call which the Lord addresses to all those he encounters, whether through marriage, the ordained ministry or the consecrated life?"

One of the major challenges for young people in defining their personal identity and finding their path in life is the countless options available -- particularly when it comes to their careers -- that may impede them from making a definitive life choice.

Many young people today, it said, "refuse to continue on a personal journey of life if it means giving up taking different paths in the future: 'Today I choose this, tomorrow we'll see.'"

Lack of employment and social and economic hardships, it added, also contribute to "their inability to continue in one career. Generally speaking, these obstacles are even more difficult for young women to overcome," it added.

Gender inequality and discrimination against ethnic or religious minorities, which can force people to emigrate, are other detrimental factors that the church is called to address to help young people become "agents of change."

"If society or the Christian community wants to make something new happen again, they have to leave room for new people to take action," the document said.

By accompanying young people in their personal discernment, it said, "the church accepts her call to collaborate in the joy of young people rather than be tempted to take control of their faith."

Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, general secretary of the Synod of Bishops, told journalists Jan. 13 that the presence of young men and women at the synod will help bishops understand how best to accompany youths who are searching for their vocation and path in life.

As auditors, young people "will not only be able to take part in the meetings of the general assembly, but also the small working groups," he said.

Federica Ceci and Elvis Do Ceu, young members of Rome's St. Thomas More parish, joined the cardinal for the news conference and expressed their gratitude for Pope Francis' attention to the realities facing today's young people.

Ceci, a 24-year-old law student, said the synod was a call for young people to "get their hands dirty."

Do Ceu told reporters, "Pope Francis, in a certain way, helps us understand that that the only way forward is to offer a future -- as well as a present -- by engaging young people and giving them a leading role."

# Paralyzed NYPD Officer Who Spoke Of Forgiveness Dies At 59

By Catholic News Service

**NEW YORK (CNS)** -- Detective Steven McDonald, the New York City police officer who was paralyzed after being shot in the line of duty 30 years ago and famously forgave his teenage assailant and went on to become a prophetic voice for forgiveness and reconciliation, died Jan. 10. He was 59.

A New York police spokesman confirmed that McDonald, who was Catholic, had died at a Long Island hospital four days after suffering a heart attack.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York called McDonald "a prophet, without speaking, of the pro-life cause."

"He showed us," the cardinal said, "that the value of life doesn't depend on physical abil-

ity, but on one's heart and soul, both of which he had in abundance."

The cardinal told **Catholic New York**, newspaper of the New York Archdiocese, that he had visited McDonald in the hospital's intensive care unit and said that the many rosaries and religious statues there represented outward signs of a Catholic faith the detective dearly practiced.

"You could see that he was such a fervent Catholic," Cardinal Dolan said.

McDonald often discussed his Catholic faith and the reason he forgave the teenage shooter, explaining that he believed what happened to him was God's will and that he was meant to become a messenger for God's message of peace, forgiveness and reconciliation in the world.

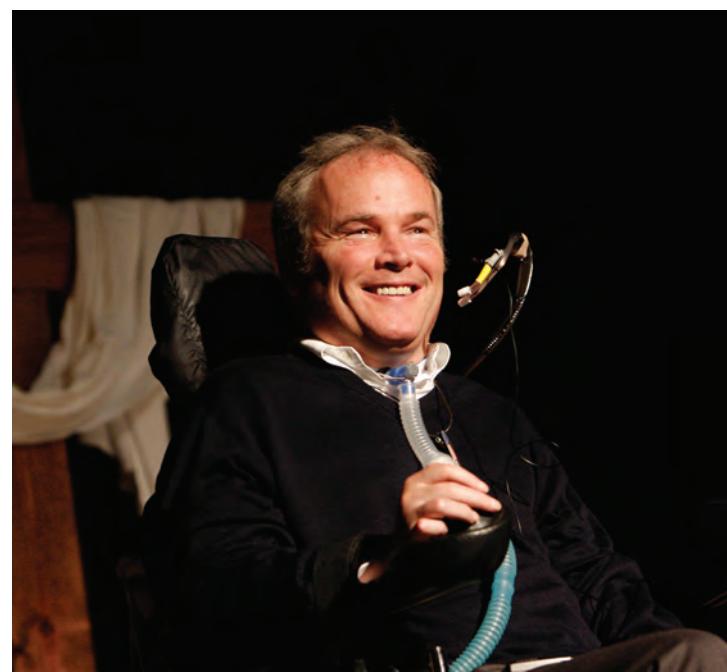
While on patrol July 12, 1986, McDonald came upon

