

The Catholic Register

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Bishop Leads Celebration Of Fatima Centennial

Diocese Consecrated To Immaculate Heart Of Mary

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

As hundreds of thousands of the faithful joined Pope Francis at the Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal to mark the 100th anniversary of Mary's first apparition there to three shepherd children, 100 equally fervent worshippers joined Bishop Mark L. Bartchak at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Altoona on Saturday, May 13, to witness him consecrating the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

"The care and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary for us, for the Church, and for the world, is symbolized in her Immaculate Heart," Bishop Mark said, explaining that "It is a symbol of purity and holiness, because Mary was kept free from the effects of original sin," and "It is a symbol of authentic love, because Mary was and is full of grace; full of the Holy Spirit; full of divine love."

Bishop Mark made the act of consecration using a prayer adapted from one composed by Pope Francis, asking Mary to "accept with the benevolence of a Mother the act of consecration of our entire Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown that we perform today with confidence, before this

image of you that is so dear to us."

The consecration was followed by the blessing of the Diocesan Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which the Bishop said will be taken to places of celebration throughout the Diocese between May 13 and October 13, and which will then be made available to parishes, so that families and groups of families can come together in their homes to invoke Mary's intercession.

The statue, the gift of a benefactor, "will serve as a reminder that just as Mary hurried to visit Elizabeth, and just as Mary appeared to young children at Fatima 100 years ago, we can still count on her to direct our hearts to the loving and merciful heart of her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ."

The celebration at the Altoona church began with the recitation of the Rosary, led by Bishop Mark, followed by the celebration of Mass.

In his homily the Bishop told the congregation the well-known story of how Mary appeared at Fatima at a time when the world was undergoing the stress of the First World War and the beginning of the rise of the Soviet Union, a time which he characterized as life turned "upside down and inside out."



BLESSES DIOCESAN PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE: After consecrating the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak blessed the diocesan Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, at a Saturday, May 13 Mass marking the centennial anniversary of Mary's apparitions to three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal. The diocesan celebration of the 100th anniversary was held at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Altoona.

It was a time, he said when ideologies were spreading in which "there was no grace, no Holy Spirit, no values based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and there was no divine love."

The children of Fatima - - Lucia dos Santos, and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto - - were asked to share with the world the message that "through the love that is discovered in her

Immaculate Heart, Mary offers us a firm assurance and hope that God is in charge, through His Son, in His Holy Spirit."

(Continued On Page 10.)



RECEIVE PINS: Students at Divine Mercy Catholic School East Campus in Johnstown recently received their Society of Saint Vincent DePaul pins signifying their membership in the SVDP Divine Mercy Youth Conference at their Thursday, May 4 school Mass at Saint Benedict Church. Father Brian Warchola, parochial vicar, celebrated the Mass and Sonny Consiglio, executive director of the society presented the pins.

Higher Education

Golf Tournament

Cresson: Excitement is high as foursomes fill up the field for the 20th Annual Mount Aloysius Celebrity Scholarship Golf Tournament. This year's celebrity attendee is Former Pittsburgh Penguin and two-time Stanley Cup Champion, Troy Loney. The event will take place Friday, June 9 at the Summit Country Club.

The tournament begins with breakfast and registration at

9:00 a.m., followed by a shotgun start. The day will include a four - person scramble (flighted by handicap) skills contests with prizes including a new car, golf vacation and golf gear. The day will end with a steak barbecue.

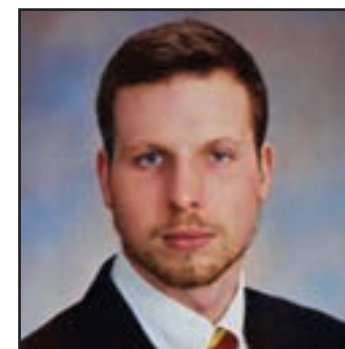
Troy Loney, born in Bow Island, Alberta Canada, was a forward of the 1991 and 1992 Pittsburgh Penguin Stanley Cup champions. He debuted during the 1980 - 1981 season with the Lethbridge Broncos, before playing for the Baltimore Skipjacks. Loney bounced between the Skipjacks, Penguins, and the



SAINT THERESE, JOHNSTOWN: First Holy Communion was celebrated by Saint Theresse Parish, Johnstown, on Sunday, April 30. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Marge Hutchison (catechist), Kandra Delasko, Patrick Sakmar, Sara Grela, Dan Hutchison (catechist). Second row: Sister Letizia of the Sisters of Saint Ann (director of religious education), Franciscan Father Bernard Karmanocky (pastor) and Father Francis Balestino (senior priest, in residence).



MASTER OF DIVINITY: Jonathan Dickson of Altoona has received the master of divinity degree from Saint Mary Seminary, Baltimore MD. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak on Saturday, May 27 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.



GRADUATES: James Gruss Jr., a 2013 graduate of Bishop McCort Catholic High School, Johnstown, has graduated cum laude from the Software Engineering Program of Gannon University, Erie and will be spending four weeks this summer in India. The first portion of the trip is part of Gannon's Alternative Break Service Trips Program through which Gruss and other students will study Indian culture and assist with mission work. The second part is by invitation of Dr. Udai Singh. Gruss and two other students will assist Dr. Singh in charitable works in impoverished communities. James is the son of Jim and Janette (Golden) Gruss of Holy Family Parish, Hooversville.

Muskegon Lumberjacks before helping the Pens bring the Stanley Cup home in two consecutive seasons. He was claimed by the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim at the Expansion Draft in June 1993, and was named the team's first captain.

A rugged left - winger, Troy Loney was a battler in the corners and the front of the net. He added a physical component to his team and chipped in with a

fair numbers of goals during his twelve years in the league.

Loney retired following the lockout-shortened 1995 season, splitting his final year between the Rangers and Islanders.

Proceeds from the tournament benefit Mount Aloysius College students by providing scholarships.

(Continued On Page 3.)



HEALING MASS

**Tuesday
June 6, 2017
7:00 pm
Fr. Bill Kiel
CELEBRANT**

CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
For all in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing and those who support them.

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." John 10:10

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In The Alleghenies



SAINT MARY, ALTOONA: Celebrating First Holy Communion at Saint Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish, Altoona, on Saturday, May 6 were (left to right) First row: Gabriella Sparacino, Lydia Wise. Second row: Max Burgmeier, Lucas Helsel, Brenden Young. Third row: Tessa Wise, Mira Sparacino (servers), Monsignor Timothy P. Stein (pastor), Siara Helsel (server) and Debbie Bartley (director of religious education and second grade catechist).



SAINT BENEDICT, JOHNSTOWN: Saint Benedict Parish, Johnstown, celebrated First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 14. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Grady Smiach, Zane Ritko, Jillian McClelland, Kyla O'Dowd, Sophia Horwath, Piper Bruce, Ali Yarnick, Esme Vranich, Nicole Albert. Second row: Ethan Wagner, Talon Urbanek, Trent Salem, Kaden Korenoski, Levi Cashdollar, Riley Yorchak, Chase Tresnick, Aaden Newcomer. Third row: Father David Peles (pastor), Dominick Shank, Father Brian Warchola (parochial vicar). Fourth row: Jennifer Polacek (catechist), Bella Niessner, Nicholas Hoagland, Natalia Mavridis, Andrew Havener, Cecilia Ryba, Landon Heptner and Michelle Robatin (sacramental preparation director). Not pictured are: Deacon Michael Russo, Marissa Lydic, Rowan Vaught, Hunter Kettelhut, Jason Jastrzab, Taresyn Robison, Zoey Ferguson and Kasen Mitchell.

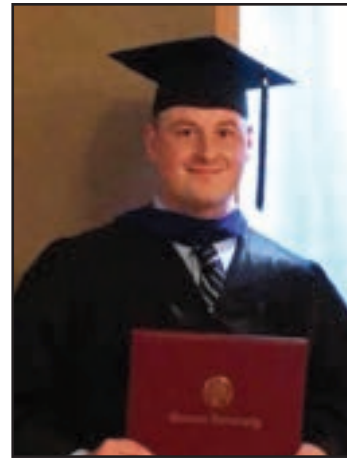
For more information about the event call the Mount Aloysius College Office of Institutional Advancement at (814) 886 - 6396 or email AdvancementOffice@mtaloy.edu.

(Continued From Page 2.)

Prayer

Healing Mass

Altoona: A healing Mass will be celebrated by Father Bill Kiel at the Cathedral of the



SEMINARIAN: Seminarian Michael Pleva has graduated from Gannon University in Erie after completing four years of seminary formation at Saint Mark's College Seminary with academic studies at Gannon. He will continue his priestly formation for the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe beginning in the fall of 2017. Michael is a member of Holy Rosary Parish in Altoona.



