



# The Catholic Register

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## Bishops Exchange Pulpits At Services Marking 500 Years Since The Reformation

Photos And Text  
By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein

For over 20 years, local Christian leaders have been gathering, with their congregations, to pray together for Christian unity.

This year, those prayers came as Christians are marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

To mark that milestone, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown suggested to his Lutheran counterpart, Bishop Michael L. Rhyne of the Allegheny Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, that they should "switch pulpits" for the event; Bishop Rhyne preaching at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, and Bishop Mark preaching at Calvary Lutheran Church in Johnstown.

"How cool is that!," exclaimed Bishop Rhyne, describing that invitation to the approximately 12 clergy participants and sixty worshippers gathered in Altoona on Sunday, January 22.



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**SIGN OF SHARED FAITH:** Lutheran Bishop Michael L. Rhyne (left) and Bishop Mark L. Bartchak dip their fingers in the Holy Water in the baptismal font at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona on Sunday, January 22. In his sermon, Bishop Rhyne reminded the congregation gathered for an Ecumenical Prayer Service, that the waters of Baptism are a sign of a shared faith in Jesus.

**Community**

**Free Tax Help**

**Cresson:** Mount Aloysius College invites families needing help with their tax returns to visit the College's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA is now in its eighth year at Mount Aloysius College and this tax season MAC business students will once again be joined by accounting students from Penn Highlands Community College. The collaboration between Mount Aloysius and Penn Highlands gives qualified area residents more locations for greater convenience. VITA Tax preparation assistance will be available through April 13.

In addition to free tax return preparation, the VITA student volunteers also offer free electronic filing (e-filing). Individuals taking advantage of the e-file program should receive refunds in half the time compared to paper returns - - and even faster when tax refunds are deposited directly into the taxpayer's bank account.

The Mount Aloysius College VITA Office is located in College's Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center, Room 201. Hours of service are by appointment and it is best to call ahead. The VITA access number for questions and appointments is (814) 886 - 6621.

There are two Pennsylvania Highlands Community College VITA locations. These include the Penn Highlands Richland Campus and Ebensburg Center.

The Richland Campus is located at 101 Community College in Johnstown, in the Student Activities Office, Room A110N. The Ebensburg Center is located in the Hills Plaza Center on Route 22 in Ebensburg, in the Main Office. Tax preparation at the Penn Highlands locations require an appointment made through the central VITA phone number, (814) 886 - 6621.

Taxpayers who wish to use the VITA program should treat the service no differently than if they were going to an accountant. Items needed to complete a return may include: proof of identification (photo ID); Social Security cards for you, your spouse and dependents; birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return; wage and earning statements (Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-Misc) from all employers; interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099); all Forms 1095, health insurance statements; health insurance exemption certificates, if received; and a copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available; total paid for daycare provider and the daycare provider's tax identifying number such as their Social Security number or business employer identification number. If taxpayers wish to take advantage of direct deposit of refunds they need their bank account routing and account numbers. A blank check will work for this. To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to

sign the required forms. For additional information, or to make an appointment, call (814) 886 - 6621.

**Girl Scouts Award**

**Altoona:** Girl Scouting's highest awards, the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards are a girls chance to make a lasting difference in the world. Abbey Anderson, Olivia Butler, Julia Cacciotti, Emily Kasun, Angelyn Adams, Jocelyn Robertson, Sierra Rosamilia and Kasey Shultz completed the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest recognition for achievement in Girl Scouting for girls in grades 6 - 8. This award recognizes girls who demonstrate- individually or as a group- extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable Take Action projects that address important community needs. Each girl is required to commit 50 hours to the project.

After attending the former Altoona Central Catholic School, the girls, members of Troop 42043, wanted to make a sincere contribution in an effort to combat bullies. The girls, deeply grateful for their elementary experience in the parochial system were keenly interested in doing something for the current students.

Cadette Troop 42043 decided to make a Buddy Bench for their Silver Award Project. A Buddy Bench is a bench serving as a safe space for a child who is feeling lonely or doesn't have any friends. The goal of the bench is to create an opportunity to make new friends and foster friendships.

The troop used strength, talent, and skills to put their plan into action to earn the Silver Award while enabling each girl to take a leadership role. The troop was split into two groups and built two separate benches for the elementary campuses of Holy Trinity Catholic School. A small monetary donation was made in hope to restore the benches if ever needed. Besides monetary help, the troop purchased playground toys for both elementary sites. Buddy Baskets were also made.

The Troop members are: Abbey Anderson is the daugh-



**ATTEND INAUGURATION:** Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg, was represented at the Friday, January 20 inauguration of United States President Donald J. Trump by alumni Ty Krug, Class of 2014 (left) and current student Josh Nicely (right). Krug attended as part of a delegation from Virginia Military Institute, and Nicely as a member of the Envision program.

ter of Terry and Deanna Anderson. She has been a Girl Scout for 8 years. Olivia Butler is the daughter of Matt and Jen Butler. She has been a Girl Scout for 8 years. Julia Cacciotti is the daughter of Mike and Becky Cacciotti. She has been a Girl Scout for 8 years. Emily Kasun is the daughter of Bob and Joann Kasun. She has been a Girl Scout for 5 years. Angelyn Adams is the daughter of Anne and Duke Adams. She has been a Girl Scout for 8 years. Jocelyn Robertson is the daughter of Scott and Jaime Robertson. She has been a Girl Scout for 8 years. Sierra Rosamilia is the daughter of Heather Rosamila. She has been a Girl Scout for 8 years. Kasey Schultz is the daughter of Kerry and Anita Schultz. She has been a Girl Scout for 8 years.

**High Schools**

**Athletic Director Named**

**Ebensburg:** Former athlete and coach and current teacher Daniel "Dan" McMullen is excited for the future of competition at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School. After teaching and coaching for several years at the school, this past September he was appointed as the new Athletic Director.

"Dan has accepted his additional role with great enthusiasm," said Bishop Carroll CEO Jerome "Jerry" Stephens. "He

is working diligently to move our athletic program in a direction that facilitates the overall growth of our students. He realizes that athletics can play a significant role in achieving our mission of educating our students in spirit, mind, heart, and body. The Bishop Carroll family is very pleased that Dan has accepted this additional role."

When asked about what athletic events he especially looks forward to this year, McMullen said, "I always look forward to the District 6 Track & Field meet, but I am excited about all of our sports and athletes. I really do expect to witness some exciting competitions in the very near future."

McMullen became the Athletic Director on September 21, 2016. A former athlete himself, he played football and volleyball and competed in track & field while attending Central Cambria High School. As a football player, he was a lineman, and in track & field he threw shot, disc, and javelin. Today, work and family obligations keep him busy, but he does his best to stay active.

"I still try to get a few games of racquetball in," he said, "but it can be hard to find the time."

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# In The Alleghenies



## Flu Season Directives

The Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown has received an advisory from public health officials that the reported cases of "the flu" and similar contagious viruses remains a serious concern at this time. Therefore, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak has asked that the Precious Blood of the Lord not be offered at Mass, temporarily. It is the belief of the Catholic Church that the whole Body of Christ is present under either form of consecrated bread and wine. Also, the exchange of the sign of peace should avoid bodily contact. A reverent nod with eye contact and a smile will be the temporary practice. Reception of Holy Communion on the hand is encouraged; however, reception on the tongue may not be denied. These norms are in effect throughout the winter months or until the flu season is over.

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McMullen says that in his new position, he is most looking forward to working with Bishop Carroll's students, parents, coaches, and staff to make their high school athletic experiences as positive, successful, and rewarding as possible.

"One of my main goals is to do everything that I can to help improve all programs," he said.

McMullen comes to the Athletic Director position from a coaching background. He coached football for a total of six years - - four at Central Cambria and two at Bishop Carroll. He also coached track & field for seven years - - four at Central Cambria and three at Bishop Carroll. He is confident that those experiences will provide him with the perspective needed to be successful in his new role, his first as an Athletic Director.

"My past experiences with Athletic Directors has helped me appreciate and understand the perspective of the other coaches and staff," he explained,

"and I think that will be very beneficial for the position I currently hold."

McMullen graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania as a Social Studies Education major, and he also holds a certificate in English. He grew up in Ebensburg and graduated from Central Cambria High School in 2003. In addition to the Athletic Director role, Daniel also teaches English and psychology.

McMullen and his wife Sarah have two young sons, Timothy (who is two - and - a - half) and Wesley (who is one). He is enjoying every moment watching them grow up.

### Spring Musical

**Altoona:** The Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School award - winning Drama Club will perform "Guys & Dolls" on Friday and Saturday evenings, March 3 and 4, at the historic Mishler Theatre.

Tickets to this Spring musical are on sale now at mishler-

theatre.org or by calling the box office at (814) 944 - 9434.

