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Blessed Stanley Rother 'An Authentic Light' For Church And World, Says Cardinal

By Catholic News Service

OKLAHOMA CITY (CNS) -- If the martyrdom of Blessed Stanley Francis Rother "fills us with sadness," it also "gives us the joy of admiring the kindness, generosity and courage of a great man of faith," Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, said Sept. 23 in Oklahoma City.

The 13 years Blessed Rother spent as a missionary in Guatemala "will always be remembered as the glorious epic of a martyr of Christ, an authentic lighted torch of hope for the church and the world," the cardinal said in his homily during the U.S. priest's beatification Mass.

"Formed in the school of the Gospel, he saw even his enemies as fellow human beings. He did

not hate, but loved. He did not destroy, but built up," Cardinal Amato said.

"This is the invitation that Blessed Stanley Francis Rother extends to us today. To be like him as witnesses and missionaries of the Gospel. Society needs these sowers of goodness," he said. "Thank you, Father Rother! Bless us from heaven!"

The cardinal was the main celebrant of the beatification Mass, joined by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City and his predecessor, retired Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran, who formally opened the Rother sainthood cause 10 years ago.

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BEATIFICATION MASS: Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, celebrates Mass during the beatification Mass for Father Stanley Rother Saturday, September 23 at Oklahoma City's Cox Convention Center. Blessed Rother, a priest of the Oklahoma City Archdiocese, was murdered in 1981 in the Guatemalan village where he ministered.



Adult Enrichment

Brewing The Faith

State College: A fall Brewing the Faith series is underway in State College.

Brewing the Faith is an invitation for adults in their 40s and beyond to learn more about their faith and to share in the Catholic community. The focus of this program is to promote evangelization, introspection, and fellowship. The goal is to provide a forum for adults to learn more about, and discuss their faith in a relaxing social setting.

These events are held in relaxing establishments (approved by the Church) away from the Church facilities, such as restaurants, pubs, coffee houses, etc. An event will consist of opening prayer, an engaging speaker presenting a theological topic, time for Q&A discussion, faith shar-

ing, and community fellowship, followed by a closing prayer.

Coffee, tea and light appetizers are provided. Participants may order food and drink at their own expense from the menu if desired.

The first session was held on Thursday, September 28, with more sessions planned over the next three Thursdays. Upcoming dates, topics, and presenters are as follows:

- - October 5, Topic: Saint Paul. Presenter: Monsignor Robert Mazur, rector of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament/Diocesan Director of Liturgy;

- - October 12, Topic: Blessed Mother Mary. Presenter: Father Matthew Baum, administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Dudley and Saint Stephen Parish in McConnellsburg;

- - October 19, Topic: Folk and Contemporary Music in the Catholic Church. Presenter:

Ron Quinn, Jr., Lay Ecclesial Minister, Our Lady of Victory Parish in State College

All sessions will start at 7:00 p.m. and last until about 8:30 p.m. The gatherings are held at the Ramada Conference & Golf Hotel, 1450 South Atherton Street, State College.

The events are coordinated by Ron and Denise Quinn, who have completed the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Certification through the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown.

Classes Offered

Johnstown: Upcoming classes have been announced by the Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry.

An eight week course, "Old Testament," will be taught by Father Brian Saylor at Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Altoona, Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., beginning November 14.

"Sacraments," will be presented at two locations, beginning in January. Monsignor Robert Mazur will teach at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament - Seton Suite, Altoona, from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. beginning January 8. Father D. Timothy Grimme will offer the class 6:30 - 8:30 at Saint Michael Parish Hall, Saint Michael, beginning January 9.

For further information or to register, call Marybeth at (814) 361 - 2000. Class information and registration forms are also available online at www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry/.

High Schools

Seek Head Of School

Boalsburg: Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy has launched a national search for a new head of school. True to its commitment to provide an exceptional educational experience, standards for the head of school and chief administrator position are high, according to Board of Trustees Chair Rob Thomas.

"Leading the Saint Joe's community is more than a principal role," Thomas shared. "In addition to a commitment to academic excellence, the head of school will demonstrate per-



VISIT THRIFT STORE: Benedictine Brother Michael Miller's second grade students from Saint Benedict School, Carrolltown, visited the town's Saint Vincent DePaul Society Thrift Store for a field trip, and learned from director Pam Snedden (right) how the store and the associated food pantry operate.

sonal spirituality and a desire to advance the school's four pillars of faith, scholarship, leadership and service among both students and faculty. As a faith-based school, this distinction is what makes the Saint Joe's experience unique."

