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‘Comprehensive And Unprecedented’ Reforms To Diocese’s Child Protection Policies Announced

Independent Oversight Board Will Monitor Actions Of Reconstituted Diocesan Review Board

By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and Acting United States Attorney Soo C. Song of the Western District of Pennsylvania, have signed a memorandum of understanding that “will make the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown a leader in the safety and protection of young people,” said Bishop Mark.

The memorandum was made public at a Monday, March 6 press conference at the U.S. Attorney’s office in Johnstown. The announcement came just over one year after the March 1, 2016 release of a 147 - page report from a Grand Jury empaneled by then - Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane detailing the sexual abuse of children by clergy of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown.

“Since the release of the Grand Jury report last year, I have focused on strengthening our commitment to children and

youth protection, and providing continued support to survivors of sexual abuse,” said Bishop Mark.

“The framework announced today represents the culmination of those efforts,” he stated, calling those efforts “comprehensive and unprecedented.”

Core Reforms

The memorandum is the product of extensive collaboration between the Diocese and the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Among other core reforms, the memorandum provides for:

- The creation of an independent, multidisciplinary oversight board;
- The retention of an outside expert to develop a new, comprehensive child abuse prevention program;
- A reporting protocol that requires the Diocese to report allegations of child sexual abuse to law enforcement within twelve hours after receipt; and
- Counseling and support services for victims by qualified



Courtesy Photo By Margaret Philbin

PRESS CONFERENCE: Acting U.S. Attorney Soo C. Song and Bishop Mark L. Bartchak held a press conference Monday, March 6 in Johnstown to announce a memorandum of understanding reforming the Diocese’s child protection policies. The full text of Bishop Mark’s statement at the conference can be found on Page 5.

and independent mental health professionals chosen by the victims.

“These unprecedented reforms put victims first, providing them with access to needed support and counseling,” stated Song. “Through this agreement, allegations of sexual abuse will be immediately reported to law enforcement and suspected of-

fenders removed from contact with children.”

The memorandum, Song said, “is not a court document,” but, she noted, “What we found is that the Diocese was a willing partner,” in crafting a document acceptable to her office in pursuing a way forward.

Independent Oversight Board

An Independent Oversight Board, separate from the Diocesan Review Board, the document states, will be made up of five members, “consisting of community leaders from various disciplines, which will supervise the prospective implementation and enforcement of the Diocese’s expanded efforts to prevent child sexual abuse.”

The memorandum goes on to state that the board will:

- a) oversee the implementation and ongoing review of the new policies, procedures and practices set out in the agreement;
- b) review periodic audits of the Diocese’s compliance performed pursuant to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002 and revised in 2011, and enforcement efforts, and;
- c) issue reports on at least an annual basis concerning the Diocese’s implementation of and compliance with the new policies, procedures and practices, and recommend any changes.

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STUDENTS RECEIVE BIBLES: During the School Mass at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School, State College, on Wednesday, February 22, Father Neil Dadey, pastor, presented each eighth grade student with a Bible. During the presentation, Father Dadey told the students that “the most important knowledge you’ll have (from attending Our Lady of Victory Catholic School) is the knowledge of God’s love.” He went further to exhort the eighth graders to read a small passage from their new Bibles each night before they go to bed. The Bible given to the students includes useful introductions to each book, verse explanations, and prayer prompts. For approximately ten years, Our Lady of Victory Parish Catholic school and religious education program have been giving Bibles to middle schools students. This effort was spearheaded by Lisa Cousins and other parents, when they learned that some students did not have ready access to God’s Word at home.

Catholic Charities

Awards Dinner

Altoona: The Catholic Charities Annual Recognition Dinner will be held Wednesday, May 31, at the Altoona Grand Hotel. The event will include the presentation of the Monsignor William Griffin Humanitarian Award and the Matthew 25 Youth Humanitarian Award.

The Monsignor William Griffin Humanitarian Award is given to persons demonstrating a significant, long-term commitment (professional or volunteer) to serving the poor, marginalized and most vulnerable within our diocesan community (Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clinton, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset Counties).

The Matthew 25 Youth Humanitarian Award is given to elementary and high school students for demonstrating exceptional service to their communities, especially service to the poor and needy. This service is above and beyond required school community service hours. Award winners will receive a scholarship for tuition/school/college expenses and a plaque recognizing their achievements.

Nominations for the awards are being accepted until Friday, March 31.

Nomination forms and directions for submitting a nomination may be found online at www.dioceseaj.org, or by contacting Jean Johnstone, executive director of Catholic Charities at (814) 944 - 9388; 1300 12th Avenue, P.O. Box 1349,

Altoona PA 16603; jjohnstone@dioceseaj.org.

High Schools

Sports Hall Of Fame Dinner

Ebensburg: Bishop Carroll Catholic High School will host their annual Sports Hall of Fame Dinner on Saturday, April 1.

The 2017 inductees are:
Paul Forcellini - Football (Class of 2006);
Val Long Jones - Basketball (Class of 1983);
Steve Lieb - Husky Pride (Class of 1969);
Dan Martinazzi - Basketball (Class of 1984);
Jeff Minemyer - Football, Basketball (Class of 2006).

The Hall of Fame Banquet begin at 6 p.m. at The Crys-

tal Hall (formerly the Imperial Room) in Ebensburg. There will be a social hour from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Cost of the dinner buffet is \$35.00 per adult, \$15.00 per child ages 5 - 9, and free for children under 5. Checks for reservations can be sent and made payable to:

Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Attn: PAW Power, 728 Ben Franklin Highway, Ebensburg PA 15931.

Please indicate the full names of guests. Reservations must be made by Friday, March 24.

To Study Abroad

Boalsburg: Three students from Saint Joseph’s Catholic Academy will study abroad next school year through the Rotary Exchange Program.

Senior Mary Elliot will study in Belgium and complete a gap year between graduation from Saint Joseph’s and beginning college.

Junior Meghan Caswell will study in Finland. She’s completed four years of study in Spanish and three years of study in Arabic, and plans to continue her language studies.

Junior Greta Miller will study in Denmark and is seeking

opportunities to fulfill her passion for community service and world cultures.

Caswell expressed her excitement about immersing herself in a new language and culture. “I would love to have a career in international affairs, so it’s important for me to gain a better understanding of how people live in other parts of the world. I’m also excited to take part in Finland’s incredible education system,” she said.

As a transfer student to Saint Joseph’s, Caswell said she’s well-prepared for the experience. “When I transferred to Saint Joseph’s, I had to make friends and build relationships in a new environment. Also, at Saint Joseph’s I’ve been encouraged to study new languages, and my teachers and classmates are very supportive of my desire to study abroad.”

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LENTEN FISH DINNER

Queen Of Peace Parish Center in Patton (Upper Level) Fridays of Lent (including **Good Friday**), beginning **Friday, March 3.**

MENU Includes:
Choice of baked, fried fish or Salmon patties; choice of baked potato or french fries. The dinner also includes: fresh baked rolls, cole slaw, stewed tomatoes, macaroni & cheese, haluski, dessert and beverage. Pierogies a la carte.

For your convenience, please park in the Parish Center parking lot above the hall.

4-7 PM Adults, \$10/Children(5-12), \$5/Children(under5), FREE.
Takeout’s available in the lower level of Parish Center

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In The Alleghenies



CNS Photo/Dan Meloy, The Michigan Catholic

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Diocese Will Mark Centennial Of Fatima Apparitions

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to three shepherd children in Portugal from May to October 1917. The message of Fatima includes a call to conversion of heart, repentance of sin, prayer (especially the Rosary), and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Pope Francis has encouraged the faithful to take advantage of the spiritual benefits at Marian celebrations during this centennial observance. In the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will lead the following celebrations:

* Saturday, May 13, Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima, 11:30 a.m., Rosary and Mass, Our Lady of Fatima Church, Altoona.