### Attend Inauguration

**Ebensburg:** One Bishop Carroll Catholic High School student and one Bishop Carroll alum were present at the Friday, January 20 inauguration of President Donald J. Trump.

Ty Krug, Class of 2014, a third - year biology major at the Virginia Military Institute, carried the Battle of New Market Flag with his VMI classmates during the Inaugural Parade, while current student Josh Knicely attended in conjunction with the Presidential Leadership Summit.

Both young men were honored to be a part of the historic occasion. According to Ty's mother, Sherri Krug, participating in the Inaugural Parade filled Ty "with a sense of pride for Virginia Military Institute and our country." All in all, she says, it was a surreal experience and one that he did not grasp the magnitude of until the parade actually began. It was particularly momentous for both him and his family when he lowered the Battle of New Market Flag to pass in review in front of President Trump.

Ty is currently a color sergeant in the Corps of Cadets, participant in the Army ROTC program, and assistant prosecutor for the VMI Honor Court. Both Ty's father and uncle attended VMI, the country's first state - funded military college, located in Lexington VA., and his younger brother Nate, who is a current senior at Bishop Carroll, has been accepted as well. VMI has a long history of participating in the inauguration, marching in 14 prior, the first being in 1909, for President William Howard Taft.

Josh Knicely attended the inauguration as a member of the Envision program, an organization which brings high school students together to explore career and leadership experiences. Josh was nominated

and qualified to take part in the program's Presidential Leadership Summit, coinciding with Inauguration Day. All students present at the summit attended the inauguration, and also heard from renowned speakers such as General Colin Powell, Spike Lee, Carly Fiorina, and Malala Yousafzai.

"My favorite part of the president's inauguration was getting to witness everyone coming together to witness the exchange of power," commented Josh.

While attending the summit, Josh said he learned valuable lessons relating to the Bishop Carroll pillars of the spirit, heart, mind, and body. "We learned that everyone has the right to an education. We also learned that everyone has a right to speak, and that you shouldn't bully someone into not speaking and sharing their opinion."

### New Football Coach

**Ebensburg:** Bishop Carroll Catholic High School is pleased to announce the addition of new Head Football Coach Sean Billings to the staff. Billings has a long history with the school, graduating in 2008 and remaining an involved alum through present day. During his time at Bishop Carroll, Billings was an offensive/defensive lineman on the team and, shortly after graduation, began working as an assistant coach, in 2009. He held that title for seven years, before being promoted to his current role following the departure of Head Coach Chris Kozak.

"The entire Bishop Carroll Catholic family is excited about the selection of Sean Billings as our new head varsity football coach," said Athletic Director Daniel McMullen. "He has years of dedicated coaching experience in several roles, and he already has a great rapport with our student-athletes. Coach Billings has already been pushing our guys in the weight room and academics alike. He is knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and dedicated to the kids and the program. We are lucky to have Sean in this new role, and we are looking forward to the upcoming season."

"Sean is not only an alum and former football player but has been an assistant coach for the last eight seasons. He knows what it will take to turn around our football program and has the skill and desire to do it. He has been a great asset to the program and will become an even greater asset in his new role," added Bishop Carroll CEO Jerome A. "Jerry" Stephens, Jr.

Billings officially accepted the position on December 23, and has since been working toward his goal of getting his players and program staff moving in the right direction. An off-season strength program is already showing progress, and many are looking ahead to fall camp.

Goals for the upcoming season are comprehensive, incorporating values that will assist players both on and off the field, for years to come. "Our first goal is to teach our student athletes the aspects and values that build toward having success, not just on the football field, but in all aspects in life. Secondly, we want to compete! Compete in the weight room, compete in practice, and compete on the field. Finally, we want to get BC football back on the map!" Billings said.

"In order to accomplish these goals, we have to focus on the process and not so much on the outcome. We need to be committed to what we are doing, consistent with our approach and be reliable to everybody involved in this process. Once you are able to buy in and trust the process, nobody can stop you."

Currently, plans are underway to begin implementing offensive and defensive systems as quickly as possible. Defensive strategy won't be changing up too much from what fans saw at the end of the 2016 season, as players began making better reads and understanding coverage and stunt concepts. Offensively, the goal is to make schemes simple and effective, with plays that don't require a lot of forethought.

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## Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein  
Becoming Who  
We Want To Be

Following the death of comic actress Mary Tyler Moore, her former co - star, Valerie Harper, reflected on the characters they, and Cloris Leachman, played on the 1970s "Mary Tyler Moore Show."

"Mary's character (Mary Richards) was who we all wanted to be," said Harper. Of her own character, Rhoda Morgenstern, a person struggling with her weight, her job, her parents and a slew of other issues, Harper said "Rhoda was the person most of us were," and of Leachman's Phyllis Lindstrom, a sharp - tongued, acerbic woman of strong opinions and a desire to mold everyone into her own image and likeness, Harper reflected "Phyllis, was, God forbid, the person we were all afraid we would become."

Mary Tyler Moore's death took place at the very time that we Americans were forced to stop and consider who we wanted to be, who we really were, and who we might become. The uproar greeting the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump and the start of his administration, and the furor surrounding his travel ban on refugees and people traveling from predominantly Muslim countries exposed some harsh truths about the reality of the American people.

We all would like to think that we are like Mary Richards, turning the world on with our smile, spreading love all around, and in turn, being loved by everyone. We take pride in the words of Emma Lazarus inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore.. Send these, the homeless, tempest - tost to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Lazarus' words paint a picture of the Americans we would like to be: open, welcoming, warm, our shores open to anyone and everyone in need of a safe place to call home. We know that we are all Rhoda Morgensterns: we descend from the tired, the poor, the huddled masses, the wretched refuse, the homeless and the tempest - tost. We know immigrants and refugees. We are their children and their grandchildren. We want them to know that they are welcome on our shores.

But we forget - - and to our own peril - - that this nation has a past that has a distinctly "Phyllis" - like cast to it. We don't want to be reminded that the number of huddled masses once welcomed to this country was restricted by a quota system enshrined in the Immigration Act of 1924, an Act primarily targeted at immigrants and refugees from Southern Europe and Eastern Europe - - people who were overwhelmingly Catholic and Jewish. The Act also prohibited outright the immigration of Arabs and Asians. That law remained on the books until 1965. That's the reality of who and what we were in the United States of America. We were not as welcoming as we would like to believe we were.

And maybe that's why there has been such furor around the recent presidential action. We have been forced to confront the fact that there are skeletons in our closet that we would rather ignore - - actions that we would prefer to forget. We don't like having to look in a mirror and see ourselves as we are.

But the truth about our past does not mean that we are bound to repeat those mistakes, or even that we should repeat those mistakes. Having been confronted with the reality of our xenophobic past, we can and we must move beyond that past to embrace a present and a future where Emma Lazarus's words are not a dead letter, but a living declaration of all that we hold dear. We have to confront our past and resolve to leave it behind. We have to repent for past failures by our actions today. We don't need to make America great again; we need to make America as great as we have always said it is - - as we would truly like it to be.

# Point Of View

## President's Banning Refugees Brings Outcry From U.S. Church Leaders

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)

-- President Donald Trump's executive memorandum intended to restrict the entry of terrorists coming to the United States brought an outcry from Catholic leaders across the United States.

Church leaders used phrases such as "devastating," "chaotic" and "cruel" to describe the Jan. 27 action that left already-approved refugees and immigrants stranded at U.S. airports and led the Department of Homeland Security to rule that green card holders -- lawful permanent U.S. residents -- be allowed into the country.

"This weekend proved to be a dark moment in U.S. history," said Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich said in a Jan. 29 statement. "The executive order to turn away refugees and to close our nation to those, particularly Muslims, fleeing violence, oppression and persecution is contrary to both Catholic and American values. Have we not repeated the disastrous decisions of those in the past who turned away other people fleeing violence, leaving certain ethnicities and religions marginalized and

excluded? We Catholics know that history well, for, like others, we have been on the other side of such decisions.

"Their design and implementation have been rushed, chaotic, cruel and oblivious to the realities that will produce enduring security for the United States," he said. "They have left people holding valid visas and other proper documents detained in our airports, sent back to the places some were fleeing or not allowed to board planes headed here. Only at the 11th hour did a federal judge intervene to suspend this unjust action."

"The Protection of the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States," which suspends the entire U.S. refugee resettlement program for 120 days, bans entry from all citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries -- Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia -- for 90 days. It also establishes a religious criteria for refugees, proposing to give priority to religious minorities over others who may have equally compelling refugee claims.

"We are told this is not the 'Muslim ban' that had been proposed during the presidential campaign, but these actions focus on Muslim-majority countries," said Cardinal Cupich.

"Ironically, this ban does not include the home country of 15 of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers. Yet, people from Iraq, even those who assisted our military in a destructive war, are excluded."

The cardinal quoted Pope Francis' remarks to Congress in 2015: "If we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities."