RECEIVES DEGREE: Peter D. Crowe (center) has received the master of divinity degree, cum laude, and the Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B., Sacred Scripture Award, given by the Scripture faculty to the student who has most demonstrated excellence in the study of Sacred Scripture, from Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe. He is a native of Our Lady of Victory Parish, State College, and he son of Robert E. Crowe of Boalsburg and the late Susan M. Crowe. He is a 2004 graduate of State College Area High School. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Hampden Sydney College in Hampden Sydney, Virginia, in 2008. He completed the pre - theology program at Gannon University, Erie, in 2013. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Mark L. Barchak Saturday, May 27. He is pictured with (left to right) Benedictine Father Edward Mazich (rector) and Abbot Preme Gregory Polan.

Saturday, July 15 is the deadline for submitting First Holy Communion, Confirmation, May Crowning and Graduation photographs for publication in The Catholic Register. No exceptions will be made to this deadline, but all photographs submitted prior to that date will be printed in upcoming issues of The Catholic Register.

Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday, June 6, at 7:00 p.m. for all in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and those who support them. Father Kiel has been celebrating healing Masses

throughout the country for many years.

Music will be led by the Cathedral Prayer Group Music Ministry. All ages are welcome to come and be blessed.

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Point Of View

I've done many awkward things in my life. Coughed during a crucial conversation. Forgotten the name of someone I just met. Driven away from the store, leaving vital groceries behind. Other things too cringe-worthy to write here.

Indeed, the redness of my cheeks has not always been due to a lupus malar rash but rather due to utter embarrassment. And my great red-face-inducing condition "du jour" is that I'm at yet another "awkward stage," adjusting to sometimes precarious balance due to my recent diagnosis of autoimmune-cause poly-sensory neuropathy.

I'm making great strides (pardon the pun) in improving, thanks to a very patient physical therapist and lots of home exercises. But there are still times when I shake my head and think, "How geeky is this?"

Fortunately, along with my sense of determination to do all the good health care things my doctors prescribe, I frequently and broadly "exercise" my sense of humor.

The one-leg-standing reps that are a daily must have become my "inner flamingo" routine. The deliberate steps up and down the halls are my "great feats." And if I improvise a pirouette instead of gliding around a corner? Well, grace takes on many forms, especially when laced with laughter.

True, my propensity to laugh when combined with wobbly legs might make someone think I'm "laced" with some-



Living Well

Grace For The Awkward Stages By Maureen Pratt

thing more potent than mirth. I know better; I don't drink alcohol. But the ability to laugh kindly at one's own embarrassment can bolster the spirit, taking the edge off of a reality that might otherwise be more biting.

Appropriately practiced, laughter can also help others cope with the illness, infirmity or challenge of a loved one. If we who have the ailment are capable of finding even a drop of humor in it, others might be less fearful, too. This creates a better emotional and spiritual atmosphere all around.

Besides laughing, there are other actions that I find helpful in dealing with the awkward moments (or longer stretches) in life. For example, I try again and again to improve. Practice might not make perfect, but it does build strength. Memory exercises, checklists and my now-infamous one-legged flamingo routine can and do make a difference!

Prayer continues to keep me grounded and focuses my attitude on humility and trust in God, whose balance is certainly perfect when mine is ragged. Facing reality is vital, too. Without accepting where we are, we cannot possibly get to where we want to go.

It has always been difficult for me to ask others for help, but I am learning, baby step by baby step. Also, the metaphor of striving for balance is not lost on me.

I have a tendency to overschedule my days with multiple appointments and household chores, reading lists and epic "projects" (like the carpet cleaning that I mentioned in an earlier column this year).

This new normal for me is quite the antidote to overbooking. As my carpets remain uncleaned (although they're not in terrible shape), I am more accepting that not all will or needs to be accomplished immediately. Those carpets will get cleaned. Sometime. This year!

Finally, one of the greatly comforting aspects of all the teetering is newfound resolve to mind the moment, the precious time now that God gives for us to strive for our best, and appreciate those seemingly small accomplishments that over time become sweet goals.

We never seem to outgrow awkward moments, although sometimes we exchange one type of them for another. The point is, I'm learning, to find the grace within and, while we do, keep believing and trusting that yes, it is there all along.



Another Perspective

Memorial Day

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

Memorial Day means it's time for me to go "up the mountain" to plant flowers on the graves in our family plot at Saint Bartholomew Cemetery in Wilmore. As often as I've joked that my father would come back to haunt me if I didn't, the truth is really that I'm afraid of scandalizing the neighbors if I don't.

I know that cemetery like the back of my hand. As a kid, I never tired of walking up the hill beyond the church to spend time reading tombstones, admiring the statues and floral decorations, and enjoying the beautiful view.

I grew up playing in a cemetery. Wilmore's old Lutheran Cemetery was just across the street from our house. A weathered tombstone in the very front row declared the deceased to be "an old Revolutionary War soldier." The tall obelisk at the very back of the cemetery was a great home base for a game of tag. But as familiar as that old burial ground was, it's still the one on the top of that hill that draws me.

Our family plot was purchased in 1926. My Dad's oldest brother, Uncle Bob, died that year, at the age of three, just three days before Christmas. I've often thought about what it must have been like for Grandma and Grandpa Stein to purchase those graves. She was 27 and he was 28. They didn't own their own home. The first property they bought was a cemetery plot where they buried their oldest child. And it would be a long time before they joined him there; Grandpa died and was buried at age 74 in 1972, and Grandma was 92 when she went home to God in 1991, and was buried between the two of them. For a long, long time, Uncle Bob was there by himself. My father faithfully tended that grave, planting a white geranium there, each Memorial Day.

Dad joined the others in our plot in 2007, and Mom joined him, in the fifth grave, in 2009. Now it's my responsibility to decorate the graves each year, and when I do, I always take a close look at the one grave remaining -- the sixth grave -- the one that will one day be mine.

When Dad passed away, mother bought a stone for his grave, and one for hers. She offered to buy mine, as well, but I didn't relish the thought of having that visible a reminder of my own mortality facing me each time I made the trip back home. That empty spot, next to her, is quite enough of a reminder, thank you. I'm just a little concerned that it might be too close to the next plot, not quite big enough to fit me in. I've joked that I might have to be buried feet first. Having suffered from flat feet and weak ankles, with the accompanying pain and discomfort my whole life long, the prospect of standing upright till the day of judgement is now a pleasant one! When my day comes, I want to be able to rest in peace!

Perhaps, if you've persevered and read this far, you might find this column to be a little too ghoulish, or just a tad too flippant. But I've long been convinced that death is just too important to be taken seriously! Death does not get the last laugh. When I visit the graves of my loved ones, I don't want to cry and lament because they're dead; I want to laugh and smile and rejoice because they lived -- and my faith tells me they live still!

Every time I visit a cemetery, I hear echoing in my heart the words of the angel to the women who came to Christ's tomb on the first Easter Sunday: "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Those who have gone before us are not in the cemetery, six feet under the grass.

They're with God, and God is everywhere. God is only just a prayer away, and so are they.

When Communities Are In Crisis, How Can A Rape Crisis Center Help?

By The Centre County Women's Resource Center

There are times when the acts of just a few people have a devastating impact on an entire community. That was certainly the case in November 2011 as the Jerry Sandusky scandal broke in Centre County. The community reaction was shock, disbelief, and fear that a predator had lived among us. The community was shaken to its core – someone who had been trusted and revered was exposed as a sexual predator. The events of November 2011 called into question our ability to keep our children safe, our judgment, and the way we understood our lives in this community.

In many ways, the reaction of the community following a crisis, be it a faith community or a town, is much like that of parents discovering that their child has been victimized. The shock, the anger, the need to do something revolve in a never-ending cycle of emotions. When this happens, a community's rape crisis center can be extremely helpful in sorting through the feelings and

helping communities recover. Rape crisis center staff and volunteers have been trained to handle and respond to an individual's trauma of sexual assault and a community's trauma.

A rape crisis center's first response to a community crisis, is to listen. As we discovered following the Sandusky scandal, calls to our hotline increased as did calls requesting programs about child sexual abuse. In both situations, the counselors knew to listen to the anxiety, the fear, the distress of the caller, to validate the feelings as real and appropriate and then begin to move toward reasonable solutions for the caller. Listening is where healing begins to happen.

A second way rape crisis centers can be helpful in times of crisis is to use their professional expertise to help the community understand the realities of the situation. Prevention educators help the community distinguish between the myths and the facts about child sexual abuse. They also work with community groups to help

them understand the dynamics of child sexual abuse, the strategies predators utilize, and appropriate ways to respond if a child discloses. When information is shared, the community begins to regain a sense of control, and an understanding that child sexual abuse is a problem that communities can address proactively.