* Friday, September 8, Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 5:30 p.m., Mass and Rosary Procession (outdoor shrine), Saint Catherine of Siena Church, Duncansville.

* Sunday, October 1, Annual Marian Celebration in Honor

of the Holy Rosary, 3:00 p.m., Rosary and Mass, Saint Benedict Church, Johnstown.

Participation in these celebrations are in keeping with the ways in which the faithful may obtain a plenary indulgence during the Centennial Fatima Observance as announced by Pope Francis. The opportunity for a plenary indulgence throughout the entire year, which began on November 27, 2016, and will end November 26, 2017, may be gained as follows:

To obtain the plenary indulgence, the faithful must fulfill the ordinary conditions: Go to confession and Communion, be interiorly detached from sin, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

(1) Pilgrimage to the Shrine: Make pilgrimage to the Fatima Shrine in Portugal and participate in prayer dedicated to the Virgin. In addition, the faithful must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed, and invoke the Mother of God.

(2) Prayer before any Statue of Our Lady of Fatima: The

faithful who visit with devotion a statue of Our Lady of Fatima solemnly exposed for public veneration in any church, oratory or proper place during the days of the anniversary of the apparitions, the 13th of each month from May to October (2017), and there devoutly participate in prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary. Those seeking an indulgence must also pray an Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke Our Lady of Fatima.

(3) Application for the Elderly and Infirm: To those who, because of age, illness or other serious cause, are unable to get around, may pray in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and must spiritually unite themselves to the jubilee celebrations on the days of the apparitions, the 13th of each month, between May and October 2017. In addition, they must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed, and offer to our merciful God with confidence, through Mary, their prayers and sufferings or the sacrifices they make in their own lives.



READ ACROSS AMERICA: Students from Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg, visited Saint Benedict School, Carrolltown, students and celebrated Read Across America Day, Thursday, March 2. They read some of their favorite children's books to the students in kindergarten through fourth grade. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Miley Hoover, Macy Johnston, Kaylee Bradley, Eli Cunningham, Aubrianna Deckard, Garrett Farabaugh, Evan Larkin. Second row: Natasha Liu, Grace Hoffman. Third row: Gina Miller, Lauren Dvorchak, Jovelyn Li, Lexi Zazvrsky. Fourth row: Adison Divido, Georgia Sherry, Emma Simmons and Alec Ratchford.

THE ANNUAL NOVENA IN HONOR OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS



Monday, March 27
to Tuesday, April 4

Sacred Heart Church
6th Avenue and 20th Street
Altoona, PA 943-8553

Solemn Opening Mass on Monday, March 27,
at 7:00 p.m.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Celebrant and Homilist

A complete schedule will be available on the first night of the Novena, in the parish bulletin and at www.sacredheartaltoona.org

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Point Of View

For Catholics and other Christians who observe meatless Fridays, fish figure prominently, and this makes me (pardon the pun) happy as a clam. But I understand that some people are not as enthusiastic as I am about fish. The smell might be off-putting, the texture "slimy."

There have been news stories about fish high in mercury and other contaminants. Fish can be a challenge to cook. And for some parents, it can take hours of coaxing and bargaining to get a finicky child to take even one little bit of what might even remotely resemble a beloved cartoon character from "under the sea."

Yet, we can develop a greater appreciation for fish by linking our Lenten practice more consciously with our faith and our desire to live well, and we can teach these lessons to the next generation, instilling a deeper sense of meaning and community.

The Gospels contain many references to fish: Jesus called more than one fisherman disciple directly from the sea (Lk 5:1-11) and performed an epic miracle (Lk 9:10-17) starting with two fish that ultimately fed 5,000.

With fish a staple in the common diet in Jesus' time, the smell and plump freshness of it would have been almost daily experiences for Our Lord and his disciples. When we smell, touch or taste fish, we are brought tangibly closer to our forebears in faith (if we omit the thick bread-ing and sauces!).



Living Well

By Maureen Pratt

Of Faith And Fish

Also, in Jesus' time, the act of fishing involved groups of people, often families (as with James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were called by Jesus at the same time as Simon Peter). At our family meals or parish fish fries during Lent, we evoke something of this communal gathering around God's gift from the sea.

The properties of fish feed another important part of us -- our bodies -- providing us with essential nutrients. Many fish, including salmon, tuna and lake trout, are rich in omega-3 fatty acids. These "good," unsaturated fatty acids may play a role in reducing inflammation that can lead to heart disease.

Substituting fish as protein instead of red meat once or twice a week also helps us avoid meat's unhealthy, saturated fats, which can contribute to heart disease and obesity.

How we prepare fish will impact its health benefits. Baked is better than fried, and those concealing, buttery sauces don't help! But today there are many resources for healthful recipes online and abundant herbal and other preparations in stores to play with so that the result is delicious and nutritious.

Keeping fish preparation very simple can also contribute to the overall simplicity of Lent.

According to the Mayo Clinic's website, larger, predatory fish such as shark, king mackerel and swordfish can contain high levels of mercury. The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and of Agriculture's 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend that women who are pregnant or who wish to become pregnant and small children avoid seafood that might have high methyl mercury.

As a child, one of my favorite lunches was the simple (and smelly) tuna sandwich. Summer vacations spent lakeside, catching perch or other wriggly, scaly creatures, and eating them later, are some of my fondest childhood memories.

Now, I am blessed to live not far from a wonderful seafood store, where the catch is fresh and abundant and the variety invites culinary creativity throughout the year and especially during Lent. Not exactly like throwing a net over the side of a creaky boat in the Sea of Galilee, but close enough to evoke thoughts of faith and food -- nourishment for body and soul!



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
No Time Like The Present

"Springing ahead" for Daylight Savings Time is not always a pleasant experience. Many folks find as they change the position of the hands on a clock, that they're not sure what time it is or even what day it is.

Pity then the poor staff of **The Catholic Register**, since we are always working one week ahead of the calendar (Unless we're sending out bills for advertisements, or filing articles in the archives. Then we're looking back into the past). We're not always sure what month we're in, let alone what the date, or the day of the week might be.

Consider, if you will, my situation as I write this column. I am writing on Monday, March 13, for a publication that will be dated Monday, March 20. Simple and clear enough, you might think. But wait. Some of you will be reading this as early as Friday, the 17th (which happens to be Saint Patrick's Day) or Saturday, the 18th. On the other hand, some will not receive the paper and have a chance to read this column until Tuesday, the 21st, or Wednesday, the 22nd. It all depends upon when your post office or your postal carrier delivers the paper into your hands. But I digress.

The convergence of all those dates makes me wonder what I should write about. March 13th is the fourth anniversary of the election of Pope Francis. March 20 is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph (which, to add to the fun, is postponed this year, because the traditional date, March 19 is also the Third Sunday of Lent, which cannot be displaced from the calendar). At any rate, we will be at the approximate mid - point of Lent when this column is read. Confused? Get in line.

This timely conundrum is made all the more distressing when I stop to consider the fact that the future for which I am writing may not even arrive. It could all go bust, tomorrow (whenever that might be - - remember, the day you're reading this and the day I'm writing this are not one and the same day). One or more of us might not open our eyes again before the March 20 issue of **The Catholic Register** is delivered. I might well be casting my words out into a vast sea that will never reach the shore. Yikes! It all reminds me of the tagline of what was once my favorite soap opera: "Like sands through the hour glass, so are the days of our lives."

Even more, this whole question of time - - past, present, and future - - reminds me that all time - - past, present, and future - - is in God's hands. Time is a gift from God, His to freely give and His to freely bring to an end. The only moment we can be sure of is the moment that we're in. This is all we have. And we owe it to God. We owe God an obligation to use His gift of time wisely and well, because there really and truly is no time like the present!