He said Pope Francis "followed with a warning that should haunt us as we come to terms with the events of the weekend: 'The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us.'"

Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego said the executive action was "the introduction into law of campaign sloganeering rooted in xenophobia and religious prejudice. Its devastating consequences are already apparent for those suffering most in our world, for our standing among nations, and for the imperative of rebuilding unity within our country rather than tearing us further apart."

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# French Bishops Release New Statistics On Sexual Abuse Of Children

By Catholic News Service

**PARIS (CNS)** -- More than 200 victims have reported child sex abuse to the French church in the past six years, according to data collected by the French bishops.

“More than 60 percent of these testimonies are about events that happened before 1970; 35 percent happened between 1970 and 2000; and 4 percent were abuse that have taken place since the 2000s,” the conference said.

The bishops released the results of a national inquiry on pedophilia along with a new version of the “Fight Against Pedophilia” guide. It’s the guide’s third edition, after the original one from 2002 was updated in 2010. Last year, the bishops promised they would react to new sex abuse scandals in the church, especially in the Archdiocese of Lyon.

“The promotion and the diffusion of this work are part of the means taken to make the church a safe place for children and youth,” said a statement from the French bishops’ conference.

It said the conference also wanted to renew its 2010 “quantitative inquiry” about pedophilia.

“This new inquiry was allowed to take place thanks to the bishops’ commitment from April 2016 to be available for the victims and their close family or friends that

would come forward. From these contacts and meetings, a quantitative census was asked of the bishops about their experience,” said the statement.

The bishops confirmed that nine clergy members in France are now in prison for crimes related to pedophilia, 37 have been convicted and are now out of jail, and 26 are being investigated.

In the past six years, the church has asked France to look into 137 cases related to pedophilia.



CNS/Karen Callaway

**HEALING GARDEN:** A sign stands at the entrance of a healing garden on the grounds of Holy Family Church in Chicago in this June 9, 2011, file photo. The garden was created as a place of prayer and healing for survivors of clerical sexual abuse, their families and the greater Catholic Church.

## 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://victimservicesinc.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. Barchak 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.

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“One of our biggest challenges will be to get our players back into a mentality of winning. We’re coming off some rough years,” acknowledges Billings. “Getting our team into a competitive and winning mindset from week to week is a definite priority.”

Billings credits his long history working on the program for eight seasons as great preparation for his new role.

“With the past players and coaches that worked so hard and invested so much to get this program, at one time, to be one of the area’s best, it gives me a great sense of pride to know that

I have the opportunity to lead this team. It’s an opportunity I don’t want to squander.”

### Higher Education

#### Blanket Collection

**Loretto:** The Saint Francis University Community Blanketeers’ annual blanket collection kicked off on January 16 and will run through March 17. The Blanketeer group was first organized in 2006 by Dr. Robin L. Cadwallader and Dr. Margaret A. Garcia, with the assistance of Melita O’Donnell.

Each year the Blanketeers focus on creating comfy, soft blankets for babies and young

children. Since 2006, the group has collected more than 1,200 beautiful quilted, crocheted, knitted, and embroidered blankets, which have been donated to children in need in Blair, Cambria, Clearfield and Somerset counties.

All blankets should be new and hand made in a size suitable for small hands (approximately 36 x 48 inches). While any materials are acceptable, washable fabrics and yarns are desirable as these blankets will get a lot of use and see many washings.

Blankets can be dropped off at Saint Francis University and placed in the crib located in the entrance of Scotus Hall. Thanks to a generous donation by the Saint Francis University Presi-

dent’s Office, the crib will be donated to a local family in need at the end of the blanket drive.

For other drop - off arrangements, or for additional information regarding the Saint Francis University Community Blanketeers, please contact Melita O’Donnell at (814) 472 - 3004 or modonnell@francis.edu.

### Specialist Named

**Loretto:** The Office of Adult Degree and Continuing Studies at Saint Francis University announces the addition of Nicole Bopp to the team as an ADCS Specialist.

Nicole received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications at The Pennsylvania State University. She joins Saint Francis with a well - versed sales background in healthcare and insurance.

She is responsible for connecting with area companies and schools to enhance educational opportunities for prospective adult students. She is delighted to advise and pair prospective adults to the program that best fits their educational advancement needs.

Nicole represents Saint Francis University Adult Degree and Continuing Studies in Blair, Cambria, Centre, Dauphin, Indiana, Somerset, and Westmoreland Counties. She resides in Altoona, with her husband and three children.

The Office of Adult Degree & Continuing Studies matches prospective adult students with Saint Francis offerings through convenient, flexible, and affordable evening, weekend and online classes. For more information visit, [www.francis.edu/ADCS](http://www.francis.edu/ADCS) or call (814) 472 - 3012.

## Church Leaders React To Ban On Refugees

(Continued From Page 4.)

“This week the Statue of Liberty lowered its torch in a presidential action which repudiates our national heritage and ignores the reality that Our Lord and the Holy Family were themselves Middle Eastern refugees fleeing government oppression. We cannot and will not stand silent,” he said in a statement Jan. 29.

Shortly after Trump signed the document at the Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes, Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration, said the bishops “strongly disagree” with the action to halt refugee resettlement.

“We believe that now more than ever, welcoming newcomers and refugees is an act of love and hope,” Bishop Vasquez said.

The USCCB runs the largest refugee resettlement program in the United States, and Bishop Vasquez said the church would continue to engage the administration, as it had with administrations for 40 years.

“We will work vigorously to ensure that refugees are hu-

manely welcomed in collaboration with Catholic Charities without sacrificing our security or our core values as Americans, and to ensure that families may be reunified with their loved ones,” he said.

He also reiterated the bishops’ commitment to protect the most vulnerable, regardless of religion. All “are children of God and are entitled to be treated with human dignity. We believe that by helping to resettle the most vulnerable, we are living out our Christian faith as Jesus has challenged us to do.”

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington called attention to the USCCB statement and the executive action and noted that “the legal situation is still fluid and news reports are sometimes confusing.”

“The political debate, which is complex and emotionally highly charged, will continue, but we must do our best to remain focused on the pastoral and very real work we undertake every day for the vulnerable and most in need ... for the strangers at our doors,” he said.

Around the country, people gathered at airports to express

solidarity with immigrants and green card holders denied admission, including an Iraqi who had helped the 101st Airborne during the Iraqi war. More than 550 people gathered at Lafayette Park across from the White House Jan. 29 to celebrate Mass in solidarity with refugees.

In a letter to the president and members of Congress, more than 2,000 religious leaders representing the Interfaith Immigration Coalition objected to the action.

In a separate statement, Jesuit Refugee Services-USA said the provisions of the executive action “violate Catholic social teaching that calls us to welcome the stranger and treat others with the compassion and solidarity that we would wish for ourselves.”

Sean Callahan, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, said: “Welcoming those in need is part of America’s DNA.

“Denying entry to people desperate enough to leave their homes, cross oceans in tiny boats, and abandon all their worldly possessions just to find safety will not make our nation safer. The United States is al-

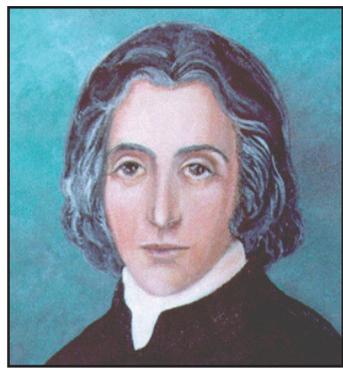


CNS Photo/Jim West

**PROTEST:** People in Hamtramck, Mich., participate in a Jan. 29 protest against President Donald Trump’s travel ban.

ready using a thorough vetting process for refugees -- especially for those from Syria and surrounding countries. CRS welcomes measures that will make our country safer, but they

shouldn’t jeopardize the safety of those fleeing violence; should not add appreciable delay nor entail unjust discrimination,” he said.



# A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

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

## Former Slave Remembered As Denver's 'Angel Of Charity'

By Catholic News Service

**DENVER (CNS)** -- Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila Dec. 18 formally opened the sainthood cause of Julia Greeley, a former slave who spent her days caring for the poor, during a Mass at the Cathedral Basilica

of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Denver.

Born into slavery in Missouri in the 1840s, Julia Greeley gained her freedom after the Civil War and worked as a nanny. She moved to Denver, where she was employed to care for the children of William Gilpin, the first territorial governor of Colorado.



CNS Photo/Archdiocese Of Denver

**JULIA GREELEY:** This image of Julia Greeley, a former slave who lived in Colorado, was commissioned by the Archdiocese of Denver by iconographer Vivian Imbruglia.

Known for her love of children and the poor, Greeley also was known for her piety, often passing out prayer card devotions to the Sacred Heart. She was a convert to Catholicism.

Despite working long hours taking care of children, cooking and cleaning, she would often be seen walking at night through the streets of Denver pulling a small wagon of food and supplies, which she would deliver to poor families. She was known as Denver's "Angel of Charity."