Finally, rape crisis centers are uniquely positioned to help communities understand that it is possible to move beyond the crisis. Rape crisis center staff understand that while healing is often a long and challenging journey, it is possible. Rape crisis centers know the resources that lie within a community to reinforce its resilience and create a context for healing and growth after the immediate crisis has passed. When a rape crisis center works with a community to understand and move beyond crisis, it can lay the groundwork for hope to emerge – hope that healing and recovery, both for individual victims and for the community at large, is possible.

Support For Survivors

Support for survivors of sexual abuse is always available throughout the Diocese of Altoona-Johnston. Survivors are encouraged to seek help for recovery through any of the sexual assault centers in their area. All of the sexual assault centers offer:

- * 24/7 Hotline Services
- * Crisis Intervention
- * Case Management
- * Individual Counseling
- * Legal Advocacy and Accompaniment
- * Medical Advocacy and Accompaniment
- * Prevention and Awareness Education Programs
- * Sexual Assault Response Team (emergency medical care, emotional support, and medical/ legal examination)
- * Professional Trainings
- * Information and Referrals to other community services

Bedford County
Your Safe Haven Inc.
(800) 555 - 5671
Yoursafehaven.org

Also offers: * Safe Shelter and/or Transitional Housing
* Transportation * Additional Services for Domestic Violence Survivors

Blair County
Family Services, Inc.
(814) 944-3585
Familyservicesinc.net

Also offers: * Therapy/ Therapeutic Counseling * Transportation * Additional Services for Domestic Violence Survivors

Cambria-Somerset Counties Victim Services, Inc.
(814) 288-4691 and (800) 755-1983
Victimsservicesinc.org

Also offers: * Therapy/ Therapeutic Counseling * Support Groups * Group Counseling

Huntingdon - - Mifflin - - Juniata Counties
The Abuse Network
(717) 242-2444
Abusenetwork.org

Also offers: * Crisis Counseling * Support Groups * Group Counseling * Safe Shelter and/or Transitional Housing * Transportation * Additional Services for Domestic Violence Survivors

Clinton County
Clinton County Women's Center (
570) 748-9509
Ccwcsafe.org

Also offers: * Therapy/ Therapeutic Counseling * Support Groups * Safe Shelter and/or Transitional Housing * Transportation * Additional Services for Domestic Violence Survivors

Franklin - - Fulton Counties
Women in Need/ Victim Services
(717) 264-4444
Winservices.org

Also offers: * Support Groups * Group Counseling * Safe Shelter and/or Transitional Housing * Transportation * Additional Services for Domestic Violence Survivors

Centre County
Centre County Women's Resource Center
(814) 234-5050
Ccwrc.org

Also offers: * Support Groups * Therapy/ Therapeutic Counseling * Safe Shelter and/or Transitional Housing * Transportation * Additional Services for Domestic Violence Survivors * Civil Legal Representation in family, law, immigration or Title IX matters * Safe Custody Exchange and Supervised Visitation

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.



SAINT ALOYSIUS: Saint Aloysius Parish, Cresson, celebrated Confirmation Thursday, April 27. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Debbie Baker (director of religious education), Grace Serene Hoffman, Mattie Bossler, Myah Smith, Amber Eckenrode, Ashlee Mazaruk, Kayla Simanski, Lauren Guzic, Father Leo Arnone (pastor). Second row: John Hegemann, Jake Naddonley, Thomas Trexler, Lauren Michina, Miche Burkett and Nicholas Wells.



SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER: Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Cresson celebrated Confirmation Thursday, April 27. Taking part were (left to right) First row: Tracey Ingold (director of religious education), Edward Murcieak, Ethan Jaap, Brett Kimberly, Emily Costlow, Alyssa Delegram, Alyssa Novak, Mary Catherine Prostejovsky, Father Leo Arnone (pastor). Second row: Nicholas Moschgat, Jacob Zelenski, Joel Zelenski, Braedon O'Donnell, Cameron Dunmyer and Alyssa Martinazzi.

Two Diocesan Priests Are Silver Jubilarians

Two priests of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown are observing the silver jubilee of their sacerdotal ordination.

Father George M. Gulash and Father Alan E. Thomas were ordained to the priesthood May 23, 1992, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona.

Father Gulash is a native of Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, Windber, the son of the late George D. and Margaret A. Gulash. He has two siblings: a sister, and a brother.

A graduate of Windber Area High School, he completed his undergraduate and graduate seminary studies at the Pontifical



FATHER GEORGE M. GULASH

College Josephinum, Columbus OH, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in religious studies, and a master of divinity degree. He was ordained a transitional deacon November 16, 1991 at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown.

He served as parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish and the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, both in Altoona, and at Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, Johnstown.

Father Gulash has served as pastor of Resurrection Parish, Johnstown since 2015, having previously served as pastor of Saint Joan of Arc Parish, Frugal-



FATHER ALAN E. THOMAS

gree in biology from Juniata College, Huntingdon. He also attended the University of Saint Andrews in Scotland. Father Thomas completed his seminary studies at Mount Saint Mary Seminary, Emmitsburg MD, receiving both the master of divinity degree, and a master of arts in theology degree, and was ordained to the transitional diaconate November 16, 1991 at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral Johnstown.

He has served as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory Parish, State College; Holy Name Parish, Ebensburg and Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Altoona. He served as assistant principal of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg, and was on the staff of Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe. He was in residence at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral while providing sacramental ministry at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Father Thomas has served as pastor of Saint Stephen Parish McConnellsburg and Saint Mary Parish, Shade Gap, and was the founding pastor of Resurrection Parish, Johnstown.

In 2010, he was honored with the Prince Gallitzin Cross Award. Formerly the director of ongoing clergy formation and vicar forane of the Cambria Deanery, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak named him vicar general for the Diocese effective August 19, 2015.

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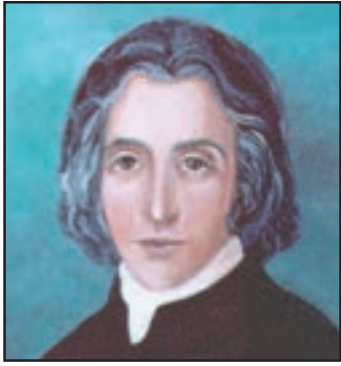
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ity and Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish, Ashville; Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Cresson; and Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Windber. He also served as sacramental minister at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Father Alan E. Thomas is the vicar general of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, and since 2015 has served as pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, Bellwood.

A native of Saints Philip and James Parish, Meyersdale, Father Thomas is one of five sons of Adrian A. and the late Anna R. (Knepper) Thomas.

He is a graduate of Meyersdale Area High School, and holds a bachelor of science de-



A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

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

Priest's Remains Exhumed Prior To Beatification

By Diane Clay
Catholic News Service

OKARCHE, Okla. (CNS) -- Early on the morning of May 10, the remains of Father Stanley F. Rother were exhumed from Holy Trinity Cemetery in Okarche and transported to Oklahoma City.

As required by the Catholic Church for the beatification process, his remains were examined by medical professionals and re-interred in the chapel at Resurrection Cemetery in northwest Oklahoma City.

In March, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City announced that Father Rother, one its native sons who worked in Guatemala

and was brutally murdered there in 1981, will be beatified Sept. 23 in a ceremony in downtown Oklahoma City.

Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, will celebrate the beatification Mass along with Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City. Thousands of cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons and other Catholics from across the United States are expected to attend.

Pope Francis recognized Father Rother's martyrdom last December, making him the first martyr born in the United States and clearing the way for his beatification.

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City sent Father Rother, who grew up on a family farm in Okarche, to its mission in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, in 1968. He served a poor and indigenous community in the area, helping build a small hospital, a school and its first Catholic radio station. But he also helped the agricultural community with its crops and to build an irrigation system.

Many Guatemalans in his community were kidnapped, disappeared or murdered as the government accused them of sympathizing with rebels during the decades-long conflict that plagued the Central American nation from the 1960s until the late 1990s.

By early 1981, Father Rother had been placed on a hit list along with several members of his parish staff and catechists for their continued aid, education and preaching of the Gospel to

the poor population of Tz'utujil Indians.

Father Stanley, known as Father Francisco because his name was hard for the locals to pronounce, was 46 when a group of men entered the rectory and fatally shot him. His assailants were never identified but were believed to be government soldiers.

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, then headed by Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran, opened the priest's sainthood cause in 2007. At the request of his parishioners in Guatemala, Father Rother's heart is enshrined inside the Guatemalan church.

Before the exhumation of Father Rother's remains in Okarche, his family led a procession to the gravesite and participated in a prayer.

Once the vault was removed from the gravesite, it was transported to Oklahoma City where his remains were removed, examined and verified.