During the six weeks, or 40 days of Lent, we are challenged to devote ourselves to prayer, penance and alms - giving (or more simply put, good works). The best use we can make of the time God has given us is to resolve that what we do in these Lenten days is what we are going to do all the days of our lives. Prayer, penance and alms - giving are the work of a lifetime. There is no better moment than this moment to give ourselves generously to their practice.

The first chapter of the Book of Genesis begins with the stately progression of the seven days of the week, six days of creation and one day of rest, with God keeping time and keeping watch over it all. "God looked at everything He had made, and He found it very good" (Genesis 1:31). May He find that our use of the days He has given us is also "very good."



A Statement From Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Monday, March 6, 2017

One year ago I made a public pledge to victim-survivors of sexual abuse and to everyone else that we will continue to look for new and more effective programs to protect children in our diocese.

Today, I reaffirm that pledge.

Much has been done during the past year, including collaboration with agencies on the state and local level to assist in making services available to survivors of sexual abuse and to educate the public about the nature of sexual abuse and how to protect children.

We have already retained the services of a nationally recognized expert in child protection. During this past year, this expert has conducted a comprehensive review of Diocesan policies, surveyed our facilities and met with priests, lay employees and parishioners, to prepare a multi-dimensional and comprehensive child protection program.

This new framework includes a reconstituted Diocesan Review Board, which now has new members representing different faiths, talents and experiences, including a clinical psychologist from the Evangelical

Lutheran Church and a priest of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church with considerable experience in youth ministry. The new members all bring unique knowledge and experience in matters that pertain to child abuse and protection and we are grateful for their agreement and commitment.

The members of our Independent Oversight Board were chosen because of their varied professional backgrounds and experiences, including a courageous survivor of child sexual abuse. I look forward to their review and recommendations as we continue to evaluate and update our youth protection efforts.

At the same time, I wish to underscore the commitment set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding to avoid any confusion of roles by limiting or restricting altogether the involvement of diocesan personnel in the functions that belong to the Diocesan Review Board and the Independent Oversight Board.

I appreciate that the United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania has made additional

resources available, including a recognized expert in child protection who serves as a consultant to the United States Department of Justice.

In addition to further study, the most important thing is that these changes will be implemented. The revised protocols and procedures shall become normative for our diocese. They will be public and they will be honored.

When I made a public commitment to reforms last year, I said, "When you know more, you can do more." We have spent the last year learning more and soliciting additional information and perspectives from many sources, including the United States Attorney's Office. Ms. Song, I thank you for your productive leadership. The professional staff from your office shared our deep commitment to getting this right.

As a result, we are doing more and I renew my promise to protect children and young people and to find ways to assist those who have been harmed.

I ask for your prayers and support for these efforts.

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

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

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

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

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

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 2.)

Technology Initiative

Ebensburg: Bishop Carroll Catholic High School is bringing students a new way to connect to their courses, teachers, classmates, and the world. The 1:1 Initiative just began this year, with all freshmen and sophomores receiving Acer laptops with touchscreen and tablet capabilities. Each is outfitted with email, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and other useful software. Currently, about 110 students and all faculty have benefited from the program.

Once a student receives a device as an incoming freshman, that particular laptop is theirs to use for the next four years, while attending Bishop Carroll. They can be used at home, 24/7, with the only limitations being blocks on any site not permitted for use on school property (such as shopping sites). Upon graduation, the device belongs to the student.

Bishop Carroll's commitment to providing personal devices to each student demonstrates their strong emphasis on academics, the latest educational technology, and development of

the whole student—both inside and outside of the classroom.

Science instructor Michele Kirk has already found the technology to be particularly useful for on-the-spot research in the classroom. "Student questions can be answered immediately. You know the type—someone asks a question and the teacher would say, 'Well, that is a great question. Why don't you look it up and report on that tomorrow?' Or maybe the question pertains to something more recent they saw in the news. The research can be completed immediately and in real time with students doing the searching."

She does note that some of the students are less email-savvy than she expected, with most being accustomed to texting. However, with a little tutoring, they've been able to ace the process. The students are using email to work in group projects, send work back and forth, and increase efficiency, without waiting for computer lab space or availability.

The laptops also provide access to education-specific tools and software, such as eBackpack and PowerSchool. Students can use these to check assignments and grades, or even just

announcements from an instructor. They can also turn in work online, without any printing or paper waste.

Many students find the note-taking abilities to be the most helpful feature. Bishop Carroll freshman Giuseppe "Joey" Bernard says this aspect of the experience was both the most unexpected and the most useful.

Another favorite capability is the reduction of items needed in the classroom. Freshman Faith McMullen states that the most beneficial part of using the devices in the classroom is simply "the fact that I can have all my notes on my laptop, so I don't have to carry around a dozen notebooks... It is very convenient and a relief to always have my notes and assignments wherever I go."

Other student-recognized benefits include the ease of access to useful resources. "I think using the devices in class is working well to both the students' and the teachers' benefit. For example, it's easier and saves class time to download notes in Bio and view them with the teacher than it is to copy the notes by hand," says freshman Mara Yahner. "I like being able to go straight to typing assignments when given time in class rather than writing them down and then transferring them to my home computer. Downloading notes is easier and more time-saving than copying by hand. I'm surprised we even use the laptops for gym to take quizzes!"

Kirk does recognize that there have been some growing pains to the process—ensuring that the students do not experience technical problems, or that they consistently bring the devices to class each day. However, the overwhelming response from both faculty and students has been positive.

(Continued On Page 15.)



ADMITTED TO CANDIDACY: Jerry Nevling was admitted to candidacy for the permanent diaconate by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak on Saturday, March 4. The rite took place during Mass at Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Philipsburg. Nevling and his wife, Lori, are pictured with the Bishop following Mass.

Nominees Sought For Prince Gallitzin Cross

Nominations are being sought for the Prince Gallitzin Cross Award.

The award was created in 1990, upon the 150th anniversary of the death of the Servant of God Father Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin, as a way of honoring those members of the Diocese who have imitated his evangelizing spirit, or who have worked to keep his memory alive.

Nominees for the award may be ordained, religious or laity. They are to be Roman Catholics, fully initiated into the Church, and eligible to receive and avail themselves of the Sacraments of the Church.

They are to be members of a particular parish faith community in the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, and are to be presently, or have been previously, active through some form of ministry or service to God's people on either a parish or diocesan level.

It is not uncommon for parish councils to submit nominations; previously submitted nominations must be presented again.



The deadline for submitting nominations to Teresa Stayer, chancellor of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, is Friday, April 14.

The awards will be presented Saturday, June 3 at the Calvin House, 2135 Plank Road, Duncansville. The event will begin with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. before the 6:00 p.m. dinner. The deadline for obtaining tickets is Friday, May 19.

For more information contact the Diocese at (814) 695 - 5579.



The Ethics of Drone Warfare

free public lecture sponsored by the
Saint Francis University Institute for Ethics

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

7:00 P.M.

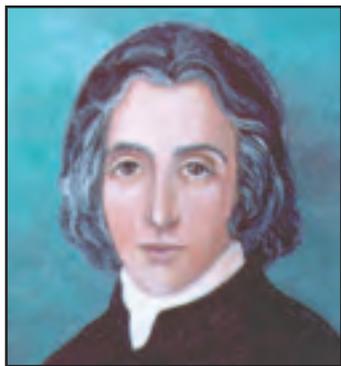
Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art

Saint Francis University campus

presented by Fr. Kenneth R. Himes, O.F.M.
Professor of Christian Ethics, Boston College

www.francis.edu/ethics-lecture-17

814-472-3396



A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin 1770 - 1840

Eight Causes Advanced

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis advanced the sainthood cause of two medical doctors and six religious -- many of whom died just a generation ago.

The pope approved the decrees during an audience Feb. 27 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

The pope recognized the martyrdom of Salesian Father Titus Zeman, who secretly shuttled Salesians to Italy out of communist-controlled Czechoslovakia when religious orders were banned in the 1950s and members were sent to concentration camps. He eventually was arrested and jailed. Although he was released from prison in 1964, he suffered ill health because of his imprisonment and died in 1969.