In November, Archbishop Aquila presented the case for Greeley's potential sainthood at the annual fall general assembly of the U.S. bishops in Baltimore. As part of the episcopal consultation in the Catholic Church's

process for causes, the bishops Nov. 15 approved by voice vote that her sainthood cause should go forward.

Once a cause has officially begun, the candidate is declared a servant of God and a postulator is named. The next step is a diocesan inquiry on the life of the person. The Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes then reviews the gathered information, and if he or she is found to have 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 determined to have occurred through the candidate's intercession are needed for sainthood -- one for beatification and the second for canonization.

At a conference in Rome in September sponsored by the Denver Archdiocese and the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, Greeley was recognized in a group of evangelizers and missionaries in the church in the Americas that included Jesuit Father Eusebio Kino, who served in the U.S. Southwest, and Franciscan Father Antonio Margil de Jesus, a missionary who evangelized North and Central America.

Greeley's ministry to the poor on the streets of Denver

and her piety is all "evidence of a beautiful life ... of a saintly life," said Martha Reichert, who is president of Endow, an apostolate dedicated to educating Catholic women and girls.

Reichert said Greeley's life shared "a striking connection" with the Year of Mercy because it was an example of the "enduring power of mercy." Despite her sufferings at the hands of white people, Greeley held no grudge, Reichert said, and she went out of her way to help all poor people, no matter what their race.

The Julia Greeley Guild, headed by Mary Leisring, has been working to spread awareness of Greeley since 2011. As the director of black Catholic ministry for the Denver Archdiocese, Leisring said she is thrilled at the possibility of Greeley's canonization.

"She's a model for me," Leisring said in a statement. "We're all called to be saints, and it just goes to show that an ordinary person can become extraordinary. For some of us, she's already a saint."

## 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.

+ + +

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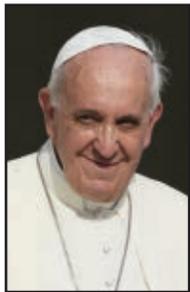
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# Word of Life



## The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis  
The Courage Of Women

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- The humble counsel of courageous women should never be disregarded but rather embraced as advice full of God's divine wisdom, Pope Francis said.

Women like the biblical heroine Judith are an example of trusting God amid sufferings and difficulties when it is easy to give up hope and fall into despair, the pope said Jan. 25 during his weekly general audience.

"This is my opinion, but women are more courageous than men," the pope said to applause.

As the pope arrived for the audience, the sounds of classical music echoed throughout the Paul VI audience hall as a youth orchestra from Bolivia played for the pope.

The Anglican choir of London's Westminster Abbey and former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger also were present and greeted the pope at the end of the audience.

Pope Francis focused his audience talk on Judith, "a woman of great beauty and wisdom," who reproached the people of Israel for their lack of trust in God to deliver them from foreign invaders.

"They were at the point of saying, 'God has sold us,'" the pope said. "How many times have we come to situations that test our limits where we are not even able to trust in the Lord? It is an ugly temptation."

Facing a situation full of despair, the pope continued, the people gave God five days to intervene. However, even in prayer they doubted that the Lord would help them.

"Five days are given to God to intervene -- this is the sin! Five days of waiting but already expecting the end. In reality, no one among the people is capable of hoping," he said.

Pope Francis said that in the moment of despair, Judith confronts the people's doubts with the "courageous language" of faith and hope.

Her courage, he explained, is a reminder for Christians "to knock on the door of God's heart; he is a father, he can save us. This widow risks (everything), even of making herself look like a fool in front of the others. But she is courageous, she goes forward."

Christians must "never put conditions on God," the pope said. Instead, they should allow "hope to conquer our fears."

"To trust God means entering into his plans without assuming anything" and to believe that "he knows better than us," the pope said.

The story of Judith exemplifies the importance of the "courageous counsel" of humble women, Pope Francis said. Their words, he added, contain "the wisdom of God" and should never be "dismissed as ignorant."

"The words of grandmothers -- how many times do grandmothers know the right word to say," the pope said. "They give words of hope because they have the experience of life, they have suffered so much, they trusted in God and the Lord gave them this gift of giving us hopeful advice."



**ONE MORE TIME:** Pictured are the members of the Parish Council at Saint Bartholomew Parish, Wilmore, in 1909 (left to right) James Itell, Neil Harkins, B.C.J. McGuire, Thomas Powers and Louis Beiter.

This past presidential campaign, one of the most bruising and discouraging on record, left many of us dissatisfied with the electoral system and politics in general. And as usual, Catholics' tendency to pick the winner raises a question: Are we leading the country or following the crowd? Does our faith make us different?

Journalists covering the U.S. bishops' November meeting dramatized what they saw as a dilemma for Catholics by citing the bishops' own newly elected president and vice-president: Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston and Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles.

The former has been a leader in opposing abortion, they said, and the latter a champion for rights of immigrants. How will they deal with an administration that seems supportive on one issue but opposed on the other?

But of course, both bishops will teach the truth on both issues, in season and out of season, because both are committed to the same Catholic vision. They see politics as serving the common good for all, including the basic rights of each human being made in the image and likeness of God.

The first right must be life itself, at all stages and conditions, because other rights are meaningless unless we're allowed to exist.

Government must then help ensure the material and social



## A More Human Society

By Richard Doerflinger  
Being Catholic First

conditions for each living person to fulfill his or her potential as God intended -- culminating in the right to religious freedom, which allows us to develop our friendship with God and other people.

But an agonizing dilemma does face Catholic voters who, every election, are asked to choose between two parties who fall short of that vision.

At their worst, both parties appeal to people's basest instincts. One promises maximum sexual freedom, ignoring the victims of the sexual revolution -- most often women, their born and unborn children, and the family. The other promises maximum economic freedom, ignoring the way this prosperity gospel pushes aside the poor and marginalized.

Choosing your party can look like a quiz: What's your favorite deadly sin, lust or avarice?

Each party also has positions that coincide with elements of Catholic teaching. Even here, though, discernment is needed. To quote T.S. Eliot, "the greatest treason" is "to do the right deed for the wrong reason."

If our social teaching is a seamless garment, the left or

right sleeve can't be ripped off without risking loss of the foundation that gives it ultimate purpose.

So we Catholics should be involved in politics and even seek party leadership roles. Both parties need the church's vision of the human person. But we need to ask ourselves: "Do I want to lobby my church to see things the way my party does or lobby the party to come closer to the church's vision? Am I Catholic first?"

If the answer to that last question is yes, we will engage in public life without giving ultimate allegiance to party or political ideology -- we will be "in the world but not of the world." Our guiding star will be the church's comprehensive Gospel of life.

And we will take on the risks of following in the footsteps of our Master -- who had his garment ripped from him and was crucified between two thieves.

So being Catholic first means seeing all issues on their merits, not through a partisan lens, and understanding how all of them are joined at their roots in God's unconditional love for each and every human being.

## Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Reverence In Church

**Q.** Growing up in our family, God always came first. Our parents taught us to love and respect the Eucharist, especially when the Blessed Sacrament was exposed on the altar. (We would genuflect and bow.)

Our parish church now exposes the Eucharist before Sunday Mass. I am shocked to see people (young and old) come into Mass, plop themselves down in the pew and whip out their cellphones. Then they begin to laugh and text -- without, it seems, so much as a glance at the altar.

Can't people forget their phones and their friends for just one hour and reflect on just why they are there and whom they have come to worship? And why doesn't our priest ever comment about this? (Leeds, New York)

**A.** I am grateful for your letter because it stands as a valuable reminder of the need for reverence in what is clearly a sacred space. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal

highlights the importance of that reverence:

"Even before the celebration itself, it is a praiseworthy practice for silence to be observed in the church, in the sacristy, in the vesting room and in adjacent areas, so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the sacred celebration in a devout and fitting manner" (No. 45).

The practice of exposing the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance on the altar has a long history and serves well to promote devotion to Jesus present in the Eucharist.

The size and layout of a church may help in determining whether regular exposition before Sunday Mass is a wise practice. Many newer churches have a generous gathering area (lobby) where parishioners can greet one another upon arriving for Mass.

Doors can be closed to separate that area from the worship space -- as an indication that all conversation should cease once

one enters the church proper, especially if the Eucharist is exposed. In smaller rural churches, however, there is often no gathering area at all and one enters directly into the worship space.

It is a natural instinct, and a good thing, for parishioners to want to welcome one another warmly and catch up on their lives -- and it is often a sign of a parish's vitality that people genuinely enjoy socializing before and after the Sunday Eucharist.

In such a setting, it might be better not to expose the Blessed Sacrament on the altar before Mass; perhaps, instead, an announcement could be made shortly before Mass that the next few minutes will be spent in silent preparation for the sacred celebration.

(And yes, I do think that your congregation needs a reminder from the priest that the use of cellphones is never proper in church -- whether to speak or to text.)