three teenagers in Central Park and stopped to frisk them because he thought one of them had a weapon in his sock. One of the youths, then-15-year-old Shavod Jones, pulled out a weapon of his own and shot McDonald, leaving him for dead as the trio fled.

Three bullets struck McDonald, including one that pierced his spinal cord, leaving him paralyzed.

Doctors initially told McDonald's wife, Patti, who was three months pregnant with the couple's son, that the officer would not survive. However, McDonald pulled through. At the baptism of the son, Conor, March 1, 1987, McDonald asked his wife to read a statement about his feeling toward the shooter, saying "I forgive him and hope he can find a purpose in his life."

McDonald remained on the



CNS Photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic

**DETECTIVE MCDONALD:** Detective Steven McDonald of the New York Police Department, who was shot and paralyzed in the line of duty in 1986, smiles as he addresses the audience during a Catholic men's conference at Holy Trinity Diocesan High School in Hicksville, N.Y., in 2009. McDonald died Jan. 10 at a Long Island hospital at age 59.

**Although he was able to breathe only with the help of a respirator, Detective Steven McDonald crossed the country speaking at schools and other venues about the importance of forgiveness and peace. He also became an advocate for peace in troubled lands, visiting Northern Ireland, Israel and Bosnia to take his message to communities in conflict.**

police department payroll after being shot and later was named a detective.

McDonald long hoped that he and Jones could team up to speak about reconciliation. They corresponded while Jones served a 10-year sentence for attempted murder, but the correspondence ended when McDonald declined a request from Jones' family for help in seeking parole, saying he was not knowledgeable enough or capable to intervene. Jones died in a 1995 motorcycle accident shortly after being released from prison on parole.

For years after the shooting, McDonald drew widespread attention and media coverage. He met with St. John Paul II in 1995 and with South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela. Although he was able to breathe only with the help of

a respirator, McDonald crossed the country speaking at schools and other venues about the importance of forgiveness and peace. He also became an advocate for peace in troubled lands, visiting Northern Ireland, Israel and Bosnia to take his message to communities in conflict.

Conor McDonald eventually joined the NYPD and became a sergeant in 2016. He is the fourth generation of the family to serve in the department.

McDonald was born March 1, 1957, in Queens Village, New York, and grew up in Rockville Centre on Long Island. He was one of eight children of David and Anita McDonald.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Friday, January 13 at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City with Cardinal Dolan presiding.



## Assistant to the Executive Director

The Independent Catholic Foundation is seeking an energetic, innovative, collaborative and accomplished individual to work in support of the Executive Director. The Assistant to the Executive Director will join the Foundation at an important time in its history as the Trustees of the organization recently completed the first phase of a five-year strategic planning project. It is the intention of leadership to position the organization for growth, continued excellence and service to the community for generations to come.

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Altoona, PA 16602  
[director@icfdaj.org](mailto:director@icfdaj.org)

E.O.E

# Father Scanlan Transformed Franciscan University

By Catholic News Service

**STEUBENVILLE, OHIO**  
 (CNS) -- Franciscan Father Michael Scanlan, whose name is almost synonymous with the Franciscan University of Steubenville, died Saturday, January 7 at Garvey Manor, in Hollidaysburg, after a long illness. He was 85.