He was placed in a new casket with golden vestments alongside a document signed by those in attendance. A red ribbon was wrapped around the casket and sealed with a wax seal of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Archbishops Coakley and Beltran led the priests in the singing of "Salve Regina," a Gregorian chant hymn, before the casket was lowered into a crypt at Resurrection Cemetery.

"It was a holy day. Father Rother's presence was felt by many, and we are blessed as the Catholic Church in Oklahoma to present Father Rother's life to the world," Archbishop Coakley said.

A temporary sign marks the gravesite at Holy Trinity Cemetery in Okarche where the original vault and casket were reburied. A permanent memorial marker will be placed. His remains will stay in the chapel at Resurrection Cemetery until his shrine is completed.

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
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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

Honoring Mary In Truth By Pope Francis

FATIMA, Portugal (CNS) -- Mary's example of believing and following Jesus is what matters most; she cannot be some image "of our own making" who Christians barter with for mercy, Pope Francis said.

On the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions at Fatima, the pope asked tens of thousands of pilgrims May 12 to reflect on "which Mary" they choose to venerate, "the virgin Mary from the Gospel" or "one who restrains the arm of a vengeful God?"

Is the Mary they honor "a woman blessed because she believed always and everywhere in God's words or a 'plaster statue' from whom we beg favors at little cost?" he asked.

As the sun set at the shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, pilgrims held thousands of lit candles, filling the square with a fiery light before Pope Francis led them in praying the rosary.

The pope already had visited the shrine earlier in the evening, arriving by helicopter from Monte Real air base. Excited crowds, waving flags and white handkerchiefs, cheered as he arrived in his popemobile.

He then made his way to the Little Chapel of the Apparitions where Mary appeared to three shepherd children May 13, 1917. The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917, and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church.

The festive cheering of the crowd turned to near absolute silence as the pope spent several minutes with his head bowed and hands clasped in prayer, occasionally looking up at the statue of Mary venerated by his predecessors and millions of devotees across the globe.

Pope Francis then recited a prayer he wrote, an expanded version of the traditional "Salve Regina" ("Hail Holy Queen").

Alternating his verses with a choral refrain venerating the "Queen of the Rosary of Fatima," the pope consecrated himself to Mary and entrusted to her intercession a suffering humanity where blood "is shed in the wars tearing our world apart."

Begging Mary's assistance, the pope prayed that believers would "tear down all walls and overcome all boundaries, going to all peripheries, there revealing God's justice and peace."

"In the depths of your being, in your immaculate heart, you keep the sorrows of the human family, as they mourn and weep in this valley of tears," the pope prayed.

Returning to the little chapel for a nighttime vigil, Pope Francis reminded pilgrims to pray, as Mary taught the children at Fatima, for "those most in need" of God's mercy.

"On each of the destitute and outcast robbed of the present, on each of the excluded and abandoned denied a future, on each of the orphans and victims of injustice refused a past, may there descend the blessing of God, incarnate in Jesus Christ," he said.

Pope Francis held up Mary as a "model of evangelization," particularly because Christian men and women can look at her and see that "humility and tenderness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong."

Those who emphasize God's punishment of sinners, he said, commit "a great injustice" to him by not recognizing that sinners "are forgiven by his mercy."

"Mercy has to be put before judgment," he said, "and, in any case, God's judgment will always be rendered in the light of his mercy."

"With Mary, may each of us become a sign and sacrament of the mercy of God, who pardons always and pardons everything," he said.



ONE MORE TIME: Anna Thomas received Holy Communion from her newly - ordained son, Father Alan E. Thomas, at his May 23, 1992 ordination at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona. Father Thomas and Father George M. Gulash are celebrating their silver jubilees this year.

"Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.' Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you" (Is 49:14-15).

Isaiah's prophetic message that God is eternally devoted to us is needed now more than ever. In his time, mothers who lost their sense of devotion would sometimes abandon their children. Isaiah reminds us that we are never out of God's sight. Equally important, it reminds us that without God-like devotion, life can become cruel.

The concept of devotion is connected to the word "vow," meaning a total commitment without reservations. Christ teaches us the meaning of devotion when he says we cannot serve both God and mammon; devotion is a one-way street with no side streets. It also must be heartfelt.

Devotion spawns unity, goodness, beauty and love: the very nature of life at its best. A marriage will succeed or fail depending on its level of devotion. Armies win or lose, contingent upon their level of commitment. Successful projects, more often than not, are tied to the selfless



The Human Side

Two Sides Of Devotion By Father Eugene Hemrick

dedication of those accomplishing them.

Like anything precious, devotion doesn't come easy. Coach Vince Lombardi once said, "Fatigue makes cowards of us all." The practice of devotion can be trying and wearing. All it takes is a cross word to agitate it. And living together on a daily basis can be very challenging; familiarity does breed contempt!

Surrounded by an environment of corruption, blatant selfishness and false values -- the direct antithesis of devotion -- can easily lead to disillusionment and wondering, "Where is true devotion these days?"

A lack of good example is

The concept of devotion is connected to the word "vow," meaning a total commitment without reservations.

devotion's worst enemy. Dishonesty, duplicity, narcissism and arrogant self-centeredness are forever corroding devotion. To counter bad examples, good examples of people sacrificing themselves to better life must be sought repeatedly.

In addition to finding good examples of devotion, how might we nourish it personally? It is by following the spiritual maxim: "Every day requires a new conversion." Conversion is about keeping our heart in the right place. This requires we pray each morning for strength to mirror God's devotion to us -- that we possess the stamina needed to avoid abandoning it.

Devotion can never be taken for granted because of pollutants corroding it. Like shiny brass, it needs to be polished daily; we need to continuously adjust our heart for achieving the maximum beauty of commitment.

From the President and Executive Director

We welcome you to the spring edition of our newsletter FOCUS. As we began to collect our thoughts for this edition, we looked back at the now almost completed fiscal year (ending 6-30-2017). And what a year it has been! As we wrote this greeting for last year's spring edition of the FOCUS our portfolio assets were slightly over \$25 million, as we write this now they are almost \$27.8 million. This is the result of \$858,000 in contributions and an amazing 10.7% investment growth. We thank our generous donors for their contributions. We then had 240 endowments, now we have 245. Additionally, we have a great new addition to our staff, Chris Ringkamp joined us for the newly created position of Director of Mission Advancement (see article on page 3). We continue to make great progress on advancing our Strategic Planning process as we work to achieve even greater support for our local ministries.

We continue to be encouraged by many positive comments regarding our investment portfolio being aligned with our Catholic faith because of Christian Brothers Investment Services.



Foundation Executive Director Bill Hiergeist (left) and Board President Jim Carrieri (right) prepare for the annual meeting in June of the Foundation's lay trustees.

We are humbled by our success and pray that God continues to smile on our efforts. We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and trust it provides insight on how you can remember your parish or favorite Catholic ministry in your estate planning. Please feel free to contact our office or any Trustee to discuss how we may be of service.

Jim Carrieri,
President

Bill Hiergeist,
Executive Director

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*"In all created things
discern the providence and
wisdom of God, and in all
things give Him thanks."*

- St. Teresa of Avila

The Independent Catholic Foundation



Foundation Executive Director Bill Hiergeist shares the Foundation's story with Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York. The Independent Catholic Foundation was one of several sponsors of Cardinal Dolan's visit to Saint Francis University this past March.

*"Someone is sitting
in the shade today
because someone
planted a tree
a long time ago."*

- Warren Buffett

Scholarships Available for Blair County College Juniors and Seniors

Applications are now being accepted for the 2017 Welge Scholarship which assists Blair County students who are entering their junior or senior year (third or fourth year) of college. The Welge Scholarship was established in 1995 to honor Adelaide G. (Heverly) Welge. This year, the Foundation anticipates awarding three \$500 scholarships. Applicants with demonstrated financial need must be members in good standing at a Roman Catholic Parish in Blair County excluding Tyrone. Qualifying criteria and applications are available online at www.icfdaj.org or at Blair County parishes.

Applications must be signed by the student's pastor before being submitted to the Foundation by Thursday, June 1. Please contact the Foundation with additional questions by phone (814-201-2080) or e-mail (Bill@icfdaj.org).

Catholic Investment Practices



Two years ago this July, the Foundation's trustees chose Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS) to manage its investment portfolio. Christian Brothers' investment approach allows the Foundation to invest your contributions in a way that "provides sound financial returns while remaining faithful to the ethical and social teachings of the Catholic Church." Using investment guidelines of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops as a basis, CBIS screens out companies whose policies conflict with the Church's moral teachings. Once CBIS has created the final portfolio, it actively promotes Catholic values through shareholder resolutions, corporate dialogue and proxy voting.