**Q.** Recently, a friend asked me what the difference was between the Knights of Columbus and the Masons. I've read about the good works done by each of these organizations, and we were wondering whether a Catholic gentleman can belong to both. (Cumming, Georgia)

**A.** The Knights of Columbus is an international organization of Catholic men whose chief work involves helping those in need. Freemasonry is a fraternal society that traces its origin to medieval associations of stonemasons; in the U.S., there are grand lodges in every state, with a total membership of about 1.2 million in the U.S. Masons, too, involve themselves in a variety of charitable works and no doubt many Americans view Masonry primarily as a social and philanthropic fraternity..

The reality is that Masonry is at heart a naturalistic religion whose basic tenets are incompatible with Catholic faith and practice. (Pope Leo XIII said in 1884 that Masonry had as its fundamental doctrine "that human nature and human reason ought in all things be mistress and guide" and denied "that anything has been taught by God.")



## For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola  
Climate Change:  
A Catholic Issue

Amid the excitement of a presidential inauguration, a troubling omen: Soon after Donald Trump was sworn in as our 45th president, CNBC reported that the official White House webpage on climate change was deleted.

"The requested page 'energy/climate-change' could not be found" was the response if you searched [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov).

We can only hope that climate change reappears on the site as the Trump team works to create their online profile. Last time I checked, the site mentions protecting air and water and "refocusing" the Environmental Protection Agency -- but no mention of climate change or renewable energy.

Make no mistake about it. This is a vital issue and it's a Catholic issue. With his encyclical, "Laudato Si", on Care for Our Common Home," Pope Francis placed our response to this issue squarely in the moral realm.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops supports a national standard to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants. In their 2001 statement on climate change, they said climate change "is about the future of God's creation and the one human family."

No matter our presidential pick or party affiliation, this is an issue that transcends partisanship and gravely impacts our children's and grandchildren's future. We can debate what to do about climate change, but we can't deny it.

For most of my adult life, I lived in Alaska. My giant of a home state is like the canary in the coal mine of climate change.

When I first arrived there in the 1970s, winters were frigid and temperatures pretty unimaginable to most Americans. Although this year Alaska is having a more traditional winter -- minus 53 degrees the other day in McGrath -- for the most part recent winters have been eerily warm and lacking in the usual snow depth.

When I lived there, Alaskans would actually pray for snow, something my Midwestern neighbors find hard to fathom. But it was natural for Alaskans. The mostly dark days needed the brightness of a snow pack, and people reveled in cross-country and downhill skiing, snow machining, playing hockey outdoors.

I have friends who are avid cross-country skiers who have resorted to biking in recent winters.

But losing a little outdoor recreation time is the least of it.

In 2015, the U.S. Geological Survey reported that the northern part of Alaska was experiencing coastal erosion at an alarming rate, averaging 4.6 feet per year since the mid-20th century.

I know friends in western Alaska, who live in coastal Eskimo villages, whose homes are threatened by the rapid rise of sea water due to the warming of water temperatures brought about by climate change. I know people who are literally being forced to relocate because their coastal villages face ruin.

Parts of coastal Louisiana and the city of Miami are among those coping with similar problems.

What can we do? We can add our own efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. Avoid unnecessary driving. Honor the Catholic tradition of meatless Fridays: The EPA says livestock production accounts for 4 percent of America's greenhouse gas emissions.

The EPA also says water processing accounts for approximately 2 percent of energy use in the U.S. We can all cut back on irrigating our yards and those lengthy showers. We can recycle more, consume less, be more mindful about buying in our disposable culture.

But we need to be advocates, too. One organization, [catholic-climatecovenant.org](http://catholic-climatecovenant.org), works to educate and advocate. You can find resources and petitions at their site.

And check out [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov). Hold our government's feet to the fire on developing renewable energy. Tell your representatives it's what we want.

Colette of Corbie  
1381 - 1447  
Feast - February 7



Born Nicolette Boellet in France, this reforming saint preferred Colette, her nickname. She entered and left several religious orders, then lived as an anchorite, or hermit, for three years. Eventually, she discerned that God wanted her to return Franciscan religious to their original rule of strict poverty. She was empowered in her reforms by the schismatic Benedict XIII, recognized in France as pope. Considered the founder of the Colettine Poor Clares, Colette also helped inaugurate reforms among Franciscan friars. She spent every Friday fasting and meditating on Christ's Passion. After reportedly saving the life of a woman dying in childbirth, Colette was considered a patron of expectant mothers.

# Churches Celebrate Common Faith At Annual Ecumenical Services



**PRAYING TOGETHER:** Clergy from several Christian traditions prayed together Sunday, January 22 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The service was one of two held to pray for Christian unity.

*(Continued From Page 1.)*

Bishop Rhyne noted that as recently as 50 years ago, just after the Second Vatican Council, it wouldn't have been possible for the two Bishops to have preached in one another's churches, or for their congregations to come together in prayer. "But here's the thing," he said. "We're here today, worshipping together, because we have finally come to understand that there is so much more that unites us than what divides us; and the name of the one who unites us, is Jesus!"

Bishop Rhyne mused that "When Jesus established the Sacrament of Baptism, He didn't say 'Catholic Baptism,' or 'Lutheran Baptism,' or 'Orthodox Baptism,' or 'Methodist,' or 'Presbyterian,' or whatever. No! "There is one faith! One Lord! One Baptism! We are

united. We are committed to Christ, and it doesn't matter which branch of the Christian tree you hang from. We are united to Christ forever.

"And if we are united to Jesus," he explained, "then we are united to one another, forever!"

Bishop Rhyne spoke of the Jesuits, a religious order founded during the Counter - Reformation period, and charged with "fighting this 'heresy' called Lutheranism.

"And last October, Pope Francis, the first Jesuit Pope, traveled to Sweden for the celebration of Reformation Day, and to meet with the President of the Lutheran World Federation, Bishop (Munib A.) Younan, and with him signed a joint statement committing our two Churches to working together toward full communion."

Bishop Rhyne sounded awed as he said "What started

as a splitting of the Christian Church 500 years ago has now come to a point where we are moving to the day when we will share the body and blood of Christ. That's a big deal! This must be what Christ wants! We are on the way! We are the body of Christ, and we are all in this together!"

Bishop Rhyne wondered "What would it look like if we all got together and said 'Let's work together to share the love and peace of Jesus Christ.'?"

"We are the people God has given to each other. If we can learn to know each other and to work together, there is no telling what might happen! The world would be transformed by Jesus Christ!"

"We all belong to Jesus!"

On Sunday, January 29, Bishop Mark took the pulpit at Calvary Lutheran Church in Johnstown. Bishop Mark spoke

about reconciliation as a gift from God.

And, like Bishop Rhyne, Bishop Mark said that our common Christian Baptism unites us in receiving this gift and sharing this gift, and makes us all "ambassadors for Christ," and ambassadors of reconciliation.

"We will continue to be reconciled to God and we will assist others in receiving the gift of reconciliation whenever and wherever we engage in the ministry of reconciliation that has been given to all of us through the one Baptism that we share," said Bishop Mark.

He noted that "Reconciliation is not without sacrifice. Jesus Christ gives His life; He died for all. The ambassadors of reconciliation are called, in His name, to give their lives. They no longer live for themselves. They live for Him who died for them."

The gospel story of the Prodigal Son was read at the Johnstown service. The son was able to be reconciled with his father when he "came to his senses" and saw how much he needed that gift of reconciliation.

"It is good for us to come to our senses," Bishop Mark reflected, "to listen to one another, pray with one another, and discern with one another, how we might together respond to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ that all people be reconciled to God, and to his fervent prayer that all in the Church may be one, as He is one with the Father in the Holy Spirit."

Bishop Mark will be Bishop Rhyne's guest at another service marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on Sunday, February 26 at 2:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 1401 Twelfth Avenue, Altoona.

# Pope Says Christian Unity Requires Learning From Each Other

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Divided Christians need to recognize the gifts God has given to other communities and learn from them “without waiting for the others to learn first,” Pope Francis said.

Leading an ecumenical evening prayer service Jan. 25 for the close of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Pope Francis said Christians must overcome the “temptations of self-absorption that prevent us from perceiving how the Holy Spirit is at work outside our familiar surroundings,” including in the lives of other Christian communities.

The Vatican’s Sistine Chapel Choir and the Anglican Westminster Abbey Choir sang at the service at Rome’s Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Pope Francis walked to the tomb of St. Paul, under the basilica’s main altar, and prayed there with Orthodox Metropolitan Gennadios of Italy, the representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, and with Anglican Archbishop David Moxon, the representative of the archbishop of Canterbury.

At the end of the service, the two took turns with Pope Francis in reading segments of the solemn blessing and in blessing the congregation with the sign of the cross.