VENERABLE VITTORIO TRANCANELLI

The pope recognized the heroic virtues of seven others:

-- Bishop Octavio Ortiz Arrieta, a Salesian, born in Peru in 1878. Known for his closeness to clergy and lay people of his diocese, he declined an appointment as archbishop of Lima, preferring to stay with people of his diocese. He died in 1958.

-- Mexican Jesuit Father Antonio Repiso Martinez de Orbe, founder of the Sisters of

The Catholic Register, March 20, 2017

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the Divine Shepherd. He died in 1929.

-- Maria de la Mercedes Cabezas Terrero, born in Spain in 1911. She founded the Missionary Workers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She died in 1993.

-- Pedro Herrero Rubio, a Spanish layman and pediatrician who dedicated his life to the medical and spiritual needs of his young patients and their parents. He died in Spain in 1978.

-- Vittorio Trancanelli was a married layman and surgeon, who was known as "the saint of the operating room." Born in Italy in 1944, he wanted to go on mission as a doctor but

the birth of his first child with special needs meant he stayed in his home city. He soon saw the need to evangelize the hospital he worked at, that put the patient first. He and his wife adopted many children and formed an association of families who adopted disadvantaged kids. He died in 1998.

-- Father Antonio Provolo, born in 1801, who was a pioneer in bringing education to the deaf in Italy. He founded the Society of Mary and died in 1842.

-- Sister Lucia of the Immaculate, a member of the Congregation of the Handmaids of Charity.

Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

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

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

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

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

+ + +

Kindly send information about favors granted to:
**The Cause for the Servant of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
Diocese Of Altoona - Johnstown
927 South Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg PA 16648**

2nd Annual Lenten Mission In Honor Of Our Lady Of Loretto

MARCH 26 - 31, 2017 Father Michael Caridi, STL
HOMILIST

7:00 PM (Sunday) Mission Prayers with
Homily/Benediction

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, JCD
Bishop of the Altoona-Johnstown
presiding

Confessions at 8 PM
7:00 PM Mass with

Mission Prayers each night (Mon - Fri)
Eucharistic Adoration at 6 PM
each night (Mon-Fri)

Reconciliation/Confessions at
6 PM each night (Mon-Fri)

Prayer Intentions May Be sent to:

*Very Reverend John D. Byrnes, JCL, JV, Rector
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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

Bible, Like Cellphone Should Be Carried Always

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Christians should care about reading God's messages in the Bible as much as they care about checking messages on their cellphones, Pope Francis said.

As Christ did in the desert when tempted by Satan, men and women can defend themselves from temptation with the word of God if they "read it often, meditate on it and assimilate it" into their lives, he said before praying the Angelus with those gathered in St. Peter's Square March 5.

"What would happen if we turned back when we forget it, if we opened it more times a day, if we read the messages of God contained in the Bible the way we read messages on our cellphones?" the pope asked the crowd.

The pope's reflection centered on the day's Gospel reading (Mt. 4:1-11) in which Jesus is tempted by the devil while fasting in the desert for 40 days and nights before beginning his ministry.

Satan, he said, attempts to dissuade Jesus from fulfilling his message and to undermine his divinity by tempting him twice to perform miracles like "a magician" and lastly, by adoring "the devil in order to have dominion over the world."

"Through this triple temptation, Satan wants to divert Jesus from the path of obedience and humiliation -- because he knows that through that path evil will be defeated -- and take him on the false shortcut of success and glory," the pope said.

However, Jesus deflects "the poisonous arrows of the devil" not with his own words but "only with the Word of God."

Christians, the pope continued, are called to follow Jesus' footsteps and "confront the spiritual combat against the evil one" through the power of God's word which has the "strength to defeat Satan."

"The Bible contains the word of God, which is always relevant and effective. Someone once said: What would happen if we treated the Bible like we treated our cellphones? What would happen if we always brought it with us, or at least a small pocket-sized Gospel?" he asked.

While the comparison between the Bible and a cellphone is "paradoxical," he added, it is something that all Christians are called to reflect on during the Lenten season.

"If we have the Word of God always in our hearts, no temptation could separate us from God and no obstacle would deviate us from the path of good," the pope said.

After praying the Angelus prayer with the faithful in the square, Pope Francis asked for prayers before departing for a weeklong Lenten retreat with members of the Roman Curia.

Lent, he said, "is the path of the people of God toward Easter, a path of conversion, of fighting evil with the weapons of prayer, fasting and works of charity," Pope Francis said. "I wish everyone a fruitful Lenten journey," he said.



ONE MORE TIME: In 1951 a Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima was dedicated on the grounds of Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Altoona's Eldorado neighborhood. Reconfigured several times, the Shrine is now located at the front of the church, facing Sixth Avenue. Details of the Diocese's plan to mark the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions may be found on Page 3.

We sometimes hear that American Catholics are divided: Some advance the church's teaching on abortion, others promote its teachings on peace and economic justice. And those factions are at war.

I seldom saw this among the bishops or their national staff, where I once served. We each had areas of expertise, but we knew we were advancing one vision of human dignity. But the divide can exist among Catholic activists who don't work day by day alongside good Catholics committed to other issues.

In the 1980s, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin addressed this divide through a "consistent ethic of life" uniting the church's opposition to abortion and euthanasia, to unjust war and capital punishment. These stances form a "seamless garment" of respect for life. Catholics specializing in one issue should respect and support those advancing others.

This message helped. It also ran into problems. Some pro-abortion politicians declared themselves "pro-life," saying they support most of the seamless garment. Some Catholics reacted by attacking the consistent ethic itself for undermining the church's effort to protect unborn children.

Cardinal Bernardin was grieved by this. He said the consistent ethic never justifies abortion, and he abandoned the term



A More Human Society

A Divided Church?

By Richard Doerflinger

"seamless garment" because some used it to treat all issues as equally fundamental. But he had mixed success in healing divisions.

Pope Francis has championed, not a consistent ethic, but a call to dig deeper than ethics. We must get back to basics -- appreciating how specific moral norms are grounded in God's boundless love for each and every person -- and our call to love and forgive others as God loves and forgives us.

From this openness to others, this openness to life, we can see how moral teachings are joined at their root.

For example, abortion and migration are seen as very different issues, dividing the secular political parties. One is a fundamental issue about directly taking human life; the other is often about the plight of people fleeing persecution and terrorism abroad.

But in both cases, the Gospel calls us to the same attitude: We must welcome the visitor, the neighbor whose very life may

depend on us. "Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels" (Heb 13:2).

Yes, the "unplanned" unborn child makes demands on parents, who need our help in meeting their responsibilities. Yes, we must stop terrorists from entering our country.

But as Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, a leading voice on immigration, says of abortion: "Not one of us ... has the right to decide who can live and who can die and when that time will come." And as professor Robert George, a prominent advocate for the unborn, says: "The way to fight terrorists is not to close our doors -- or our hearts -- to their victims."

A consistent attitude of openness to others also demands that I love those who disagree with me -- including Catholics who think their favorite issue is more urgent than mine.

(Continued On Page 9.)



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle Substituting A Penitential Practice

Q. I have always observed the fast and abstinence rules during Lent, but this year I find myself in a weird situation. Last summer, I decided no longer to eat any animal products -- a decision I made for my health.

So abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent is no longer a sacrifice for me. Is there something else that I should do instead? (Virginia Beach, Virginia)

A. I am edified by your question; it shows that you have captured the spirit of Lent as a season of special penitence -- with a particular focus on the Fridays, in order to unite ourselves with the suffering of Jesus on the cross.

In 1966, when the church was moving away from the age-old rule of Friday abstinence (except on the Fridays of Lent), the U.S. bishops noted that "the spirit of penance primarily suggests that we discipline ourselves in that which we enjoy most."