The priest transformed the struggling College of Steubenville -- now known as the Franciscan University of Steubenville -- in the 1970s. He was its longtime president -- from 1974 to 2000 -- and then chancellor at the university from 2000 to 2011 when he retired. The school became a university in 1980 and changed its name in 1986.

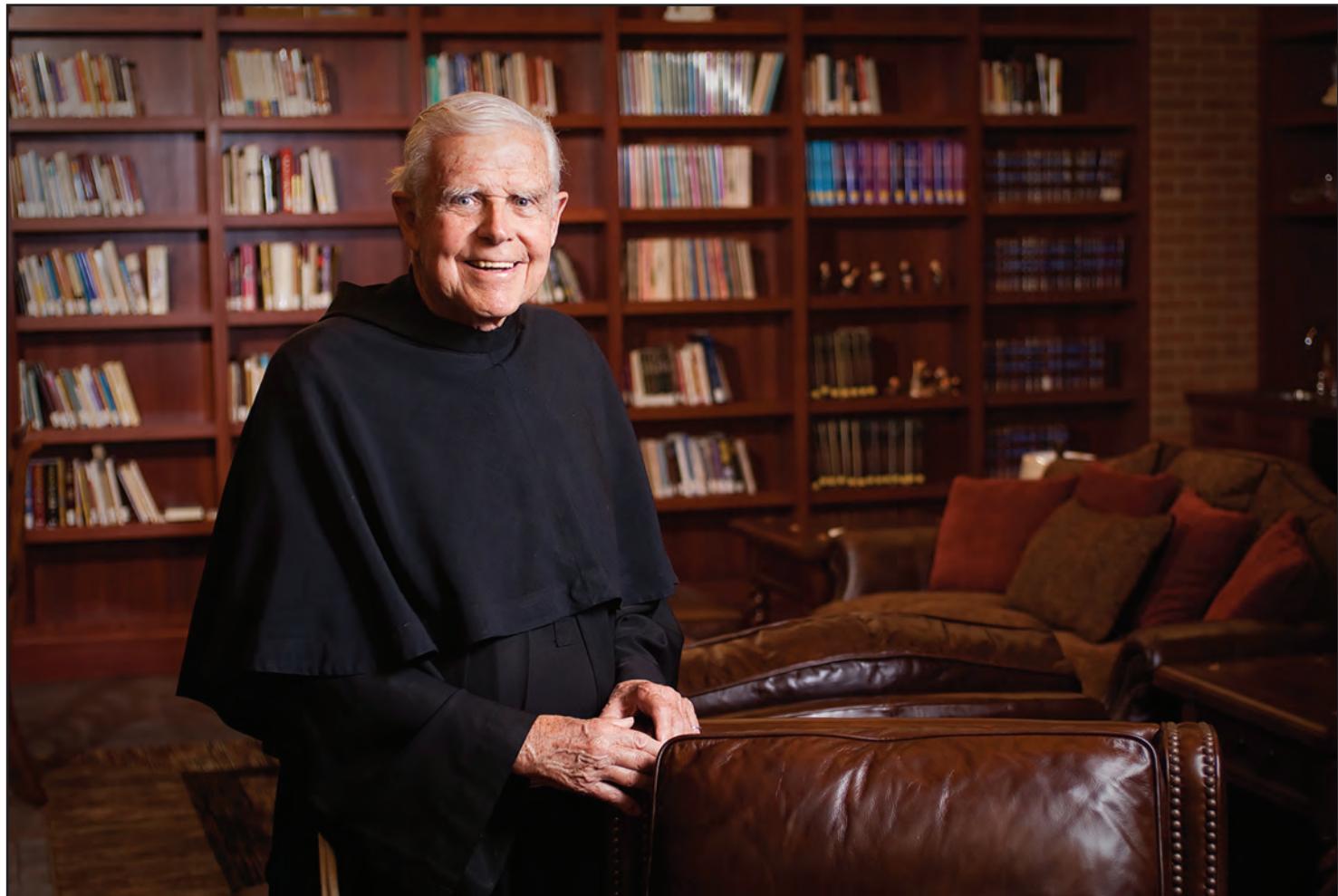
Father Scanlan, whose 1997 autobiography was titled **Let The Fire Fall**, was described by the provincial of his order, Franciscan Father Richard Davis, as "one of the most obedient, charitable, humble, and very holy men in our community."