In his homily, Pope Francis said St. Paul, who was persecuting the Christians, went from being a person who trusted “his own ability to observe the law strictly” to conversion and “cleaving with his whole being to the gracious and unmerited love of God: to Jesus Christ, crucified and risen.”

Like St. Paul, he said, “each person, forgiven and loved, is

**“Authentic reconciliation between Christians will only be achieved when we can acknowledge each other’s gifts and learn from one another.”**

called in turn to proclaim the Gospel of reconciliation in word and deed, to live and bear witness to a reconciled life.”

“Authentic reconciliation between Christians will only be achieved when we can acknowledge each other’s gifts and learn from one another, with humility and docility, without waiting for the others to learn first,” he said.

In the year marking the fifth centenary of the Protestant Reformation, Pope Francis said Christians must acknowledge the past but not allow themselves to be fixated on it and on the injuries suffered at the hands of the other.

Christians must allow God, “who makes all things new, to unveil before our eyes a new future, open to the hope that does not disappoint, a future in which divisions can be overcome and believers, renewed in love, will be fully and visibly one,” he said.

Praying for Christian unity, the pope said, is sharing in Jesus’ own prayer for the unity of his disciples.

“With patient and trusting hope that the Father will grant all Christians the gift of full visible communion,” he said, “let us press forward in our journey of reconciliation and dialogue, encouraged by the heroic witness

of our many brothers and sisters, past and present, who were one in suffering for the name of Jesus.”

Echoing a call he made during major ecumenical meetings in 2016 with Lutheran and with Anglican leaders, Pope Francis prayed that Christians would “take advantage of every occasion that providence offers us to pray together, to proclaim together and together to love and serve, especially those who are the most poor and neglected in our midst.”

Speaking at the end of the service, Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said, “We must commit ourselves to promoting reconciliation among Christians, and we must let ourselves be compelled by the love of Christ.

“In fact,” he said, “love is the motor of any ecumenical effort. True love does not erase the legitimate differences among Christian churches, but leads them together, reconciled, to a deeper unity.”



CNS Photo/Nancy Wiechec

**GRAND CANYON:** Water is shown gushing from Deer Creek Falls in the Grand Canyon in this 2014 photo. Father Anthony Petracca says the Grand Canyon is a “must see” for anyone traveling across the United States.

## Book Recounts Priest’s Travels

(Continued From Page 16.)

He says as he gazes at the beauty of sea shores, deserts, mountains, or wildlife he’s reminded of the hand of our Creator. “It affects my spirituality. It’s prayerful, meditative and contemplative. I pray the Rosary and I listen to music on my trips.”

The long drives are peaceful and he enjoys them. Along with being able to visit his mom and dad in Los Angeles, he’s been able to reconnect with fellow seminarians and friends he hasn’t seen for many years.

Father Petracca has always had a strong interest in the Benedictine order, and travelling cross country has allowed him to visit many of those monasteries and rectories. Some provided him with overnight lodging.

He recalls the time he ran out of gas in New Mexico. An old army chaplain stopped to help him. The stranger made sure he had a full tank of gas to continue on his journey. “I’ve had so many positives experi-

ences that have proven to me that Jesus is in the car with me.”

He says if there’s one place people should visit in their lives it’s the Grand Canyon. “It’s my favorite place. It’s almost mystical,” he said. “I’ve seen it from 30,000 feet and all the rims. It never gets old.”

The book is selling well. Over 200 copies have been sold in less than two months on the market. A friend of his sister’s in Los Angeles, put it on a shelf at her Catholic book store.

As he neared completion of his first book he realized he probably has accumulated enough material for a couple books. He said someday he would like to write a book of homilies.

Father Petracca has enjoyed so many beautiful things around the country, and he urges people to “get out and see this beautiful country. I hope the book will encourage people to get in their cars and explore America.

“These rides evolved into a sort of monastic cell on wheels. They have affected my spirituality. Everywhere I go I feel a strong sense of God’s hand.”

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# Harnessing 'The Power Of One' Will Help Build Culture Of Life

Photo And Text  
By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein

On the eve of the 44th Annual March for Life, an event that drew tens of thousands of people to Washington DC, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak told the 50 worshippers gathered at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona that even "one person can make a difference in the world, whether in the life of one person or in the lives of many."

Speaking on Thursday, January 26, Bishop Mark told the congregation that the theme for the Friday, January 27 event was "The Power Of One," and explained that the theme was taken from J.R.R. Tolkien's *The*

*Lord Of The Rings*, where the author stated "Even the smallest person can change the course of history."

Bishop Mark said he had found that point well - made in a book he had shared with his young nieces and nephews, *If Everybody Did?*, written and illustrated by Jo Ann Stover, a book describing "the humorous and the negative consequences of everyone doing their own thing."

Stover writes about simple situations, like one person spilling their milk, tracking mud on the floor or dropping litter in the park. Said Bishop Mark "It's not hard to picture what would happen 'if everybody did.' Things can go from bad to worse pretty quickly."

But, he went on, the book takes an interesting turn when it considers what would happen if one person cleaned up their spills, or wiped their feet, or threw their trash in a wastebasket.

"Suddenly, everybody does," he said "and as a result, goodness and happiness blossom; peace and good order become real." Stover's book, Bishop Mark said "is essentially a lesson in personal responsibility; how individual decisions and actions can affect others."

Bishop Mark asked his listeners to consider what would happen "if the simple message in Jo Ann Stover's book were to be applied to all the issues concerning the sacredness of human life from conception to natural death," and reminded them that "Building a culture of life and ending abortion takes each and every person."

The Bishop said that Allison LeDoux, director of the Office for Pro - Life, Marriage and Family in the Diocese of Worcester MA had asked that question and made that point in a reflection on "the power of one," asking:

- - What if one person reached out to a frightened pregnant teenager with the support

and encouragement to choose life?

- - What if one person offers financial assistance to a mother struggling with rent, food, and the cost of diapers?

- - What if one man who shows up every week to pray the rosary on the sidewalk gives a pregnant woman the courage not to go through with an abortion?

- - What if one person drives their homebound neighbor to Mass each week?

- - What if one class of seventh graders spends time with the elderly at a local nursing home?

- - What if one more person posts a video on YouTube or speaks out against genocide in Africa or the Middle East?

- - What if one more letter or phone call from a citizen convinces a state or federal representative to vote in favor of life?

Bishop Mark said he hoped to share those and similar questions with students from Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg with whom he would be traveling to the March for Life, noting that "The students I will be marching with and praying with and having lots of discussions on the bus know that every single human person is made in the image and likeness of God."

That truth, he said, is something that Pope Francis has repeatedly affirmed.

Bishop Mark shared two quotes from Pope Francis, which he characterized as "explicit statements" on the sanctity of human life:

- - "Each child who is unborn, but is unjustly condemned to be aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who, even before He was born, and then as soon as He was born, experienced the rejection of the world."

- - "Each elderly person, even if infirm or at the end of his or her days, bears the face of Christ. They cannot be discarded."



**THE POWER OF ONE:** Quoting J.R.R. Tolkien, Bishop Mark said "the power of one" means "Even the smallest person can change the course of history," a message he shared with one of the youngest worshippers at the annual Pro - Life Prayer Service held Thursday, January 26 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The event was held on the eve of the 44th Annual March for Life in Washington DC. Bishop Mark attended the March with students from Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg.

Bishop Mark said that the Catholic Church has always been on the front lines of the pro - life movement, "for decades." The Church's teaching on abortion is found in the context of "the love and mercy that we have all received from the Lord God," he said "that each one of us is commanded to share with others, including those who are pro - choice or even pro - abortion." Love and mercy, Bishop Mark said Boston's Cardinal Sean O'Malley has called love and mercy "the keys that will open hearts that have been hardened by the self - centered and selfish individualism of our age."

Bishop Mark added "The power of one is the only form

of individualism that we in the Church accept.

"It is the power of God's grace working in and through each one of us to do one thing to build up a culture of life in our country and in our world."

The Bishop concluded "It only takes one person, inspired by God, to love, protect and defend life.

"It only takes one person to believe with all their heart that every life matters.

"It only takes one person to stand up and proclaim that every life is worth living."

The annual Cathedral service ended with Bishop Mark offering a blessing for all those who would be traveling to Washington to take part in the March for Life.



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# Jubilant Crowd Gathers For Annual March For Life

By Carol Zimmermann  
Catholic News Service

## WASHINGTON (CNS) --

Tens of thousands of pro-lifers filled the grounds near the Washington Monument and marched up Constitution Avenue to the U.S. Supreme Court Jan. 27 as both a protest of legalized abortion and a celebration of successful pro-life efforts across the country.

In years past, the March for Life -- which takes place on or near Jan. 22 to mark the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decisions in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* that legalized abortion virtually on demand -- has been almost a battle cry for the uphill and constant fight faced by those in the pro-life movement hoping for more abortion restrictions and ultimately an end to abortion.