Our commitment to faith-based investment practices is another reason why the Independent Catholic Foundation has become the preferred administrator of many parishioners' legacies within the diocese.

An Interview with Chris Ringkamp

After eighteen years of development and parish life ministry at the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Chris recently assumed the newly-created role of Director of Mission Advancement here at the Foundation. Chris, his wife Melissa and son Nathan reside in Hollidaysburg and are members of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Altoona.

How do you feel about your new role?

Well, to be honest, I experienced some nervousness during my transition in early April since I had only been with two employers in the last 28 years, but those feelings quickly faded when I realized that my career path has been an apprenticeship for this new role. The Foundation's board of thirteen lay trustees has implemented a strategic plan which serves as a blueprint for enhancing the Foundation's strong legacy of growth. I am grateful for the opportunity to help implement the plan while continuing to serve in a Catholic-aligned organization. While the diocese and the Foundation are independently-governed entities, we cannot lose sight of the fact that both serve the same Master.

What is mission advancement?

Just as "institutional advancement" at universities and colleges seeks resources to expand their places in society, "mission advancement" at a faith-based organization seeks resources to help unfold the Kingdom of God already present in our midst. Here at the Foundation, we accomplish this by inviting parishioners to include their parish and other Catholic causes in their legacy plans, which many carry out through simple charitable bequests in their Last Will. Once someone chooses us to manage their charitable investment through a permanent endowment, we become stewards of their legacy not only for 1 year, 5 years or 27 years, but for centuries to come.

When should someone begin planning their legacy?

Each of our personal legacies actually begin by supporting causes important to us right now. This is especially true by supporting our parishes with an intentional, planned weekly gift

through the offertory. As we embrace Christian stewardship values now, our lifestyles as disciples of Jesus Christ influence our decisions when planning meaningful legacies. A commitment to a stewardship way of life allows our parishes to better fulfill their missions of becoming outward-focused evangelizing faith communities.

How does legacy planning begin?

Once you make provisions in a Last Will for loved ones, you would make a list of the causes that are important to you (especially Catholic causes). Many individuals can accomplish their wishes with a bequest in their Will while others may choose to donate insurance policies, retirement accounts and charitable trusts. In all circumstances, you should consult professional advisers to ensure that your estate can make the most impact by reducing taxes. Without a Will, the government will decide how to settle your estate.

What is the purpose of the Foundation?

The Foundation could be compared to a trust office or community foundation, except that we specialize in administering donors' charitable contributions that support Catholic causes in perpetuity. And we do this using sound, Catholic investment practices. We currently manage 245 permanent endowments and donor-advised funds with a total investment value approaching \$28 million. While we are prepared to distribute \$1 million in a few months, our trustees and staff do not control the allocation of annual distributions. Each donor determined the designation of annual allocations at the time the endowments were established. The Independent Catholic Foundation is accessible to anyone who wants to include Catholic causes in their legacy regardless of the size of the estate or amount of their contribution. Many of our current contributors do not have the means to create their own endowments, but they have made plans to fulfill their legacies with bequests destined for one or more of our 245 existing endowments that benefit parishes, schools and ministries within and beyond the diocese.



Any last thoughts?

I look forward to helping raise awareness about why Catholics need to include their faith in their legacy plans. I may be biased, but I believe it is profoundly more important to establish bequests that advance God's Kingdom instead of naming buildings or other material goods after oneself.

"It is amazing what joy fills the heart when generosity becomes a way of life."

Bishop Robert Morneau

Share Your Story

Many years ago a husband and wife decided to include several Catholic causes in their Last Will – their parish, Catholic school students, and an order of women religious. Today, even though they are no longer with us, their contributions of securities, real estate and other assets have continued to make a meaningful impact for the three causes they treasured. If you have already included one or more of your favorite Catholic charitable causes in your Will or estate plans, would you consider sharing your story with us? Perhaps your example will inspire others to include Catholic causes in their legacy plans. Please refer to our information below to contact us.

Bequest Options

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary defines a "Will" as a "legal declaration of a person's wishes regarding the disposal of his or her property or estate after death." Many Wills include "bequests" which are "possessions left by will or transmitted from the past."

Sadly, as many as 63% of Americans do not have Wills in place. Without a will, the government will decide how to divide your possessions. To avoid this situation, now is the time to create your Will with the help of an estate planning attorney.

Bequests are the most popular type of "planned gift" because of their simplicity. Bequests come in several forms.

Specific bequest

This variation directs that an exact dollar amount or specific asset from your estate (such as stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.) be given to one of more of your favorite Catholic causes.

Residuary bequest

Once your family has been taken care of, this bequest format directs that all, or a percentage of, your estate's residual be given directly to your parish or other Catholic causes.

Percentage bequest

This form of bequest directs that a percentage of your estate be given to one or more of your favorite Catholic causes. Your wishes are guaranteed regardless of whether your estate grows larger or smaller.

In each instance above, you have the options of (1) making direct bequests to your parish and other Catholic causes, (2) contributing to an existing endowment, or (3) creating a new endowment in your family's name.

The Foundation would welcome an opportunity to have a confidential conversation with you to help you match your wishes with areas of greatest need in your parish or other Catholic causes that are important to you.

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Investment Portfolio Growth Trend
(in millions)



Please Note

In all instances it is advisable to speak with legal counsel, a Financial advisor and/or a tax consultant. No information contained in this newsletter or on the Foundation website should be considered legal advice.

For more information:

Individuals, businesses, organizations or parishes are welcome to inquire about the Independent Catholic Foundation by contacting any Trustee or our office. The Executive Director can be reached at the Foundation office. Please visit our web-site at www.icfdaj.org. All inquires are held in the strictest confidence.

Bill Hiergeist, Executive Director (814) 201-2080 (814) 201-2092 (fax) (E-mail address) Bill@icfdaj.org
3618 Fifth Ave., Suite 1 • Altoona, PA 16602



Separate from, but committed to, *the Diocesan Church*

The Foundation is an independent entity – legally separate from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown – committed to the long-term strength and viability of Catholic institutions within the eight-county diocese. The Foundation is overseen by a board of trustees comprised of lay men and women. The Diocese (as a legal entity) and the Diocesan Bishop have no role in the management of the Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization [a public charity]. Endowment funds are owned by the Foundation and can not be attached for Diocesan operating funds or any needs of the Diocese.



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle Roman And Jewish Reactions To The Resurrection Of Jesus

Q. I have always been puzzled by the lack of reaction to Christ's resurrection from Jewish citizens and Roman officials.

It is well-documented that Jesus suffered and died, and his execution was authorized by Roman leaders; but, even at a time of no media coverage, how could Christ's return to life have gone unnoticed by the very officials who had clamored for and authorized his death?

And what happened to the Roman guard who was stationed at the tomb? Why did he not report such an event to his superiors? (Belleville, Illinois)

A. I am happy for this question on the resurrection, because our Christian faith stands or falls on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. Paul says, "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, your faith" (1 Cor 15:14).

It is far from true that the resurrection of Jesus went "unnoticed" by civil and religious officials of the day. When those

who had been appointed to guard the tomb reported to the chief priests "all that had happened," the chief priests assembled the elders to determine a plan of action.

It was decided to bribe the guards with "a large sum of money"; the guards were directed to tell anyone who asked that "his disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep." The chief priests also assured the guards that, if the news reached Pilate's ears, "we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble" (Mt 28:11-15).

That "stolen body hypothesis" never caught on -- first of all, because the dispirited

The strongest proof of the resurrection comes not from an empty tomb, but from the living witness of Christ's first followers.

Saint Joan
Of Arc
1412 - 1431
Feast - May 30



An illiterate but intelligent French peasant girl, Joan was thrust into the Hundred Years' War by her "voices," inner promptings urging her to save France from England and Burgundy. After meeting the French dauphin and being examined by theologians, she led the army to victories at Orleans and Patay. Captured later by the Burgundians, she was abandoned by the dauphin and sold to the English, who burned her at the stake for witchcraft and heresy. Joan was rehabilitated by a papal commission in 1456.

band of Jesus' followers, whose dream had seemingly died with their master, were then huddled together in fear and unlikely to risk going anywhere near the tomb of Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus was destined to cause enduring problems for Roman and Jewish leaders, and it would have been worth their every effort should they have been able to disprove it. (Imagine the effect of being able to produce the body of Christ and parade the "stolen" corpse through the streets of Jerusalem.) But any investigation on the part of civil and religious authorities came up empty.

The rapid spread of Christianity in the first century was fueled by the accounts of more than 500 witnesses to whom Jesus appeared in the 40 days following the resurrection. Writing some 25 years later, Paul says that most of these 500 "are still living" (1 Cor 15:6) -- in effect, challenging deniers, "If you don't believe me, talk to them."