The new head of school will provide overall leadership, stewardship of the school's finances, and serve as a public face of the school in the community. In addition, the position oversees day-to-day school operations, long-range planning, curriculum development, marketing, admissions, faculty recruitment, and institutional advancement.

"Saint Joe's is an established rigorous college preparatory high school and vibrant community," said Thomas. "With steady increases in enrollment each year, the Board of Trustees is preparing for Saint Joe's to reach its maximum capacity in the next three to five years."

Thomas cited 100% college acceptance for graduating seniors, a growing list of extracurricular and athletic opportunities, and a strong faith community as just a few of the qualities that has made Saint Joe's attractive to students and families.

Qualifications for the Head of School position include a

Master's Degree or higher, preferably in Educational Administration, a minimum of 5 years of successful teaching and/or administrative experience, and a current Principal's license from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

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70TH ANNIVERSARY: Robert and Hermine Sivec, members of Saint Michael Parish in Saint Michael, have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with a party for family and friends at Siemon's Heritage Personal Care Center in Somerset. They were married July 26, 1947 and are the parents of five children. Mr. and Mrs. Sivec have 15 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

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In The Alleghenies

Higher Education

Symposium

Cresson: The Mount Aloysius College Criminology Department will host its Ninth Annual Criminal Justice Symposium on Thursday, October 19. This year's topic is, "The Bulletproof Mind: Psychological and Physiological Preparation for Combat." Lieutenant Colonel David Grossman, one of the world's foremost experts in the field of human aggression and the roots of violence and violent crime will be this year's instructor. The Symposium will take place in the McAuley Hall Meeting Rooms from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Registration is required.

Dr. Joseph Bobak, associate professor of criminology at Mount Aloysius College discussed the significance of bringing the decorated speaker— Lieutenant Colonel David

Grossman to the region. "Lt. Col. Grossman was a West Point psychology professor, professor of military science and an army ranger," said Dr. Bobak. "Grossman has combined his experiences to become the founder of a new field of scientific endeavor, which has been termed "killology." In this new field, Grossman has made revolutionary contributions to our understanding of killing in war, the psychological costs of war, and the root causes of the current "virus" of violent crime raging around the world and the process of healing by victims."

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PEACE SIGN: To mark Thursday, September 21 as International Day of Peace, students in grades Pre - K through 4 at the Hollidaysburg Campus of Holy Trinity Catholic School, formed a peace sign on the school grounds.

(Continued From Page 2.)

More information about the position and how to apply can be found in the employment section at www.stjoeacad.org. In addition to a resume/curriculum vitae, three professional references and a copy of licenses and certifications, candidates must submit a cover letter articulating how their personal educational philosophy supports the Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy's four pillars of faith, scholarship, leadership and service.

The national search is expected to run from mid - September through the fall with application screenings, phone interviews, and in-person interviews occurring during that time period. The Board of Trustees expects to have new leadership in place by July 2018.

Former Principal Chris Chirieleison announced his departure at the end of the 2016-17 school year after four years to return to teaching at his alma mater; Saint Joe's is currently under the experienced leadership of Interim Principal and Guidance Counselor Jean Kozak.

"Mrs. Kozak has been with Saint Joe's from day one. She's

played a significant role not only in building our school, but also in shaping the lives of each and every one of our students," said Thomas. "She is highly respected by our Board of Trustees, our faculty, our families and our students. We are in capable hands

while we conduct a thoughtful search for our next leader."

Questions regarding the position should be directed to Jennifer Cross, Head of the School Search Committee at SJCABOT@stjoeacad.org or by phone at 609-213-2919.

Annual Mass and Rosary Family Mass and Rosary Principal Celebrant, Bishop Mark Barchak



**Sunday
October 1,
2017**

3:00 p.m.

Observance of the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima, Portugal

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Point Of View

With most states enacting stringent laws on distracted driving, awareness of the dangers of trying to multitask behind the wheel of a 1,000-plus vehicle are commonplace.

The role of distractions in other parts of life might not be so apparent, yet those impediments to goals, sleep, health and many relationships can sneak up on us, some quite silently, and derail our progress as surely as distracted driving can leave car and driver wheel-spinning in a ditch.