This year's March for Life, under mostly sunny skies and 40-degree temperatures, was decidedly more upbeat, in part because one of the first speakers was Vice President Mike Pence: the first time a vice president attended the rally.

Pence, who has marched at the event before as a participant and addressed it as a congressman, repeatedly told the crowd -- huddled together in winter coats and hats in front of the stage -- that "life is winning" and assured them the Trump administration was behind them.

Kellyanne Conway, special adviser to Trump, and the first on the speakers' list to address the group -- holding aloft placards but none of the usual giant banners, which were banned for security reasons -- similarly got plenty of cheers when she said: "This is a new day, a new dawn for life."

The scheduled presence of the vice president, only announced the day before, required the rally perimeter to be fenced in and the crowd to enter through long lines that had formed at security checks. Participants seemed unfazed by the required wait, taking it in stride with the day. Some pulled out

their pre-packed lunches and started eating, others prayed the rosary. These marchers are used to plenty of hardships from weather conditions alone at the annual march.

Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, noted that the group has been marching in all types of bad weather over the years. She also pointed out that amid recent discussion about crowd size at events in Washington, it was hard to measure the number of people that day or for the total who have come out for the annual march over the past four decades. "The only number we care about is the 58 million" lost to abortion since it was legalized, she said.

As in years past, the crowd was primarily young, with a lot of high school and college-age groups. It was something the speakers took note of, saying this generation would not only keep the pro-life movement going but bring about changes.

Mary Ann Vann, a retiree who made the trip from Trussville, Alabama, for her sixth march, said the most exciting thing for her each time she has taken part is seeing the young people.

Vann, a parishioner at Holy Infant of Prague Parish in Trussville, said she hoped the energy at the march could be channeled into everyday support for the pro-life movement, something she is involved with on a regular basis with sidewalk counseling, volunteering at crisis pregnancy centers and helping young mothers with basic needs. She also said she is disheartened by hearing those who say pro-lifers are only concerned about babies because she and her fellow volunteers not only bring pregnant women to their doctor's appointments but also help pay their medical costs.

Jim Klarsch, a member of St. Clement Parish in St. Louis, who came with a busload of eighth-graders, also is involved with pro-life work with the Knights of Columbus at his parish. In Washington on his second march, he said the experience was "empowering."



CNS Photos/Tyler Orsburn

**MARCH FOR LIFE:** Pro - Life advocates attend the 44th Annual March for Life, Friday, January 27 in Washington DC. This year's March for Life, under mostly sunny skies and 40-degree temperatures, was decidedly more upbeat, in part because one of the first speakers was Vice President Mike Pence: the first time a vice president attended the rally. Pence, who has marched at the event before as a participant and addressed it as a congressman, repeatedly told the crowd -- huddled together in winter coats and hats in front of the stage -- that "life is winning" and assured them the Trump administration was behind them. As in years past, the crowd was primarily young, with a lot of high school and college-age groups. It was something the speakers took note of, saying this generation would not only keep the pro-life movement going but bring about changes.



Standing alongside Constitution Avenue waiting for the march to begin, he said the crowd, which was already filling the street to each side and behind him as far as the eye could see, reinforced his feeling that "this is not just a day but a life-long mission."

"You're part of a pilgrimage. You take that experience home and you live it," he added.

Most in the crowd wore matching hats to keep together and chaperones were frequently counting hats to be sure they were all together. Although the crowd enthusiastically applauded Pence's mention of Trump's support, only a few of his presidential campaign's red "Make America Great" hats were visible.

Some noted that the march had a distinctly different tone than the Women's March on Washington six days before. Two sisters who stood on the sidelines with some of the few handmade signs at the march, described themselves as feminists and said they found the pro-life march more positive and less angry.

"This is a message of love," said Bridget Donofrio, from Washington, holding aloft a poster-board sign with words written with a black marker: "Respect all women born and unborn."

Many of the march signs were pre-made placards with messages such as "I am pro abundant life" or "Defund Planned Parenthood" and "I am the pro-life generation."

The city of Washington, fresh from the inauguration crowd and the women's march held the next day, seemed prepared for this march.

On the Metro, when two older women asked a young woman for directions and pointed to the group with signs that they wanted to join, the woman looked up from her phone and asked if there was a protest today.

"It's the March for Life," one woman said. A few seconds later she added: "It's not a protest; it's more of a celebration."

# Now Showing

## 'The Founder' Is No Happy Meal

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- In chronicling the early history of McDonald's, "The Founder" (Weinstein) makes compelling food for thought, if not exactly a happy meal.

The drama is based on the true story of Ray Kroc (Michael Keaton), the traveling salesman who initially befriended the McDonald brothers, Richard (Nick

Offerman) and Maurice (John Carroll Lynch), but eventually steamrolled over them. Robert Siegel's screenplay strives to set the record straight about who was actually responsible for the food service behemoth -- which today feeds 1 percent of the world's population, every single day.

The story begins in 1954 in suburban Illinois. Kroc is down on his luck selling milkshake machines to small restaurants. When he visits one of his clients, a hamburger stand in California,



CNS Photo/Weinstein

**THE FOUNDER:** Michael Keaton stars in a scene from the movie "The Founder." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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he is astonished by the efficiency of the operation, where orders are fulfilled in just 30 seconds.

This form of "fast food" preparation is the brainchild of the McDonald brothers, who designed the "Speedee" service system based on a streamlined kitchen, strict quality control and a strong employee work ethic. Past attempts to expand the business have failed, so the brothers are content to remain a local concern.

Kroc has other ideas, especially when he sees the brothers' new design for a restaurant with two gleaming golden arches as a striking focal point. He returns home to his neglected wife, Ethel (Laura Dern), with big dreams to franchise the McDonald's concept coast to coast.

Eerily prophetic, Kroc predicts that his restaurants will be a gathering place for families, with the golden arches becoming as seductive a symbol as the flag and even the cross.

"McDonald's can be the new American church," he says, "and it ain't just open on Sundays." Ethel quips that he will be known as "Pope Raymond I."

Initially, Kroc works with the McDonald brothers, signing a contract which promises the brothers control of their name

and the strictly limited menu of burgers, fries and shakes. Kroc begins opening restaurants in the Midwest, with some success.

In Minneapolis, Kroc meets Rollie Smith (Patrick Wilson), a steakhouse owner interested in bankrolling the franchise. His piano-playing spouse, Joan (Linda Cardellini), catches Kroc's ear -- and heart, as she will become his next wife as well as a shrewd business partner.

Is it any wonder their favorite song is "Pennies from Heaven"?

Directed by John Lee Hancock ("The Blind Side," "Saving Mr. Banks"), "The Founder" emerges as a cautionary tale about capitalism, greed and

the dark side of the American dream. While unlikely to appeal to children, it's probably acceptable for older teens.

"Contracts are like hearts. They are made to be broken," Kroc says, as he embarks on a nefarious scheme to bury the McDonald brothers and establish himself as the mythological "founder" of the business.

The film contains mature themes, and brief profane and crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

## Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

**February 12** - - The Bishop salutes Saint John the Evangelist School in Bellefonte as our February School of the Month by talking with Ted and Sharen Reigh and Ann Sager, beloved volunteers at the school.

**February 19** - - Bishop Mark welcomes Bishop Michael Rhyne of the Allegheny Lutheran Synod to discuss an upcoming ecumenical gathering and the relationship between the Catholic and Lutheran faith traditions.

## May They Rest In Peace



The Funeral Mass for Sister Mary Antoinette Bosak IHM was celebrated Tuesday, January 24, in the chapel of Our Lady of Peace Residence, Scranton. Committal was at Saint Catherine Cemetery, Moscow.

Memorial contributions may be made to support the retired IHM Sisters c/o the IHM Sisters Retirement Fund, IHM Center, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton PA 18509.



Sister Mary Antoinette Bosak, of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary died on Tuesday, January 17, at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton. She was 94.

She was born October 28, 1922, in Clarence, the daughter of the late Andrew and Tofilia (Koblarchik) Bosak. She entered the IHM Congregation on September 8, 1940, and made her temporary profession of vows on May 10, 1943, and her final profession of vows on August 2, 1946.

Sister Antoinette served locally at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Altoona, PA, from 1951 to 1952.

From 2013 until the time of her death, Sister Antoinette served as a prayer minister at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Marywood College, Scranton.

She was preceded in death by four sisters, Mary Chambers; Anna Danko; Helen Surovec, and Marjorie Krupa; and four brothers, Philip, Joseph, Thomas, and Andrew. She is survived by two brothers, Frank of Snow Shoe, and John of Glendale, AZ; and a sister, Theresa Smith of Conshohocken; a first cousin, Sister Priscilla Koblarchik IHM; and nieces and nephews, and the members of the IHM Congregation.



**Sister Claire Marie Conrad  
C.S.A.**

Sister Claire Marie Conrad, of the Sisters of Saint Agnes, died Friday, January 20 at Saint Francis Home, Fond du Lac WI. She was 100 - years - old.