Since, for you, abstinence from meat no longer represents a burden, you would do well to go beyond the specific regulations prescribed by law and adopt a discipline of your own choosing -- perhaps by staying away from alcoholic beverages on Lenten Fridays or cutting back generally on food consumption during those days.

Or how about -- if your work situation allows it -- simply taking five minutes at 3:00 in the afternoon on Lenten Fridays to speak with Jesus quietly and thank him for his sacrifice?

Q. I enjoy reading your column in our archdiocesan newspaper, **The Criterion**, and I am hoping that you can help with something I have always wondered about: Why, at the end of the "Glory be to the Father," do we say "world without end"? (Indianapolis)

A. Your question serves as a good reminder of how unreflectively we often pray. I have

been saying the "Glory be to the Father" prayer for 70 years, and it had never occurred to me to think about the confusion that the words "world without end" might cause.

Actually, the phrase refers not to the physical universe as we know it; it is simply an idiom, a poetic way of expressing the notion of eternity. What we are really saying is that the glory of God and the praise owed to the Trinity are endless.

The phrase attempts to translate the Latin ending of many Mass prayers, "per omnia saecula saeculorum," which means, "through all ages upon ages."

In fact, some prayer books now render the prayer this way: "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen."

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at ask-fatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr. Albany, New York 12203.

A Divided Church?

(Continued From Page 8.)

Rank-and-file Catholics seldom fall into warring pro-life and social justice camps. They come to Mass for spiritual sustenance, an encouraging word, a haven from conflict. They see secular politics becoming a battleground and they want none of it. This leads many to cry: "No politics in church!"

Our faith calls us to uphold the human dignity of others, and that demands joint action for the common good. But I understand why Catholics don't want partisan warfare in their parish.

If we advocates for life and justice want to involve more of our fellow Catholics, we should ask whether we are acting like party operatives or messengers for a Gospel of life and love.



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola To Be In God's Hands

Like most Catholics, I planned for Lent. I had my list of suggested "give ups," "to dos," goals. I like to be in control. There are aspects of this personality trait that are positive, but essentially wanting control is often a futile endeavor.

So on the morning of "Shrove Tuesday" or Mardi Gras depending on your name for the festive, feasting day before Ash Wednesday, I woke up about 3:00 a.m. realizing that I was completely out of control.

I huddled under the blankets with chills, fever and a wheezing noise emanating from my chest with every breath I took. Ecclesiastes 1:14 scoffed at my well-laid plans: "I have seen all things that are done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity."

I had gone to bed feeling healthy. I woke up to a week of illness.

Far too sick to join in Ash Wednesday services, I nevertheless found it easy to contemplate that I was, indeed, dust, or as I half-jokingly termed my condition, toast. I never used to get this sick, I thought. It must be the creeping onslaught of old age.

I felt sorry for myself. I basked in my own mortality, not a bad thing to do during the first week of Lent. I found myself weeping easily, moved by sentimental stories on the news or Facebook. I decided I might as well feel sorry for the whole world.

Then, I thought of Jesuit Father Pedro Arrupe.

Father Arrupe was the 28th superior general of the Society of Jesus, a man tasked with leading the Jesuits in 1965 right after the Second Vatican Council had caused the earth to move under our feet.

Father Arrupe is my hero. In my pantheon of personal saints, Father Arrupe is one to whom I pray most consistently. A famous poster of him praying at Hiroshima, where he was when the U.S. dropped the atomic bomb, hangs over my desk.

Father Arrupe led the Jesuits to a new commitment to the poor, to a faith that does justice, to viewing education's purpose as preparing us to be men and women for others. Some compared him to the order's founder, calling him a second Ignatius. He even resembled the saint, who like him was born in the Basque region of Spain.

But the reason I thought of Father Pedro Arrupe as I endured illness was because of famous words he spoke at the time that he had to step down as the Jesuits' leader in 1983. He had experienced a debilitating stroke, and though he lived for several years, he never recovered.

"More than ever," he told his Jesuits, "I find myself in the hands of God. This is what I have wanted all my life from my youth. But now there is a difference; the initiative is entirely with God. It is indeed a profound spiritual experience to know and feel myself so totally in God's hands."

Those are powerful words, spoken by a man who was used to being in a position of power. To be totally in God's hands, Father Arrupe discovered, is to no longer be in control.

We don't get to choose what we surrender.

I realized my little week of unexpected retreat at the beginning of Lent was actually a gift. I thank God for taking away my control of the first week of Lent and for reminding me I am never truly in control.

I thank him for the example of people who allowed themselves to fall totally into the hands of God, like Father Arrupe and like Jesus with whom we walk during this season.

Saint Cuthbert
634 - 687
Feast - March 20



Cuthbert likely was a Northumbrian Englishman, orphaned as a child. He tended sheep and fought the Mercians, then became a monk at Melrose Abbey, and later its abbot. In 664 he accompanied St. Eata to Lindisfarne, or Holy Island, off the northeastern coast of England, and later undertook long journeys on horseback or foot, ministering to Christians scattered around northern England and helping his monks accept Roman liturgical customs. After living as a contemplative for nine years on a remote islet, he was elected bishop of Hexham in 684. But he exchanged sees with Eata, becoming bishop of Lindisfarne. According to Bede's history, Cuthbert was a holy, patient, practical leader, a miracle-worker beloved by all. He is a patron of sailors and of Northumbria.

Bishop Honors Pledge To Pursue More Effective Ways To Protect Children and Young People

(Continued From Page 1.)

“The members of our Independent Oversight Board were chosen because of their varied professional backgrounds and experiences, including a courageous survivor of child sexual abuse,” Bishop Mark said, adding “I look forward to their review and recommendations as we continue to evaluate and update our youth protection efforts.”

In addition to an abuse survivor, those committed to serving on the new board include a 30 - plus - year public servant who will serve as chairman, a licensed social worker with a doctor of philosophy degree, a retired law enforcement officer, and a former United States At-

torney. Replacement members will be selected by the Board, in consultation with the Bishop, and must receive the affirmative support of no less than 66% of the members of the Board.

The memorandum says that the Board will be in place for a period of ten years, but if at least 66% of the members conclude after June 30, 2022 that the Board’s mission has been fulfilled, it may be terminated.

According to the memorandum, “The Diocese will employ an Executive Director for Youth Protection whose primary employment responsibility with the Diocese will be to implement, manage, monitor and supervise the Youth Protection Program. The Executive Director will have direct access to and communication with the Oversight Board.”

Reform Of Diocesan Review Board

Bishop Mark stated that the “reconstituted Diocesan Review Board now has new members representing different faiths, talents and experiences, including a clinical psychologist from the

Evangelical Lutheran Church and a priest of the Carpatho - Russian Orthodox Church with considerable experience in youth ministry. The new members all bring unique knowledge and experience in matters that pertain to child abuse and protection and we are grateful for their agreement and commitment.”

The memorandum says “Bishop Bartchak has identified new members to serve on the Review Board. The new members include a retired licensed clinical social worker with experience as clinical supervisor and therapist for children, an attorney, a retired State Police criminal investigator, a licensed psychotherapist and counseling service supervisor who screens applicants for Protestant seminaries, a high school teacher with experience in a special program for at risk students assigned by the courts, a diocesan priest and a priest from an Orthodox Church.”

Replacements for members of the Review Board will be made by the Bishop after consultation with the Independent Oversight Board. The Review Board will have the opportunity to confer and deliberate without the presence of the Bishop, and the Bishop will only attend sessions at which a victim is present if the victim specifically asks for him to be there.

Complete records of the proceedings and recommendations of the Review Board, and all documentation presented to it will be kept, and the completeness of the record will be certified by a notary.