The pyramids of Egypt, Westminster Abbey, Arlington National Cemetery are famous as the burial sites of those renowned by history. The tomb of Jesus, instead, is empty, and Christ's epitaph is carved not in stone but spoken by the angel who greeted the women at the tomb, "He is not here ... he has been raised" (Lk 24:6).

And yet, for me, the strongest proof of the resurrection comes not from an empty tomb, but from the living witness of Christ's first followers.

Of the Twelve Apostles, only John died of natural causes. The others -- so convinced were they that they had seen Jesus after the resurrection, spoken with him in the upper room, eaten with him on the shore in Galilee -- were willing to die by violence for the truth of that claim: James, son of Alphaeus, by stoning; Peter hung on a cross upside down.

That is a pretty high price to pay if you've made up the story to start with.

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

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For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola Evicted: The U.S. Housing Crisis

My husband and I are sitting on our front porch on a gentle spring evening, reading.

I hold up my book and show Jim Chapter 6: "Rat Hole."

"This pretty much sums up this book," I say, and silently thank God for my house, my neighborhood, my life. Simultaneously, I grieve for my country.

I am reading **Evicted: Poverty And Profit In The American City**, by Harvard sociologist Matthew Desmond, which won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction. If you thought you knew how bad America's housing crisis is, read this book and think again.

At the same time I was making my way through this harrowing chronicle of cockroaches, clogged toilets, broken windows, filthy carpeting and people's every possession being thrown to the curb in repeated evictions, I watched a program on Public Broadcasting Service's Frontline that aired May 9. Called "Poverty, Politics and Profit," it's a combined investigative piece by National Public Radio and Frontline.

It, too, explores the housing crisis in America. This may be the worst housing crisis we've seen in this country's modern era, and as with so many bad things, the horrors are falling chiefly on the poor.

More than that, the lack of affordable housing is causing poverty. The majority of poor renting families pay half or more of their income on rent. Desmond writes, "We have failed to fully appreciate how deeply housing is implicated in the creation of poverty."

Every year, said Frontline, 2.5 million people are evicted nationally. Rents are going up as wages stagnate. Part of this is a result of the 2008 recession, which pushed millions out of their homes and into the rental market due to foreclosures.

Desmond's book chronicles the lives of eight families in Milwaukee from 2008 to 2009. Rather than dry statistics, it's a heart-breaking tale of people spending just about everything on rudimentary and virtually unlivable shelter. There's money in being a slumlord, and Desmond introduces you to some of them, too.

Frontline tells us about two government programs that are supposed to be helping. One of them is popularly called "Section 8," in which the government subsidizes the rent over and above what someone can reasonably be expected to pay. The problem: such a lack of available Section 8 housing that only 1 in 4 eligible folks are able to benefit, and the waiting list is years long.

The other program is less well-known: The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit is a federal program providing billions of dollars to states to issue tax credits for the acquisition, rehabilitation or new construction of rental housing targeted for use by the poor. This tax credit gives developers an incentive to develop low-income housing, and some great projects have resulted.

Alas, fraud has resulted as well. Frontline and NPR examine the millions of dollars of fraud discovered in South Florida alone. Supporters worry that the scrutiny resulting from these fraud cases will destroy what was essentially a good idea.

But some, like Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa, see the need for much greater oversight. There have been, he told Frontline, seven audits of the program in 29 years. Yes, only seven audits of a program worth billions per year -- an invitation to abuse.

Meanwhile, the poor suffer.

What can we do? We can urge our representatives to support the tax credit program, but demand far better oversight and auditing. Without fraud, this program could be producing many more affordable units to confront an American emergency.

Then, visit justshelter.org to learn what's going on in your area and how you might help.



ROSARY DEVOTION: The apparition of Mary to the three children of Fatima, Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto, and their cousin Servant of God Lucia dos Santos, is depicted in a shrine outside Our Lady of Fatima Church in Altoona. At Fatima, Mary asked the faithful to pray the Rosary daily, a request that worshippers fulfilled when they joined Bishop Mark L. Bartchak in prayer at the church on Saturday, May 13, the 100th anniversary of Mary's first appearance at Fatima.

Mary's Immaculate Heart A Model Of Love For Jesus

(Continued From Page 1.)

The Immaculate Heart of Mary is traditionally depicted encircled by roses and pierced by a sword, but at Fatima, Bishop Mark explained "the three children saw an image of a heart surrounded by thorns, in front of our Blessed Mother," linking her heart to the Sacred Heart of her son, Jesus.

"In the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the emphasis is on the love that Christ has

for every human person, even if that love is ignored or rejected," Bishop Mark said.

"Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is essentially concerned with the love that her heart has for Jesus, the only begotten Son of God," he added.

Bishop Mark noted that before leaving on his pilgrimage to Fatima, Pope Francis said the Immaculate Heart of Mary "is to be a model for the way we should love God. The heart of the Virgin Mary is the path for

us to experience the heart of her son, Jesus."

"Honoring Mary's Immaculate Heart," the Bishop went on, "is especially a way of honoring Mary as the person who was chosen to be the Mother of God, recognizing her extraordinary holiness and the immense love she bestowed on Jesus as His mother, the person who was called to share in and cooperate in His redemptive sufferings.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Fatima, "shows the victory of hope over anguish, of fellowship over loneliness, of peace over anxiety, of joy and beauty over boredom and disgust, of eternal vision over earthly perceptions, of life over death.

"Francisco, Jacinta, and Lucia discovered that assurance and hope in a special way," he said, and "For the past 100 years, that message of hope and divine love that is manifested in the Immaculate Heart of Mary has continued to be a source of encouragement and assurance for people all over the world," not only for those many millions who visit her shrine at Fatima, but also for "the rest of us who only have to come here, or sit quietly in a chair at home and pray with the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose loving heart is always directed toward the loving heart of her Son."

Prayer of Consecration

Holy Mary Virgin of Fatima, with renewed gratitude for your maternal presence we join our voice to that of all the generations who call you blessed.

We celebrate in you the works of God, who never tires of looking down with mercy upon humanity, afflicted with the wound of sin, to heal it and save it.

Accept with the benevolence of a Mother the act of consecration of our entire Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown that we perform today with confidence, before this image of you that is so dear to us.

We are certain that each of us is precious in your eyes and that nothing of all that lives in our hearts is unknown to you. We let ourselves be touched by your most sweet regard and we welcome the consoling caress of your smile.

Hold our life in your arms: bless and strengthen every desire for good; revive and nourish faith; sustain and enlighten hope; awaken and animate charity; guide all of us along the path of holiness.

Teach us your own preferential love for the little and the poor, for the excluded and the suffering, for sinners and the down-hearted.

Bring everyone under your protection and entrust everyone to your beloved Son Jesus, who is Christ our Lord Jesus. Amen.

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Fatima Visionaries Become Church's Youngest Non - Martyred Saints, On Apparition's Anniversary

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

FATIMA, Portugal (CNS)

-- Standing before the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, Pope Francis canonized two shepherd children who saw Mary at Fatima, but more importantly, he said, they heeded the call to pray for sinners and trust in the Lord.

"We declare and define Blessed Francisco Marto and Blessed Jacinta Marto as saints," the pope said May 13 as hundreds of thousands of pilgrims broke out in applause before he finished speaking.

The relics of the young shepherd children, encased in two thin golden crosses, were placed in front of the famed statue of Our Lady of Fatima, the "lady dressed in white" as the siblings and their cousin described her.

The Marian apparitions began May 13, 1917, when 9-year-old Francisco and 7-year-old Jacinta, along with their 10-year-old cousin Lucia dos Santos, reported seeing the Virgin Mary. The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917, and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church.

After contracting influenza, Francisco died April 4, 1919, at the age of 10, while Jacinta succumbed to her illness Feb. 20, 1920, at the age of 9.

The children, beatified by St. John Paul II in 2000, are now the youngest non-martyrs to be declared saints by the Catholic Church.

Before his arrival at the shrine, the pope met privately with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa and then made his way into the sanctuary that houses the tombs of Sts. Francisco and Jacinta and their cousin Lucia, who died in 2005 at the age of 97. The diocesan phase of her sainthood cause concluded in February and now is under study at the Vatican.



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

SAINTS OF FATIMA: Banners showing Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto, two of the three Fatima seers, hang from the facade of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima as Pope Francis visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, May 12. The pope canonized the two seers at a May 13 Mass that marked the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions.

Pope Francis stood for several minutes in front of the tombs with his eyes closed and head bowed.

In his homily at the canonization Mass, the pope reflected on the brief lives of the young sibling saints, who are often remembered more for the apparitions rather than for their holy lives.

But it is Mary's message and example, rather than an apparition, is important, he told the crowd, which Portuguese authorities estimated at about 500,000 people.