The former Bernice Marie Conrad was born June 24, 1916, in Altoona to the late Francis Albert and Emma (Langguth) Conrad.

Sister Claire Marie made her profession of vows in the Congregation of Saint Agnes on August 15, 1935. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Marian College of Fond du Lac WI, a Master of Arts in Library Science from Rosary College, River Forest IL, and a Master of Arts in Theology from Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame IN.

Sister Claire Marie taught in elementary schools in Wisconsin for 14 years. She served as librarian for 16 years, in schools in Indiana, New York and Wisconsin. She was appointed to ministry within the congregation, serving as Novice Directress from 1962 - 1969 and as Secretary General from 1973 - 1979. She began a new focus

in her life of service, moving in 1979 to Springerville AZ, where she worked in pastoral ministry and religious education. She continued in pastoral ministry at Saint Henry Parish, Fort Wayne IN.

Having helped on the staff at Nazareth Heights Infirmiry, Fond du Lac, during 1997 - 1998, Sister Claire Marie returned to her hometown and home parish and devoted herself to giving part - time help at Marian House Manor, and to pastoral ministry at Saint Mary Parish, visiting many elderly and homebound persons in the Altoona area. She was also active in the Saint Mary Parish Conference of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society.

Sister Claire Marie was preceded in death by her brothers Francis Conrad, Regis Conrad, Leo Conrad, John Conrad, Thomas Conrad; and her sister Kathryn Pfeffer. She is survived by her nieces and nephews, other relatives and the Sisters of Saint Agnes.

The Funeral Mass for Sister Claire Marie Conrad C.S.A. was celebrated Friday, January 27 in the chapel of Saint Francis Home, Fond du Lac. Committal was in Saint Joseph Springs Cemetery.

Memorials can be directed to the Sisters of Saint Agnes Development Office, 320 County Road K, Fond du Lac WI 54937.



**Sister Diane McCalley  
C.S.J.**

Sister Diane McCalley, formerly known as Sister Emmanuel, 79, died Sunday, January 22, in the 59th year of her religious

life as a Sister of Saint Joseph (since 1980) and a Benedictine sister (1958-79).

The daughter of the late Chester L. and Celia (Castro-dale) McCalley, Sister Diane entered the Congregation from Nativity Parish in Pittsburgh.

As a Benedictine sister, Sister Diane served as a high school music teacher (1960-72) and unit manager at the Ebensburg Center where she developed the first Department of Pastoral Care (1972-80). As a Sister of St. Joseph, Sister Diane enhanced her music education with a degree in theology, paving the way for chaplaincy and pastoral care ministries.

For nearly 20 years, Sister Diane, a long - time spiritual director, helped to plan the annual Women's Spirituality in the Workplace weekend retreat at Saint Joseph Spirituality Center,

most recently partnering with Associates of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

A gifted pianist, Sister Diane served as Worship Coordinator at the Motherhouse since 2014.

Sister Diane is survived by an aunt, Dolores Havel of Cecil, many cousins, the Associates, and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Baden.

The Funeral Mass for Sister Diane McCalley C.S.J. was celebrated Wednesday, January 25 in the chapel of Saint Joseph Convent, Baden. Committal was in the Sisters' Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.

Donations in the name of Sister Diane may be sent to the Sisters of Saint Joseph Memorial Fund, Saint Joseph Convent, Development Office, 1020 State Street, Baden PA 15005.

**May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.**

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# Book Recounts How Priest Experiences God's Hand In Cross - Country Travels

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

He's traveled thousands of miles, many times alone, but he's never lonely. He sees God's handiwork is everywhere; in the hot desert plains, the vivid colors of Fall foliage, or the snow-capped mountains in the distance.

For 33 years Father Anthony Petracca has driven from Pennsylvania to Los Angeles and nearly every place in-between.

"This is a kind of spiritual retreat on wheels," he says with a smile. Each year he records the details of his adventures across America. His trips eventually morphed into a hobby. And, that hobby has produced a book about his travels, entitled: **Seeing America First: Taking That Dream Driving Vacation To Visit Our National Treasures**.

He began the actual writing of his book in the mid - 90s, about 20 years ago, while serving as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory Parish in State College; the same church he said his first Mass 10 years earlier.

In May, Father Petracca will mark 32 years as a priest of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown.



FATHER ANTHONY PETRACCA

Currently, he is the parochial vicar, at Saint Anthony of Padua, Saints Cyril and Methodius, and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parishes in Windber.

Father Petracca has been to every state, and "I give five recommendations of sites to see in each state, and where they are located," in his book. He aimed for diversity in those suggestions. "This is the backbone of the book," he says, "along with anecdotes from people I've met and places I've seen along the way."

A native of Philadelphia, his family first moved to the State College area, but "My mom and dad weren't real fond

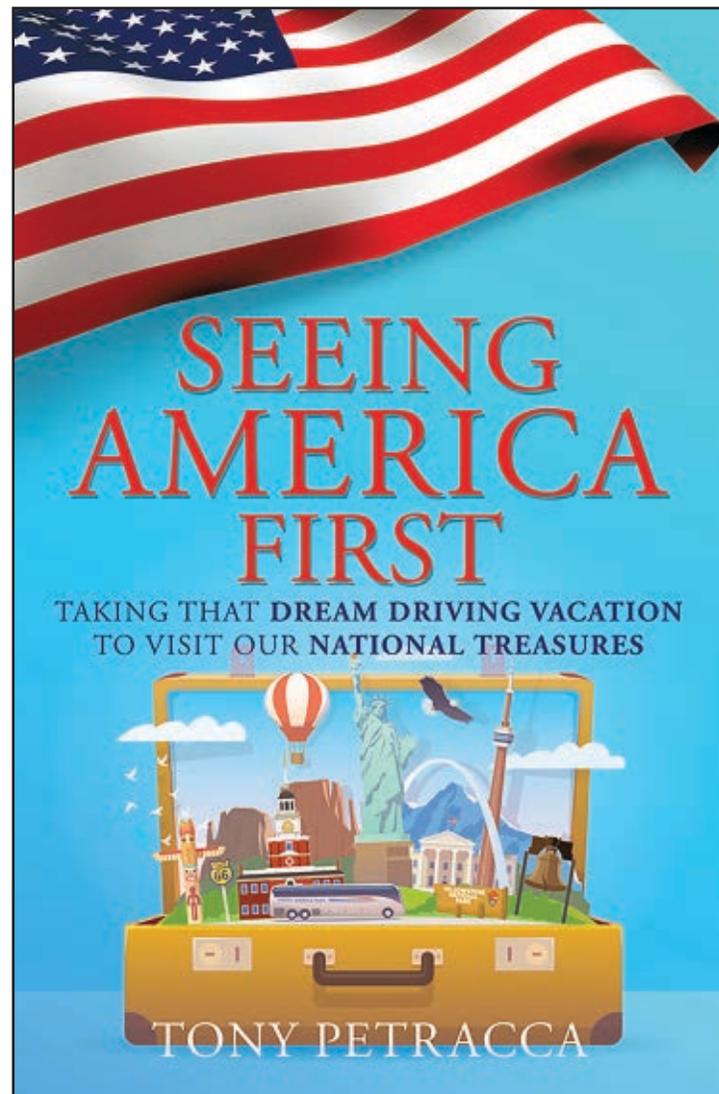
of the Winters," laughed Father Petracca, "so they moved to Los Angeles."

From his days as a seminarian he has made the drive to visit his family in California. Those drives eventually evolved into his book.

**Seeing America First: Taking that Dream Driving Vacation To Visit Our National Treasures** is available for \$16.99 through amazon.com, googlebooks.com, and at barnesandnoble.com. The Franciscan Mission Store in Loretto also has copies on its shelves. Signed copies can be purchased at his residence at Saint Anthony Padua Parish, 2201 Graham Avenue in Windber PA, 15963.

The book was published by Xulon Press of Florida. It was recommended to him by Deacon Michael Russo, director of the Permanent Diaconate, and Coordinator of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry, whose book, **The Via Dolorosa (The Way Of Sorrows), The Path That Jesus Walked On His Journey To Golgotha**, was also published by Xulon.

Originally Father Petracca planned systematic routes to visit each state capitol and the national parks. He's visited each one of the 81 basilicas in the country including the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Im-



maculate Conception in Washington, DC.

God has demonstrated His presence in many ways on each of Father Petracca's trips. "I feel a strong sense of God's hand. Once, on the same trip, I blew out a tire in Utah, and later on hit a deer in Wyoming. So many kind people offered me help. After I hit the deer I was forced to fly home."

There is so much beauty in this country that is best seen by getting into a vehicle. "When I was a boy in the 1960s there was a federal advertising campaign to 'See America First,' he recalled urging the public to see what the country has to offer them."

(Continued On Page 11.)

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