The Bishop issued an important clarification about the Board’s relationship to the Diocese, stating “I wish to under-

score the commitment set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding to avoid any confusion of roles by limiting or restricting altogether the involvement of diocesan personnel in the functions that belong to the Diocesan Review Board and the Independent Oversight Board.”

The Diocese will continue to employ a Victim’s Advocate, as required by the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The advocate will work with agencies to coordinate assistance for abuse victims, and will have direct access to and communication with the Oversight Board. The Victim’s Advocate will not serve on the Diocesan Review Board.

Professional Partners

In implementing the memorandum of understanding, the Diocese has entered into two professional partnerships.

The document states “The Diocese has retained R.L. Nichols and Associates to develop a new comprehensive sexual abuse prevention program. The Diocese will continue to retain Dr. Nichols as a consultant for the duration of the term of the Oversight Board. Dr. Nichols will, among other things, prepare revised policies and procedures addressing the following subjects, among other things: recognizing and preventing child sexual abuse; regulating and supervising interactions with minors; mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse allegations; and appropriate use of computers and the internet.

“Dr. Nichols will also design and assist in implementing comprehensive training and monitoring programs for diocesan personnel.”

It was also announced that “The Diocese will retain Nulton Diagnostic and Treatment Center to provide a hotline service to receive complaints of child sexual abuse.

“The hotline will be staffed on a 24 - hour basis by qualified intake specialists who will: accept calls from victims and other persons reporting allegations of abuse; complete intake assessment forms; report allegations to appropriate law enforcement officials; report allegations to relevant diocesan personnel; and provide information to victims concerning available assistance.”

Honoring A Pledge

On March 3, 2016, two days after the release of the Grand Jury report, Bishop Mark met with members of the media at a press conference at the Diocesan Administration Center in Hollidaysburg. At that time he made “a significant commitment to transparency, past and future.”

At the March 6, 2017 event he stated “One year ago I made a public pledge to victim-survivors of sexual abuse and to everyone else that we will continue to look for new and more effective programs to protect children in our Diocese.

“Today, I reaffirm that pledge.”

Bishop Mark quoted his own remarks from 2016, noting “When I made a public commitment to reforms last year, I said ‘When you know more, you can do more.’ We have spent the last year learning more and soliciting additional information from many sources, including the United States Attorney’s Office.”

He acknowledged the “productive leadership of Attorney Song, and of assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael A. Comber, Philip P. O’Connor and Colin J. Callahan. “The professional staff from your office shared our deep commitment to getting this right,” the Bishop said.

“As a result,” he concluded, “we are doing more, and I renew my promise to protect children and young people, and to find ways to assist those who have been harmed.”

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PARISH BANNERS: Banners representing each of the parishes participating in the Sunday, March 5 Rite of Election and The Enrollment of Names of Catechumens, and The Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates made a colorful sight as the procession left the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The celebration was also held at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown.

Rite Of Election

(Continued From Page 16.)

Also participating in the Sunday afternoon ceremony

were: Sacred Heart, Altoona; Saint Augustine, Dysart; Saint Catherine of Siena, Duncansville; Saint Catherine of Siena, Mount Union; Saint Demetrius, Gallitzin; Saint John the Evan-

gelist, Bellefonte; Saint Joseph, Bellwood.

Other parishes represented in Altoona were: Saint Mark, Altoona; Saint Mary (Immaculate Conception), Altoona; Saint

Mary, Hollidaysburg; Saint Matthew, Tyrone; Saint Michael the Archangel, Hollidaysburg; Saint Monica, Chest Springs; Saint Rose of Lima, Altoona; Saint Stephen, McConnellsburg, and Saint Thomas Aquinas, Ashville.

Celebrating the Rite in Johnstown were: All Saints, Boswell; Immaculate Conception, New Germany; Our Mother of Sorrows, Johnstown; Saint Anthony of Padua, Windber; Saint Benedict, Carrolltown; Saint Benedict, Johnstown.

In addition, there were representatives from: Saint Bernard, Hastings; Saint Clement, Johnstown; Saints Cyril and Methodius, Windber; Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Windber; Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Johnstown; University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown; Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Johnstown.

Some Elect and Candidates told Thompson and Parish Life Office secretary Dotty Caminiti "that they were so inspired and filled with the Holy Spirit, that they can hardly wait for Easter, to officially join the Catholic Church," with one telling Caminiti that "To be here makes me

feel that I really belong to the Church already!"

Thompson was grateful to all who had a hand in the ceremonies.

"It takes many members of the parish teams and diocesan office staff to make the celebration of these Lenten Rites as joyful and as prayerful as they can be, and I say 'Thank you!' to them, again."

The Elect and Catechumens are invited to take part in Palm Sunday Weekend Retreats, to be held April 8 and 9.

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Effort To Rescue Blessed Sacrament In Fire Recalled As Act Of Great Faith

By Mike Latona
Catholic News Service

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) -- When they awoke February 20, 1967, Father George Weinmann and Sister Lilian Marie McLaughlin did not know that by early afternoon they'd perform actions that would cost them their lives -- and render them modern-day martyrs in the eyes of many.

Yet when danger stared them down, in the form of a fire spreading through St. Philip Neri Church, they responded as only people with great faith might.

Father Weinmann, the pastor, rushed into the burning building to save the Blessed Sacrament inside the tabernacle. Sister McLaughlin, a School Sister of Notre Dame, who was a teacher at the parish school, soon followed to assist him.

Neither made it out. Sister McLaughlin, who had turned 26 just two days earlier, died on that Monday afternoon. Father Weinmann, 77, lost his life two days later.

Fifty years after the fact, the profundity of their heroic deeds is still felt deeply, as evidenced by the overflow crowd at the Church of the Annunciation February 26 for a 50th anniversary

memorial Mass celebrated by Rochester Bishop Salvatore R. Matano.

Among the attendees were family members of both Father Weinmann and Sister McLaughlin, as well as parishioners of the former St. Philip Neri Parish.

The homilist, Father Dennis Bonsignore, said the priest and nun provided a stirring example of their belief in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Sister McLaughlin's brother, Jim, who traveled from his home in Los Angeles for the memorial Mass, said he wasn't surprised that his sister was brave enough to defy the com-



CNS Photo/John Haeger, Catholic Courier

ANNIVERSARY MASS: People attend a 50th anniversary Mass Sunday, February 26 at the Church of the Annunciation in Rochester NY, honoring Father George Weinmann and Sister Lilian Marie McLaughlin, a member of School Sisters of Notre Dame, who were killed in a 1967 fire at Saint Philip Neri Church in Rochester.

mon safety logic of getting away from a fire.

"There are few people who would go toward it. She was one of them," he told the **Catholic Courier**, Rochester's diocesan newspaper.

Bishop Matano told the congregation that Father Weinmann and Sister McLaughlin are models for all Catholics to follow in giving fully of themselves to Jesus.

"We pray that in imitation of Sister Lilian Marie and Father George Weinmann we can say, 'It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me,'" Bishop Matano said, quoting Chapter 2, Verse 20, of St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

During his homily, Father Bonsignore noted he had acknowledged the St. Philip Neri fire on the 25th anniversary, in 1992, while serving at Irondequoit's St. Cecilia Parish.

On that day, he said, Peter Fantigrossi happened to be present not knowing that Father Bonsignore would be preaching about the fire. Fantigrossi was the firefighter who carried Sister McLaughlin out of St. Philip Neri. The incident had left him so distraught that he fell away from church for many years.

But after the 1992 Mass, Father Bonsignore said, Fantigrossi experienced healing and



CNS photo/Jeff Witherow, Catholic Courier

TABERNACLE: The tabernacle which housed the Blessed Sacrament Father George Weinmann and Sister Lilian Marie McLaughlin, a member of School Sisters of Notre Dame, were attempting to rescue in a fire, is pictured February 23 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester, N.Y.

renewal. A poem written by Fantigrossi, who died in 2016, can be found at <http://nerifire.webs.com>. It is titled "I Held an Angel in My Arms."