Writing is the classic example of a pursuit that is fraught with distractions that can make goal achievement impossible -- if you let them. New topics for this column, for example, invariably pop up just as I'm writing the current installment.

Health conditions carry their share of distractions. That twinge, that hiccup -- might these be something new, part of something I already know about, or something benign? Did the doctor really mean, "All's well," or is he or she just trying to cushion a future blow?

Living our faith does not make us immune to distractions. Prayer can sometimes become a tug of war between the desire to be silent, focused and calm, and all of those ideas and worries that immediately clamor for attention when we settle ourselves into the pew or quiet corner of the house.

Distractions can be internal: ideas, emotions or other intrusions from the depths of our hearts and minds. They can



Living Well

By Maureen Pratt

Deconstructing Daily Distractions

be external, too: the phone, the door, the co-worker, the pet, the billboard. Any of these or other sights and sounds can jar us from the direction we want to go in and send us off on yet another tangent.

We can never do away with distractions, but we can strengthen our ability to manage them before they manage us.

Those new writing ideas, for example, will come in handy -- at the right time. So, I store them in a file where they can stay until I'm ready to tackle them. Caller ID is a useful device for screening unwanted calls, and its companion, voice-mail, is also helpful.

Filtering distractions through our list of goals and priorities helps cut down on the number and kind of detours we allow.

Will an extra trip to the store help or hinder our timetable for finishing a home-based project? Does visiting multiple websites about one topic really help us resolve a question? Will chewing on something worrisome aid or act against our prayer time, when we hope to hear by listening to God's response about the same worry?

Some distractions are bless-

ings in disguise, especially when they take us out of ourselves and put us in the path of someone who needs our help or remind us of the awesomeness of God's creation. Stress-relieving distractions are wonderful, too -- a dog that bounds up with a ball at just the right time, for example, or a spouse who says, "You've been working very hard. Let's just take a walk for a while."

To better respond to the good distractions and resist those that deter us from accomplishing a goal or completing a task, I find great guidance in prayer. Of course, if the prayer is distracted, I have to step back and work on my focus!

But, generally, prayer can center my thoughts and help me discern what is most important to pay attention to that moment, that day. It's what I call a "spiritual deep breath" that brings renewed perspective and calm.

As summer wanes and we look to a busy autumn and winter, we undoubtedly have goals we'd like to accomplish. Forewarned about those ever-present distractions, we can approach each goal with renewed resolve, and, fortified with prayer, we can take an evermore direct route toward achieving each goal!



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
Mind Your Tongue!

1992 was the year Queen Elizabeth II described as her "annus horribilis," a horrible year when the marriages of three of her children were dissolved, her private finances came under scrutiny, and much of her beloved home at Windsor Castle was destroyed by fire. All of this was accompanied by increasingly bitter, hostile headlines. In a speech at year's end, the Queen acknowledged that she had heard what was being said, but offered some thoughts about the tone of the discussion.

"There can be no doubt . . . that criticism is good for people and institutions that are part of public life," she said. "But we are all part of the same fabric of our national society, and that scrutiny -- by one part or another -- can be just as effective if it is made with a touch of gentleness and understanding."

Saint Francis DeSales, the beloved patron of the Catholic press, said much the same thing when he wrote, "You can attract more bees with a spoonful of sugar than a cupful of vinegar." There is much to be said, when offering criticism, to offering it in a gentle, friendly manner. Criticism offered from a base of love has much more chance of being effective than that offered from bitterness or hate.

Saint Francis also said "I have made a pact with my tongue, not to speak when my heart is disturbed." 2017 is going to go down in memory as another annus horribilis, when divisive words and phrases were cast about in headlines and sound bytes. If only those so busy spewing those venomous words would make the same pact with their tongues that Saint Francis DeSales made with his!

We need to get back to the basic realization that all people were made in the image and likeness of God. Everyone is a unique reflection of God's creative goodness. When we attack one another by the things we say or the things we do, we are attacking Him. But when our point of view, our way of looking at things is under attack, we pull out all the stops in answering back, and defending what we believe in. We might even find ourselves positing that "Error has no rights!" And when we get to that point, we have probably gone too far.

After all, people are not errors. People are the beloved sons and daughters of God. I remember a poster that was popular in my college years -- the photo of a little boy, standing among bags of garbage. Emblazoned on the image were the words "God made me. God don't make junk." Errors are wrong. Errors are junk, but people who make errors are not, and can never be junk. When answering them we have to start from a position that recognizes their God -- given dignity. Only then can we hope to be listened to.