"The good he has done for the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, for the order, and most importantly, for the entire church is a tremendous source of honor. I thank God he was my brother, my mentor, and my friend," he said in a statement.

Franciscan Father Sean Sheridan, president of Franciscan University, said Father Scanlan is "rightfully credited with revitalizing the Catholic and Franciscan mission of the university" and with working with school leaders and students, emphasizing the importance of campus ministry and theology "now, by far our largest major."

He said Father Scanlan also "led countless people into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. It is, perhaps, most of all for his spiritual fatherhood that so many will remember him with gratitude."

Father Scanlan was born in 1931 in Cedarhurst, New York. He received a bachelor's degree from Williams College, in Wil-



CNS Photo/Kevin R. Cooke, Franciscan University

## FATHER MICHAEL SCANLAN T.O.R.

liamstown, Massachusetts, and law degree from Harvard University in 1956. After serving as staff judge advocate in the Air Force, he decided to become a priest and was ordained as a Franciscan Third Order Regular Friar in 1964.

He served five years as dean and director of the honors program at College of Steubenville and five years as rector-president at Saint Francis Seminary in Loretto before being named president at Steubenville.

The priest was an early leader in the Catholic charismatic movement in the United States and wrote or co-authored more than 16 books and pamphlets about faith life.

He also co-founded a national Catholic evangelization ministry called FIRE, for Faith, Intercession, Repentance and Evangelism, and hosted the theology discussion program "Franciscan University Presents" for 18 years on EWTN.

In the summer of 1975, Father Scanlan hosted a summer conference on campus for priests, followed a year later by a Catholic evangelistic conference for teens. These conferences, now called Steubenville Youth Conferences, attract more than 55,000 high school youth and adults at dozens of conferences each summer in the U.S. and Canada.

A champion in the pro-life movement, Father Scanlan established President's Day in January so students could attend the national March for Life in Washington without missing classes. In 1989, he was jailed after participating in a peaceful protest outside a Youngstown, Ohio, abortion clinic.

Father Scanlan received many honors during his lifetime, including the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal from Pope John Paul II in 1990 for distinguished service to the church.

When he was asked in a 2013 interview what was most important to him, he said it was living faithfully as a Franciscan and "being able to be sent where

ever God wants you to serve his people."

(A complete obituary of Father Michael Scanlan T.O.R. may be found on Page 15.)

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# Now Showing

## Don't Even Think About Mindless Mayhem Of 'Monster Trucks'

By Kurt Jensen  
Catholic News Service

**NEW YORK (CNS)** -- The action comedy "Monster Trucks" (Paramount) certainly lives up to its title. It has strange creatures mysteriously propelling utilitarian vehicles in the absence of an internal combustion engine. It also sees to it that some bad guys meet justice, as you might expect.

Complex thinking is not what director Chris Wedge's children's film demands. Undoubtedly best appreciated

by those who still pronounce the eponymous conveyances "twuks," it does manage to fold in an environmental message as rigs of every sort speed around the oil fields of North Dakota.

As for the monsters, for most of the picture there's just one, a youngster named Creech. He's more or less a combination of shark, octopus and manatee. He's friendly and quite intelligent, along the lines of SpongeBob SquarePants. Instead of a pineapple under the sea, however, Creech's native habitat is found in a dense aquifer.

His preferred food is crude oil, and he can somehow com-



CNS Photo/Paramount

**MONSTER TRUCKS:** Jane Levy and Lucas Till star in a scene from the movie "Monster Trucks." The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

prehend human speech -- otherwise there'd be no story here.