"The Virgin Mother did not come here so that we could see her. We will have all eternity for that, provided, of course, that we go to heaven," the pope said.

Instead, he continued, Mary's messages to the young children were a warning to all people about leading "a way of life that is godless and indeed profanes God in his creatures."

"Such a life -- frequently proposed and imposed -- risks leading to hell. Mary came to remind us that God's light dwells

Pope Francis called on the pilgrims to follow the example of heroic virtue lived by Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta, particularly their insistent prayer for sinners and their adoration of "the hidden Jesus" in the tabernacle.

within us and protects us," the pope said.

The hopeful message of Fatima, he said, is that men and women have a mother and like children clinging to her, "we live in the hope that rests on Jesus."

Pope Francis called on the pilgrims to follow the example of heroic virtue lived by St. Francisco and St. Jacinta, particularly their insistent prayer for sinners and their adoration of "the hidden Jesus" in the tabernacle.

This continual presence of God taught to them by Mary, he said, "was the source of their strength in overcoming opposition and suffering."

By following their example, the pope said, Christians can become "a source of hope for others" and counter "the indifference that chills the heart" and "worsens our myopia."

"We do not want to be a stillborn hope! Life can survive only because of the generosity of other lives," he said.

It is with the light of hope, the pope added, that the church can radiate "the true face of Jesus" and reach out to those in need.

"Thus, may we rediscover the young and beautiful face of the church, which shines forth when she is missionary, welcoming, free, faithful, poor in means and rich in love," he said.

Addressing the sick before concluding the Mass, Pope Francis said that Christ understands the "meaning of sorrow and pain" and, through the church, offers comfort to the afflicted just as it did for Sts. Francisco and Jacinta in their final moments.

"That is the church's ministry: the church asks the Lord to

comfort the afflicted like yourselves, and he comforts you, even in ways you cannot see. He comforts you in the depths of your hearts and he comforts you with the gift of strength," the pope said.

The "hidden Jesus" the young shepherds adored in the Eucharist is also present "in the wounds of our brothers and sisters" where Christians can adore, seek and recognize Christ.

Pope Francis encouraged the sick present at Mass to "live their lives as a gift" and to not think of themselves simply "as the recipients of charitable solidarity" but rather "a spiritual resource, an asset to every Christian community."

"Do not be ashamed of being a precious treasure of the church," he said.

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SAINT THOMAS MORE: Saint Thomas More Parish, Roaring Spring, celebrated First Holy Communion Sunday, May 7. Taking part were (left to right) First row: Cole Marks, Caden Troy, Gage Marks, Lizzie Hazenstab. Second row: Judy Noland (catechist) and Father Leo Lynch (pastor).

ORDAINED: A Benedictine monk of Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, was ordained to the priesthood Saturday, May 20 by Bishop Edward C. Malesic of Greensburg. Father Canice (Daniel) McMullen, is the son of Craig and Ruth McMullen of State College. He is a 2006 graduate of State College Area High School. He earned a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Pennsylvania State University in 2010. He entered the novitiate at Saint Vincent Archabbey in 2010 and made simple profession of vows in 2011. He began studies at Saint Vincent Seminary in 2011. He earned a master of divinity degree from the Seminary this year.



SAINT BERNARD: Saint Bernard Parish, Hastings, celebrated Confirmation on Thursday, April 27. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Lauren Dvorchak, Jessica Soltis, Mackenzie Blake. Second row: Josiah Conner, Zachary Westrick, Eric Carpinello, Lee Miller, Jared Angert, Skyler Miller and Thomas Adams. Not pictured is Nathan Gibbons. Benedictine Father Thaddeus Rettger is pastor.

PARISH SECRETARY/BOOKEEPER WANTED

Saint Joseph Catholic Faith Community in Bellwood, PA is looking for a Part-Time Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper. Must have general knowledge of office procedures, basic bookkeeping, computer skills including Microsoft Office.

Salary is \$12.50 per hour with a maximum of 20 hours per week over at least three days per week. A complete outline of duties, responsibilities and requirements are available at the Saint Joseph's Facebook Page.

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SAINT MARK: Saint Mark Parish, Altoona, celebrated First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 7, and Confirmation on Thursday, May 11. Pictured at left are (left to right) First row: Xandyre Dunklebarger, Morgan Hollern, Quinn Phillips, Dale Miller, Justin Pfeffer. Second row: Lillian Miller and Jude Miller (altar servers), Valerie Kahley (director of religious education), Father Ronald V. Osinski (pastor), Austin Palmerine (student catechist), Bonnie Pfeffer (catechist) and Alyssa Cumming (altar server). Pictured at right are (left to right) Brandon Kahley, Nick Serbin, Parker McClellan, Father Osinski, Max Sankey, Anna DeRubeis and Brandon McClellan.



SAINT PATRICK, JOHNSTOWN: Saint Patirek Parish, Johnstown, celebrated First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 14. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Jayden McClain, Kylie McClain, Benjamin Cannizzaro. Second row: Deacon Joseph Dalla Valle, Marge Sindleri (catechist) and Father Walter Moll (pastor).

SAINT ANTHONY: Celebrating First Holy Communion at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, Windber on Sunday, May 7 were (left to right) First row: James Miliauskas, Mason Lacko, Isabella Dowdell, Alayna Shuster, Taylor Dzurko, Lauren LaMonaca, Carter Bilitski, Jacob Krinjeck. Second row: Joanne Kot and Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Roderick Soha (pastor).



ALL SAINTS, BOSWELL: All Saints Parish, Boswell, celebrated First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 30, and Confirmation on Tuesday, May 9. Pictured at left are (left to right) First row: Owen Hoffman, Ava Frits, Landon Scherer. Second row: Amanda Hoffman (catechist), Conventual Franciscan Father John Voytek (pastor) and Deacon Jay Pyle. Pictured above are (left to right) Kylie Hoffman, Michael Novak, Matt Marafino (catechist), Eric Price and Rosie Walters.

Now Showing

Dark Ages An Apt Era For Dim 'King Arthur: Legend Of The Sword'

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Early on in "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword" (Warner Bros.), the audience is treated to the sight of magically generated giant elephants swinging boulder-size wrecking balls at the ramparts of Camelot. It's an apt visual considering how ponderous this action fantasy turns out to be.

Rearranging some of the traditional elements of the Arthur legend -- which may or may

not be rooted in actual history -- director and co-writer Guy Ritchie comes up with a sort of "Prince and the Pauper" version of events.

Thus, not long after those lumbering pachyderms depart, toddler Arthur's father, Uther (Eric Bana), dies as a result of his evil brother Vortigern's (Jude Law) violent -- and ultimately successful -- bid to usurp the throne. Arthur evades a similar fate by being set adrift, Moses-like, in a boat which eventually finds its way to a bustling version of medieval London still



CNS Photo/Warner Bros.

KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD: Charlie Hunnam stars in a scene from the movie "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword." 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.

called by its Roman name, Londinium.

There Arthur, dispossessed of his rights and with no recollection of his real identity, is raised as a brawling street urchin by the inhabitants of a brothel.

Once grown, and now portrayed by Charlie Hunnam, the rightful heir comes almost accidentally into possession of Excalibur -- here essentially a weapon of mass destruction so powerful that it mows down Arthur's opponents by the dozens. Aided by a so-called Mage (Astrid Berges-Frisbey), who otherwise goes unnamed, Arthur learns how to wield the super sword and uses it to battle Vortigern for the crown.

Along with the supernatural support of the Mage, Arthur gets human backing from Bedivere (Djimon Hounsou), once one of Uther's advisers, and expert archer "Goose-Fat" Bill (Aidan Gillen).

Ritchie works the occasional witty exchange into the dialogue. But otherwise his film is a grueling ordeal of nonstop

noisy fighting. Like the Dark Ages in which it's set, the movie is dim, toilsome and beset with mayhem.

Since the dust-ups are mostly gore-free, however, and the only flourishes of sensuality come in the form of occult visions, some parents may consider "King Arthur" acceptable for mature teens.

The film contains pervasive combat and other violence with little blood, a prostitution theme, brief partial nudity, fleeting sexual humor, at least one rough term and occasional crass 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:

June 4 - - On this Pentecost Sunday, Bishop Mark welcomes students who received the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation this Easter season.

June 11 - - Saint John Gualbert Cathedral Rector Father James Crookston and parishioner Monica Kendera discuss the good works they and others carried out during a recent mission trip to Jamaica.

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May They Rest In Peace



Monsignor Paul A. Lenz

Monsignor Paul A. Lenz, 91, a senior priest of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, died Sunday, May 14 at Sacred Heart Home, Hyattsville MD.