Again, Saint Francis DeSales: "We must never undervalue any person. The workman loves not that his work should be despised in his presence. Now God is present everywhere, and every person is His work."

Our president trades barbs right and left with anyone willing to engage him in battle. Theologians are calling the Pope a heretic. A vicious social media storm is blackening the name of a well-respected Catholic priest and writer. The list goes on and on. There will only be an end to such fighting -- such name calling -- when you and I resolve that it must come to an end. Only when we pledge to think first of the spark of God residing in that other person will we learn to control our tongues, and speak to one another as brothers and sisters should.

U.S. Attorney, Bishop Bartchak Announce Names Of Independent Oversight Board Members

Acting United States Attorney Soo C. Song and Bishop Mark L. Bartchak of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown announced Thursday, September 21, the names of the five persons appointed to the Independent Oversight Board for Youth Protection for the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown. The Diocese created the Independent Oversight Board earlier this year pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Diocese and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding, the Diocese established the Independent Oversight Board to supervise the implementation and provide ongoing review of the expanded child protection efforts of the Diocese. The five members chosen by Bishop Bartchak are:

- **James W. Brown** is a former Chief of Staff to both U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. and Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey. Mr. Brown has extensive experience with issues involving children and education, including service on the boards of three schools that

educate underprivileged children. Mr. Brown will serve as chair of the Independent Oversight Board.

- **Walter "Pete" Carlson** is a former criminal investigator for the Pennsylvania State Police. Mr. Carlson investigated and helped prosecute child abuse cases for over 15 years. He also served as Chief of Detectives for the District Attorney's Office of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. He has taught classes and lectured extensively on the subject of child abuse protection.

- **Eileen Dombo** is an Associate Professor and Assistant Dean of the National Catholic School of Social Service at The Catholic University of America. Dr. Dombo is also a practicing psychotherapist and has written and lectured extensively on trauma, child sexual abuse and mental health treatment. Dr. Dombo is currently the Chair of the Child Protection Advisory Board of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC.

- **Mary Herwig** is a practitioner in the field of Formative Spirituality and provides spiritual formation counseling, having studied under Adrian van Kaam C.S.Sp.,PhD and Susan Muto, PhD. She is an advocate for child protection in all its forms, including for those who have suffered child abuse. She experienced abuse herself as a young child. At present, Ms. Herwig promotes the Catholic Church's call for a "New Evangelization", and educates others on the importance of ongoing spiritual formation. She is a longtime resident of Somerset.

- **J. Alan "Jerry" Johnson** served as United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania for eight years. In that role he led the prosecution of thousands of criminal cases, including those involving child abuse. Mr. Johnson is a practicing attorney in Pittsburgh.

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
Victimservicesinc.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. 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 3.)

Lt. Col. Grossman is a prolific author, having written or co-written over a dozen books on a variety of topics and more than 25 book chapters. He has published nearly 50 articles on tactical and psychological topics of law enforcement and military service and written nearly 40 book introductory forwards. A recognized international expert on a litany of law enforcement and military subjects, Grossman has completed over a thousand training assignments for law enforcement and the military throughout the United States and Canada.

Lt. Col. Grossman's book, **On Killing** was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Grossman's military service includes air-

borne ranger infantry officer, and a prior-service sergeant and paratrooper. He has a total of 23 years of experience leading U.S. soldiers worldwide. He retired from the Army in February 1998 and has since devoted himself to teaching, speaking, writing and research.

Registration to attend the Mount Aloysius College Criminology Symposium is required. The registration fee is \$100.00.

Six continuing education units (CEUs) will be available for Pennsylvania Board of Social Workers, Professional Counselors, and Marriage and Family Therapists. Six Continuing Law Enforcement Continuing Education credits, approved by Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission will be available for members of Law Enforcement.

Anyone wishing additional information should contact Dr. Bobak at (814) 886 - 6475 or email him at jbobak@mtaloy.edu. To register online go to <http://www.mtaloy.edu/event-registration/?ee=2550>.

Parishes

Shroud Of Turin

Bellefonte: An exact full-size replica of the Shroud of Turin will be displayed at Saint John the Evangelist Church, 134 East Bishop Street, in conjunction with a lecture about the Shroud Thursday, October 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Considered one of the greatest mysteries of our time, the Shroud of Turin continues to amaze and baffle scientists, doctors, historians, artists and theologians. Scientists cannot explain the source of the image which contains photographic and 3-D properties on a cloth centuries old. CNN, the History & Discovery channels and National Geographic have all taken their turn at trying to explain it.