Tripp (Lucas Till), a high school senior, wants nothing more than the independence that will come with his own set of wheels. So he's been restoring an old pickup truck at the salvage yard where he works. Meanwhile, Terrafex, a profit-focused oil-drilling outfit, has tapped into a nearby aquifer without caring to discover

whether its depths are home to any life forms.

There are, of course, and a few creatures explode out of the drilling machinery along with the water. Creech, looking for oil, finds his way to Tripp's garage and crawls under the hood. Creech's tentacles can wrap around the axles and -- although the movie doesn't have the budget to explain this well -- some physiological property allows him to spin them.

Tripp and his tentative girlfriend Meredith (Jane Levy) team up after that for a series of antics, mainly devoted either to crushing other vehicles or to tormenting the drillers. All

of these adversaries turn out to be irredeemable except for Jim (Thomas Lennon), a scientist with a conscience.

The many action sequences are unburdened by the logic of consequences. But trucks are merrily racing around, so the target viewers are unlikely to mind.

The film contains a few intense action sequences and a slightly crass sight gag. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

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**A half - hour of local Church news and features**

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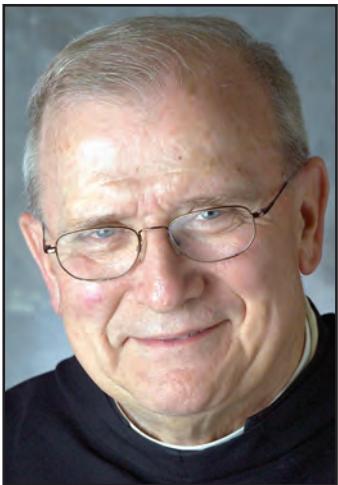
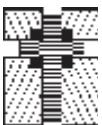
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## Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

**January 29** -- As we kick off our celebration of Catholic Schools Week, students who are examples of Faith, Knowledge, and Service join the Bishop to share their Catholic school experience.

**February 5** -- As Bishop Mark prepares to celebrate the annual Mass recognizing those in Consecrated Life, two area religious -- Sacred Heart Sister Mary Joan Greenberg and Third Order Regular Franciscan Brother Richard Gates -- share their vocation stories.



**Father Andre Strittmatter  
T.O.R.**

Father Andre Strittmatter, 83, of the Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, died Monday, January 2, at Garvey Manor, Hollidaysburg.

He was born Carl Vincent Strittmatter December 4, 1933 in Carrolltown, the son of the late Joseph and Bernardine (Feighner) Strittmatter. He graduated from Saint Benedict Grade School, Carrolltown and Saint Vincent Preparatory School, Latrobe.

On September 8, 1953, Father Andre entered postulancy at Mount Assisi Friary, Loretto. He entered novitiate at Portiuncula Monastery, Washington DC on July 4, 1954, and pronounced his first vows on July 5, 1955. He professed solemn vows on July 5, 1958 at the Immaculate Conception Chapel, Loretto.

Father Andre was ordained to the priesthood on May 27, 1961 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona by the late Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, Bishop of the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Saint Francis College (University) in 1957. He completed his Theological Studies at Saint Francis Seminary, Loretto. Father Andre did graduate studies at The Catholic University of America,

Washington DC. He received a Master of Science degree in Education from Villanova University, Villanova in 1966.

Father Andre ministered in education for over thirty years. He taught for one year at Norwood Academy, Chestnut Hill. In 1962, Father Andre began his long and illustrious teaching career at Bishop Egan High School, Fairless Hills. He taught religion and primarily all levels of German. He served as moderator of the high school band and was renowned for instilling in all students, faculty, and staff, enthusiastic school spirit for the Eagles. Coupled with his teaching career, Father Andre ministered each weekend at Queen of the Universe Church, Levittown and at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Southampton.