He was born December 15, 1925, in Gallitzin, the son of the late Raymond M. and Aimee (Gillen) Lenz, and was preceded in death by brothers, Francis, John and Glenn. Surviving are his brothers Richard, of Arlington TX, and R. Raymond, of Cresson, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Monsignor Lenz attended Altoona Catholic High, and Saint Vincent College and Seminary, Latrobe. He pursued graduate studies at Penn State University, and studied for a year at the Instituto de Idomis in Cochabamba, Bolivia, before serving as a missionary for four years in Paraguay, South America.

He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown on April 2, 1949, by the late Bishop Richard T. Guilfoyle at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, and served at parishes in Newry, Johnstown, Coupon, Chest Springs, and as pastor at Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Loretto and Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Bellefonte.

Monsignor Lenz taught theology at Saint Francis University, Loretto, and at Mount Aloysius College, Cresson.

He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, by Saint Vincent Seminary in 1983.

He was a former member of the board of trustees of The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, and of Xavier University, New Orleans LA, served on the board of regents of Saint Vincent Seminary, and was trustee emeritus of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and of The Catholic University of America.

For 31 years he was national director of Black and Indian Mission Office, the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, and the Catholic Negro - American Mission Board in Washington, DC, retiring in April 2007.

When the Mohawk maiden, Kateri Tekakwitha, was beautified at the Vatican on June 20, 1980, Monsignor Lenz and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions were in charge of all arrangements.

In July 2005 he was appointed by the Vatican to be the vice - postulator for the canonization cause of Kateri Tekakwitha.

In January 2007 Monsignor was named Prothonotary Apostolic by Pope Benedict XVI. He was a Fourth - Degree Knight of Columbus and a Knight Commander of the Holy Sepulchre.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2009, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Monsignor Lenz received the annual Patronal Medal of the Basilica and The Catholic University of America.

The Funeral Mass for Monsignor Paul A. Lenz was celebrated Thursday, May 18 at Saint Demetrius Church, Gallitzin, with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, JCD, celebrant, and concelebrants Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia and Benedictine Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki of Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, and the priests of the Diocese. Trinitarian Father Edwin Dill was homilist. Committal was at Saint Patrick Cemetery, Gallitzin.



**Sister Jane Schellhammer
R.S.M.**

Sister Jane Schellhammer, a member of the Mid - Atlantic Community of the Sisters of Mercy died Thursday, May 18, at Mercy Center, Dallas. She was 84

Sister Jane was born September 22, 1932 in Johnstown, the daughter of the late Francis and Rose Marie (Gephart) Schellhammer.

Sister Jane attended Our Lady of Lourdes School in Altoona, and graduated from Mount Aloysius Academy in Cresson. She also graduated from Mercy Heights Mercedian School of Nursing. Sister Jane ministered in health care at Pastoral Outreach, Bellwood, and in support staff at Blair Senior Services, Altoona.

Sister Jane made her final profession of vows with the Sisters of Mercy in 2008.

She was preceded in death by her brothers Robert, Richard and Francis, Jr. (Butch) and her sister Joyce. She is survived by her sisters Shirley Waite of Summerville SC, Evelyn Crofcheck of Alexandria PA, Sandra Bush and Judy Stolz of Bellwood and Nancy Poorman of Ohio, and by the Sisters of Mercy.

The Funeral Mass for Sister Jane Schellhammer R.S.M. was celebrated Monday, May 22 in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament at Mercy Center. Committal was at Logan Valley Cemetery, Bellwood.

Memorial donations may be made to Mercy Center, P.O. Box 370, Dallas PA 18612.

Johnstown Teens Moved By Pilgrimage

(Continued From Page 16.)

Lydia plays softball and volleyball for the Blue Jays, is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Remembering Adam, an organization that raises awareness of alcohol and drug abuse.

Tyrus, is a member of the hockey and track teams, and the Johnstown High School Rifle Team. He also manages to find the time to work at a convenience store in the evenings.

When asked about the two students, Father Robert L. Ruston said with pride, "good kids, good family." Father Ruston is pastor of Saints Gregory and Barnabas.

Of course they were thrilled to see Pope Francis at the papal audience in Saint Peter's Square. Their seats were within feet of the Pontiff, they said with excitement. They were quite amazed with Venice, and said their hotel rested right on the Grand Canal.

Tyrus always wanted to visit the Roman Colosseum. Construction on it was initiated by the Emperor Vespasian in 72 AD, and was completed in 80 AD, by his successor, Titus.

"I really missed them," said their mom, Tricia. "That's the longest I've ever been away from them," she smiled. "But, I knew they were having a wonderful experience." Their journey began with a flight from Baltimore to London, and then on to Venice.

Lydia has always been drawn to Saint Catherine of Si-

Tyrus said it was an honor for him to be at the center of Christianity. "I was always strong in my faith, but this trip solidified it. It has made me want to participate more in my church. It's made me realize I always want to stay close to my faith, and it's made my faith stronger."

"I've always had a strong relationship with Jesus, and God is in my heart," said Lydia. "This trip brought me even closer to Him in my heart. I think it has made me a better person."

ena. She was excited to serve Mass near her head, which is venerated at the basilica named in her honor, "After being there, seeing her relics, and learning more about Saint Catherine, I decided right then that I would take her name when it's time to make my Confirmation," Lydia said. Saint Catherine is known for healing the sick.

They enjoyed being able to walk through the catacombs, and were in awe of all the architecture. They were thrilled to see the ceiling in the Sistine Chapel painted by Michaelangelo during the Renaissance period in the 1500s.

Of course the cuisine was unique to them. Among other foods, Lydia enjoyed the pizza, which she said she likes better than what is served in this country. Tyrus said that pasta with mussels was his favorite as he licked his lips.

It was apparent that the two high school students had the time of their lives.

Tyrus said it was an honor for him to be at the center of Christianity. "I was always strong in my faith, but this trip solidified it. It has made me want to participate more in my church. It's made me realize I always want to stay close to my faith, and it's made my faith stronger."

"I've always had a strong relationship with Jesus and God is in my heart," said Lydia. "This trip brought me even closer to Him in my heart. I think it has made me a better person."

Johnstown Teens Experience Renewed Appreciation Of Their Faith During Pilgrimage To Italy

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

Catholic parents want all the good things in life for their children - - the best, naturally.

A teenage brother and sister had the trip of their young lives, spending nine days touring the Vatican, and other religious and historic sites in Italy from March 29 to April 7.

They were part of a pilgrimage sponsored by the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). Their paternal grandfather, John Freidhoff, saw the trip advertised by a chapter in Mechanicsburg.

Tyrus Sorchilla, 17, and his sister, Lydia, 15, had to literally search for words to describe what they both called, "an amazing experience." Their hearts experienced a spiritual reality that words failed to describe.

Tyrus and Lydia are active members of Saints Gregory and Barnabas Parish in Daisytown, Johnstown, and they are students at Conemaugh Valley High School.

"Everyday, it was such an honor to be there," said Tyrus and Lydia. "We realized we were experiencing something for our classmates, too."

Naturally, they were nervous and apprehensive about making the trip across the ocean, as any young people would be.



PILGRIMS AND SERVERS: While on pilgrimage to Italy with the National Council of Catholic Women, March 29 - April 7, siblings Lydia and Tyrus Sorchilla of Saints Gregory and Barnabas Parish, Johnstown, were altar servers for Father James Sempler, spiritual director. They are shown flanking him at the tomb of Saint Francis in Assisi.

But the jitters really set in when Father James Sempler, chairperson and spiritual director of the NCCW, asked them to be his daily altar servers.

"I was nervous and excited at the same time," Lydia said. "We wanted to do a good job and Tyrus and I weren't sure if

Mass would be the same in Italy as it was at home." They said there were just a few differences, but it was very much the same. All of the Masses went well.

Besides serving in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, they also served at the Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua, Santa

Maria Novella Church in Florence, Saint Catherine in Siena, Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi, and the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome.

The biggest thrill for Tyrus and Lydia was the opportunity to serve Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica. But Mass each day in a

different church provided plenty of excitement for them.

The students are being reared in a strong Catholic family. Their parents, Tricia and Scott Sorchilla are active members of Saints Gregory and Barnabas Parish. Tricia is an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, and she and her husband also volunteer to help with other parish activities.

They are both educators. Tricia is a teacher at Richland Elementary School, and Scott is a teacher at the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center.

Their upbringing has laid a strong faith foundation in Tyrus and Lydia. It's readily apparent they are respectful to others. They are a good reminder that there are many good kids out there. And, to hear them discuss their Catholic faith is refreshing.

They have been altar servers since the third grade. They each help with fish fries and decorating the church for religious celebrations. Lydia also helps with summer camps sponsored by her parish.

The two are steadfast in their faith, but are typical students who participate in the usual high school activities.

(Continued On Page 15.)

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