At a reception following the Feb. 26 memorial Mass, Jim McLaughlin and his sister, Evelyn McLaughlin Sabino, met several members of the Fantigrossi family for the first time.

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Sunday, March 19, 5pm
Monday, March 20, 7pm

Saint John Gualbert Cathedral
117 Clinton Street, Johnstown PA

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Saint Joseph Table Reception at SJGC Activity Center immediately following the closing Mass on March 20.

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|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Father | <input type="checkbox"/> Recovery from Illness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Death | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Help | <input type="checkbox"/> Priests/Religious | <input type="checkbox"/> Recovery from Addiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Souls | <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Marriage | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Return to Sacraments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace of Mind | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Pregnancy | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocations | <input type="checkbox"/> World Peace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Respect for Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Intention |

Other Intention(s):

NAME _____



Rosary Is Source Of Spiritual Strength For Many

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

The importance of assembling Rosary beads for donation most likely escapes the imagination of most Catholics.

Thankfully, the ministry continues through the efforts of many persons and parishes like Saint Benedict in Johnstown. In the past 11 years they have produced and donated over 400,000 Rosaries locally and internationally.

For those past 11 years, Lynn Dubinsky has coordinated the effort. "I inherited the ministry in 2006," she said. It's anything but mundane to her. "I lost my husband a few years ago, and I've lost a son. The Rosary and the Blessed Virgin Mary have gotten me through those times and has helped sustain me. The Blessed Virgin Mary talked me through the dark days, and she has given me a lot of peace."

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak finds great spiritual comfort in the recitation of the Rosary. His beads have great meaning for him.

"My everyday Rosary has only one decade. It's in a loop, with a crucifix in the center. The beads are large, so they are easy to grasp" he says.

That decade of beads is of particular importance to him. "The Rosary was taken from a full Rosary that was worn on the belt of the religious habit of a Benedictine sister who died many years ago," he explained.

He said his Rosary is easy to use while driving in his car on the way to a parish or school in the Diocese. He said it's one of his best times to say the Rosary.

"I learned to pray the Rosary when I was young," Bishop Mark recalled. "I can vividly remember watching my grandmother praying the Rosary. She never missed a day."

At Saint Benedict's, Dubinsky also oversees three other ministries. Her groups gather to make baby afghans for the newly Baptized, prayer shawls and



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

PRAYING THE ROSARY: Children at Saint Benedict Parish, Johnstown, join in praying the Rosary at a Marian Celebration in 2011.

lap robes for persons in nursing homes.

The parish donates money to help with the cost of materials. The Rosaries are made in the homes of individuals who work at their own speed. Some of the beads are plastic placed on cord, and the others are glass beads fashioned to chains for special occasions.

The Rosaries have been distributed locally and internationally to countries such as Haiti, Honduras, and Brazil, where men gather weekly to recite the Rosary. They have also been sent to Africa.

Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Bob Sisk, a former missionary, now retired, was in-

strumental in having eight cases of Rosaries shipped to Brazil.

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Father Bob spent 17 years in the Amazon jungle and was for a time missioned in South Africa. He now lives at Saint Francis Friary in Loretto.

In addition to missions, Saint Benedict also delivers Rosaries to area hospitals, a few other parishes, and to several nursing homes.

Also, the Sorrowful Mother Rosary is given to help comfort those who have lost a child. The Divine Mercy Rosary is presented to First Communicants and Confirmation classes. Married and engaged couples receive Rosaries, along with bridal parties that request them.

Dubinsky enjoys her ministries as they also provide her with the comfort of knowing she and her fellow parishioners are helping others.

She said making Rosaries is not for everyone. "I've taught countless people how to make them," she said. "Some people find it tedious, and with others, it becomes a hobby. We have one elderly person that produces over 100 rosaries each month?"

Bishop Mark says as he is driving and reciting the Rosary, he often prays along with an audio recording in English, Polish or Spanish.

"My favorite mysteries of the Rosary are the Luminous Mysteries (Mysteries of Light) that were introduced by Saint John Paul II."

"The Rosary is a great spiritual comfort to me," he said. "I recommend it especially for people to experience the peaceful joy that comes from meditating on the mysteries and from reciting the prayers."

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Now Showing

'The Shack' Calls For Careful Discernment By Audiences

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- "The Shack" (Summit), director Stuart Hazeldine's screen version of William Paul Young's best-selling novel, represents a serious effort to tackle the problem of evil from a Christian perspective. As such, it will be welcomed by believers.

While objectionable elements are virtually absent from the film, however, patches of dialogue discounting the value of religion -- here implicitly set

in opposition to faith broadly speaking -- and hinting that God is indifferent to how we worship him mean that impressionable viewers should keep their distance. So, too, does the morally problematic treatment of a dark and long-kept secret.

After his young daughter, Missy (Amelie Eve), is abducted and murdered, previously devout churchgoer Mackenzie "Mack" Phillips (Sam Worthington) has a crisis of faith. But a note from "Papa," his wife, Nan's (Radha Mitchell), nickname for God, leads to an encounter with the Trinity near the titular hideout where evidence of Missy's death



CNS Photo/Lionsgate

THE SHACK: Octavia Spencer and Sam Worthington star in a scene from the movie "The Shack." 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.

was uncovered that alters his perspective.

Octavia Spencer plays an unflappable, warmhearted God the Father, Avraham Aviv Alush a fun-loving Jesus and Sumire a serene Holy Spirit. As Spencer bakes, Sumire gardens and Alush tinkers in his carpentry shed, Worthington learns to see his own tragedy as a spiritual death that offers the prospect of resurrection.

While some may be uncomfortable with the fact that both the Father and the Holy Spirit manifest themselves to the protagonist as women, given that they would be free to do so in

whatever guise they chose, this is no real objection -- all the more so since Spencer eventually morphs, when it seems advisable, into a paternal Graham Greene.

The narrative's brief descent from nondenominationalism into outright indifferentism and its suggestion that religion is "too much work" are more substantial defects. While Mack has much to forgive, moreover, he has a shocking crime in his own background that the movie seems to excuse too easily.

Beautiful settings and a sense of humor help to keep the somewhat overlong proceedings from bogging down in sentimentality. But the script, penned by John Fusco, Andrew Lanham and Destin Cretton, takes on too

many weighty subjects -- from the suffering of innocents to the need for forgiveness -- to treat any one of them in a fully satisfying way.

Still, on the whole, this is an intriguing endeavor to accomplish the same goal British poet John Milton set himself in writing his masterpiece, "Paradise Lost," namely, "to justify the ways of God to men."

The film contains scenes of domestic violence and mature themes requiring careful discernment. 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:

March 26 - - Doctor Thomas Foley, president of Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, joins Bishop Mark to discuss happenings at the college.

April 2 - - As we look ahead to summer, youth who have attended Camps Timothy and Zacchaeus talk about the positive impact the camps have had on them.

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**Sister Annette Froehlich
M.M.S.**

Sister Annette Froehlich, a member of the Medical Mission Sisters, Philadelphia, died Thursday, March 9. She was 83.

The daughter of the late Edward and Louise (Martin) Froehlich, Sister Annette was born in Johnstown May 6, 1933. A member of the former Immaculate Conception Parish, Sister Annette joined the Medical Mission Sisters shortly after graduating from Johnstown Central High School in 1951, making her First Vows in 1954, and her Final Vows in 1959. She attended Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing in Trenton NJ, where she received her R.N. in 1957.

For her first mission assignment, Sister Annette went to Ghana where she was a nurse at Holy Family Hospital in Berekenum and at the Kokofu Leprosarium. She then served in administration and nursing at Holy Family Hospital in Techiman. In 1967 she became certified as a midwife at the Catholic Maternity Institute in Santa Fe NM.