In 1993, Father Andre did home ministry for his mother and brother. In 1995 he was assigned to Saint Francis Friary, Loretto where he was in the ministry of prayer.

Father Andre was preceded in death by his brother, Alfred J. He is survived by cousins and his Franciscan brothers.

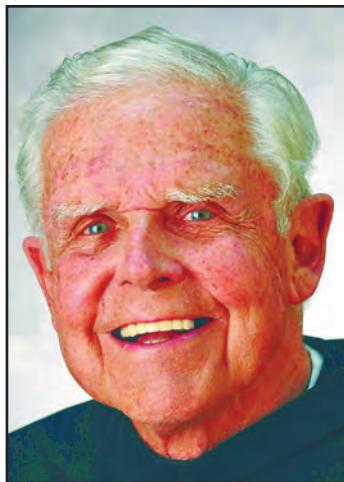
The Funeral Mass for Father Andre Strittmatter T.O.R. was celebrated Saturday, January 7 in the chapel of Saint Francis Friary - Mount Assisi, with Father Richard L. Davis, Minister Provincial, as principal celebrant. Committal was in the Franciscan Friars' Cemetery, on the campus of Saint Francis University, Loretto.

Memorial contributions may be made to support retired T.O.R. Friars, c/o T.O.R. Retirement Fund, Saint Francis Friary, P.O. Box 137, Loretto, PA 15940.

**Father Michael Scanlan  
T.O.R.**

Father Michael Scanlan, formerly known as Father Theophane, 85, of the Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, died Saturday, January 7, at Garvey Manor, Hollidaysburg after an extended illness.

He was born Vincent Michael Scanlan December 1, 1931 in Far Rockaway, Long



Island, New York, the son of the late Vincent and Mary Margaret (O'Keefe) Scanlan.

He attended Coindre Hall, Huntington, New York for grade school and graduated from New Hampton School, New Hampshire, New Hampshire.

On September 15, 1957, he entered Mount Assisi Friary, Loretto and began his postulancy. On June 30, 1958, he began his novitiate at Portiuncula Monastery, Washington DC.

Father Michael professed his first vows on July 1, 1959 in Washington, DC, and his solemn vows on July 1, 1962 at Mount Assisi. Father Michael was ordained to the priesthood on May 23, 1964, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, by the late Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, D.D., Bishop of the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese.

Prior to his entrance into the Franciscan community, Father Michael attended Williams College, Williamstown MA, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1953. He then went on to Harvard University, Cambridge MA, where he was awarded a Doctor of Law degree in 1956. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Saint Francis Seminary, Loretto.

He served his country in the United States Air Force before entering religious life.

Father Michael had an illustrious career in the educational ministries of the Franciscan Third Order Regular community.

His first assignment after ordination was on the faculty of the College of Steubenville (Franciscan University of Steubenville), Steubenville, Ohio. After teaching for four years, he

became the academic dean at the College.

In 1969 Father Michael became the rector of Saint Francis Seminary, Loretto.

In 1974, he returned to the College of Steubenville having been elected president by the Board of Trustees. Father Michael was president of the College of Steubenville/Franciscan University of Steubenville for 26 years. During his tenure the college grew considerably in all areas. It became Franciscan University of Steubenville, enrollment increased dramatically, new undergraduate programs and graduate programs were added. The campus was enlarged and many new buildings were completed. He established the household system on the campus as well as summer conferences for youth and adults.

Father Michael became the Chancellor of Franciscan University, and later became President - Emeritus of the Franciscan University.

In 2011, Fr. Michael returned to the Motherhouse in Loretto and was engaged in the ministry of prayer at Saint Francis Friary - Mount Assisi.

Father Michael was a noted speaker and prolific writer, and he published several books and articles. He served as a trustee on several boards.

During his lifetime Father Michael received numerous honors.