In 1971, Sister Annette received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and then a Master's Degree in Public Health from Tulane University in New Orleans. She returned to Techiman, Ghana, for several years as a public health nurse and administrator. Returning to the United States in 1974, Sister Annette worked first in her hometown of John-

stown and then at Booth Maternity Center in Philadelphia. She also served as Public Health Nursing Supervisor of the Allegheny County - Covington and Clifton Forge Health Departments in Covington VA.

Sister Annette moved to the Southwest in 1981 and was involved in overall administration for a University of Arizona - New Mexico Child Health Project on the Navajo Indian Reservation. In 1983 she moved to Las Cruces NM, where she served as a nurse - midwife at the Dona Ana Public Health Office. Later, Sister Annette worked at the Mesilla Valley Hospice in Las Cruces as a staff nurse. A Certified Master Gardener, she was passionate about the environment. She received her Wildlife Science Degree from New Mexico State University in 1994.

Philadelphia became her home once again in 2016 and she lived there until her death.

Sister Annette is survived by a brother, John J. Froehlich, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, a sister, Medical Mission Sister Mary Grace Froehlich, of Philadelphia, and many grand - nieces and grand - nephews.

The Funeral mass for Sister Annette Froehlich M.M.S. will be celebrated Tuesday, March 21 in the chapel of the Medical Mission Sisters Administration Building, Philadelphia. Committal will be in the Medical Mission Sisters Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Medical Missions Sisters, 8400 Pine Rd., Philadelphia PA 19111 - 1398.

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 6.)

Prayer

Retreats For Women

Portage: "The Hearts Of Jesus And Mary" will be the theme of a retreat for women ages 25 - years - old and older, to be held Friday, March 24 - Sunday, March 26, at the convent of the Sister Servants of the Most

Sacred Heart of Jesus, 1872 Munster Road.

The retreat will begin on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. with dinner, and will end with Mass on Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Reservations must be made by Tuesday, March 21.

"The Appeal Of Fatima In Our Time" will be the theme of a retreat for young women, ages 18 - 35, single or married, to be held at the convent Friday, March 31 - Sunday, April 2. The retreat will begin with dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, and will end with 12:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday.

Reservations should be made by Tuesday, March 28. A donation of \$40.00 is suggested, but not required.

Overnight accommodations are available, but limited, for both retreats.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Mother Jacinta Miryammat (814) 505 - 2290, or email her at sisterjacinta@gmail.com.

Penance Services

Hollidaysburg: The Liturgy Office announces that Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and the priests of the Diocese will be taking part in three Diocesan Communal Penance Services:

- - Good Shepherd Church, State College, Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.;

- - Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, Wednesday, April 5, 6:30 p.m.;

- - Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown, Thursday, April 6, 6:30 p.m.

Retreat

Gallitzin: An overnight retreat, "Silence As A Gift," will be held April 7 - 8, at the Incarnation Center, sponsored by the Sisters of the Carmelite Community of the Word.

The retreat will begin Friday evening at 7:00 p.m., and end on Saturday at 3:00 p.m., and will include presentations on the theme, guided prayer opportunities and time for quiet personal reflection. An opportunity for personal Spiritual direction will be made available.

Cost for the overnight retreat is \$40:00/person or \$50:00/ married couple, and includes overnight accommodations, meals and all materials.

Pre - registration with fee is required by the Tuesday before the retreat.

The Incarnation Center is located at 394 Bem Road. To register, get directions, or for more information, call (814) 886 - 4098.

Vocations

Night For Vocations

Ebensburg: The Serra Club of Cambria County will host the Bishop's Night For Vocations dinner Friday, April 21, at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, 728 Ben Franklin Highway.

A social hour at 5:30 p.m. will precede the dinner at 6:30 p.m. The theme of the evening is "Led by the Spirit for Mission." The guest speaker is Father Stephen P. DeLacy, vocation director of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The dinner is sponsored jointly by the Serra Club and the Diocesan Vocation Office.

Tickets can be purchased by calling Marjorie Lechene at (814) 255 - 9797 or 255 - 6563, by Friday, April 7.

Pope To Visit Colombia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis will be visiting Colombia in mid - September as the Latin American nation works to implement a new peace deal and rebuild after 52 years of war.

The Vatican announced March 10 that the pope had accepted the invitation of President Juan Manuel Santos and the Colombian bishops.

The trip, September 6 - 11, will include visits to the cities of Bogota, Villavicencio, Medellin and Cartagena. Pope Francis will be the third pope to visit the nation after Blessed Paul VI and Saint John Paul II. The previous papal visit there was 31 years ago in 1986.

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Jesus Shares In Anticipation Of Catechumens, Candidates Says Bishop At Rite

**Photos And Text
By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein**

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak said that reading letters from those who will enter the Catholic Church at Easter, is “the best spiritual reading I can do at this time of year.”

“In your letters,” he said “I have read the names of the people you approached, or who approached you, to talk about your desire to be united to Jesus, in His Church. I read of you asked about that relationship with Jesus with great humility, with trust, and with anticipation.

“There are still about forty days to go until Easter, about forty days to go until you find yourself in a state of full participation and belonging in the Church, a state of ongoing discipleship.

“Easter cannot come soon enough for you!”

Bishop Mark made his remarks on March 5, the First Sunday of Lent, as he presided at the annual celebration of the Rite of Election and The Enrollment of Names of Catechumens, and The Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates. The celebration was held in the afternoon at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, and in the

evening at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown. The ceremony is part of the Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Adults (R.C.I.A.).

Catechumens and Candidates will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Saturday, April 15 Easter Vigil. Catechumens are individuals who have not been baptized, and who will receive that Sacrament, be confirmed and make their First Holy Communion. Candidates are baptized Christians from other traditions who will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church through Confirmation and Eucharist.

Bishop Mark asked the Catechumens and Candidates to do two things during their final weeks of preparation.

“I would ask you to say, every day, the simple prayer drawn from the gospel reading we’ve just heard: ‘Lord God, I would like to see Jesus.’ You all share that desire.”

Secondly, the Bishop asked them to “remind yourselves that during the whole R.C.I.A. process Jesus has seen you. He knows you. He knows your name. He knows your story. Jesus knows even more about you than what you shared in your letters to me.”

And, Bishop Mark told the Catechumens and Candidates, “Jesus is just as eagerly anticipating the day that you join us in His Church!”

Jeanne Thompson is in her fourteenth year as director of the Office of Christian Initiation. Following the March 5 ceremonies she said “This is a sign to our local Church that God is in charge. From where I stand, this is evidence of God’s providence, and that the Church is still growing in the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown.

“This is hope!”

Taking part in this year’s Rite of Election and The Enrollment of Names of Catechumens, and The Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates were 37 Catechumens, now officially designated “The Elect” and 44 Candidates. In addition to parishes, they came from one college and one university. Included in the celebration were the names of men from two State Correctional Institutions.

Thompson said that “A few people from the parishes told me afterwards that they would pray for these men, whom they probably will never meet in person.

“It is this love of being a part of the Body of Christ, that makes visible the reality of being a member in communion



CATECHUMEN: Catechumen Jason Burkle of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Altoona, signs his name in the Book of the Elect during the Sunday, March 5 celebration of the Rite of Election and The Enrollment of Names of Catechumens, and The Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak witnesses Burkle’s signature at the Altoona Cathedral. The celebration also took place at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown.

with the whole Church, when we receive the Holy Eucharist at Mass.”

Thompson said 37 groups were represented at the Rites, with many presenting only one Catechumen or Candidate. “They came from as far as McConnellsburg in Fulton County,” she said, and “Lock Haven in Clinton County.”

Participating in the celebration in Altoona were: Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament; Good Shepherd, State College; Benner Township SCI, Bellefonte; Holy Spirit, Lock Haven; Immaculate Conception, Dudley; Our Lady of the Mount, SCI Rockview; Our Lady of Victory, State College.

(Continued On Page 11.)

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