In 1990, he received the Pro Ecclesia and Pontifice Medal from Saint John Paul II, in recognition of extraordinary service to the Church and the Pope. He was honored with the Founders' Award from the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars in 1993. In 1997, he received the highest honor given by the Franciscan Third Order Regular Community: The Sacrae Theologiae Magister, an academic degree beyond the doctorate earned by demonstrating competency in the field of theology. He received many other awards, including Christendom College's Pro Deo et Pro Patria medal for distinguished service to God and country in 2007. In 2009, He received the Pro Fidelitate et Virtute Award from the Institute

on Religious Life. He held five honorary degrees.

Father Michel is survived by his brother Lon Scanlan of Atlanta GA and nephews and nieces and his Franciscan brothers.

Following services at Franciscan University of Steubenville, the Funeral Mass for Father Michael Scanlan T.O.R. was celebrated Thursday, January 12 in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the campus of Saint Francis University, Loretto, with Father Richard L. Davis, Minister Provincial, as principal celebrant. Committal was in the Franciscan Friars' Cemetery on the campus of Saint Francis University.

Memorial contributions may be made to support retired T.O.R. Friars, c/o T.O.R. Retirement Fund, Saint Francis Friary, P.O. Box 137, Loretto PA 15940.



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# Activities Announced For Catholic Schools' Week

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

"Catholic Schools Week is a celebration of why we're here," said Sister of Charity Donna Marie Leiden, diocesan director of Education. The Altoona - Johnstown diocese, along with those across the country will celebrate the annual Catholic Schools' Week from January 29 to February 4.

"The theme for this year is 'Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service,'" she added.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will celebrate two Masses during the week: at Divine Mercy Catholic Academy on Tuesday, January 31 at Saint Benedict Church, Johnstown, and on Friday, February 3 at 10:00 a.m. at Saint Benedict School in Carrollton.

The week will begin with Masses, and students engaging in a variety of activities that focus on the importance and value of Catholic Education. Schools hold open houses for the students and their families, and encourage parish and community members to join them.

The theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education. First, schools are communities - small families in their own right, but also members of the larger community of home, church, city and nation. Faith, knowledge and service are three



Photo By Tony DeGol

**FAITH:** Catholic Schools are communities of faith. In his letter for Catholic Schools' Week, appearing on Page 2 of this issue, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak spoke of how (left to right) Becky Zabinsky, Heather Gailey, Chloe Gailey and Emma Gailey shared with him how Catholic education at All Saints Catholic School in Cresson has impacted their family.

measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged.

The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), has suggested themes for each day of the week.

On Sunday, Mass will be celebrated with the focus on parishes, schools, and the communities in which they are located. The focus for the following days will be:

- Monday - In Our Community



- Tuesday - Students
- Wednesday - Nation (National Appreciation Day For Catholic Schools)
- Thursday - Vocations
- Friday - Faculty, Staff and Volunteers (Teacher & Principal Appreciation Day)

- Saturday - Families

Sister Donna Marie said many of the schools will offer open houses for the parents, students, and communities. Among them are: Saint Matthew School,

Tyrone, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 29.

Saint Michael Catholic School, Loretto, will begin the week with the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, January 28 followed by an open house. All Saints Catholic School in Cresson, will have an open house from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m..

Open houses on Sunday, January 29 include: Saint John School in Bellefonte following the 10:15 a.m. Mass; Our Lady of Victory School in State College and Saint Joseph Catholic Academy, Boalsburg following the 9:30 a.m. Mass; and Holy Name School in Ebensburg following the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Saint Peter School in Somerset will hold its open house from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, January 30.

Divine Mercy Catholic Academy will hold open houses from 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7 at the West Campus; 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 9 at the East Campus.

The students and teachers always have a lot of fun with the week, and use it for charitable causes. Saint Patrick School in Newry will hold a cereal drive to benefit the Saint Vincent DePaul Society; and Northern Cambria Catholic will collect cans of soup for Saint Vincent DePaul.

(Continued On Page 10.)

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