Bill Wingard, a speaker for the Shroud and mentored by two of its principal scientists who have extensively examined the Shroud, will present the history, the science and the Passion, along with the case for authenticity.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their cameras.

The talk will also be offered

Sunday, October 29 at 3:00 p.m. at Saint Benedict Parish, 2310 Bedford Street, Johnstown. Priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the presentation.

White Mass

Johnstown: The Second Annual White Mass for health care professionals will be held Saturday, October 14 at 4:00 p.m. at Saint Clement Church, 114 Lindberg Avenue.

The Mass will honor those who provide care whether professionally or privately. All caregivers are asked to wear white shirts, lab coats or other medical attire, in order that they might be recognized.

The Mass include a blessing of caregivers hands with holy oil by Father William Rosenbaum, pastor.

A collection to benefit Windber Hospice will be taken.

For more information call (814) 255 - 4422.

Prayer

Public Square Rosary

Altoona: The Public Square Rosary Rally, marking the 100th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima, will be held Saturday, October 14 at noon, at the Heritage Plaza, 11th Avenue. and 14th Street.

This event is being celebrated in over 20,000 cities around the world on the same day. In-

tentions to remembered include our nation, veterans and troops.

Fatima Rosary

Johnstown: In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Miracle of the Son at Fatima, the Rosary will be prayed publicly in the parking lot of Saint Clement Church, Goucher Street, at noon.

Participants are asked to bring a lawn chair.

The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal, from May through October in 1917, asking them to pray the Rosary daily for peace, conversion of hearts, repentance of sins and as a sign of devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The devotion will be held rain or shine, as part of a global observance.

Schools

Day Of Peace

Carrolltown: Students at Saint Benedict School celebrated the International Day of Peace Thursday, September 21.

The theme for the day was "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety, and Dignity for All." Students were led in prayer by Jeffrey Maucieri, principal.

Suspended from the ceiling of the school were doves made by students to symbolize their prayers for peace in their families, school, nation and world.

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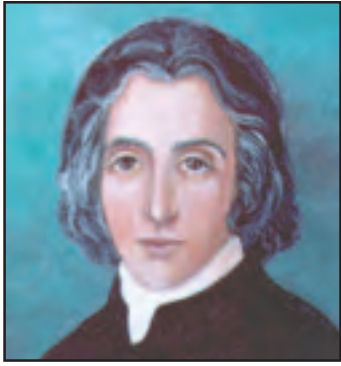
Directions @<http://www.stemma.org/>

Mark Your Calendar: Ye Old Christmas Shoppe Nov. 9, 10, 11



CNS Photo/Carlos Garcia Rawlins

PUERTO RICO: Rescue workers help people Wednesday, September 20 in Guayama, Puerto Rico, after the area was hit by Hurricane Maria. After battering the Virgin Islands, the hurricane made landfall in Puerto Rico, bringing "catastrophic" 155 mph winds and dangerous storm surges.



A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840

Rothers Still Rooted In Land Where Martyr Grew Up

By Anamaria Biddick
Catholic News Service

OKARCHE, Okla. (CNS)

-- Tom Rother and his wife of 52 years, Marti, live on the farm where he grew up, less than an hour's drive from their five children and 15 grandchildren.

Though the farm, located three miles from the center of

Okarche, is now run by his oldest two sons, he still spends days in the gently sloping fields, cutting hay alongside them and raising calves. At first glance, his life seems exceptional mostly in its rootedness: He attends the same parish and farms the same land where he was raised.

He also is a brother to the first U.S.-born martyr, Father Stanley Rother, who was beati-



CNS Photo./Anamaria Biddick

TOM AND MARTI ROTHER

fied Sept. 23 in Oklahoma City. He was gunned down in 1981 in the Guatemalan village where he ministered.

Tom, like his older brother Stan and their other siblings, grew up surrounded by farming, family and faith.

They began their day with farm chores and breakfast. Then, as Tom remembered, "We'd come in on the school bus, put our things up, and go over to church where they had Mass every morning," at Holy Trinity Catholic Church and School, still a thriving community in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, 30 miles northwest of the city.

After school, "we came home and had cows to milk and chores to do," he said. After dinner, "especially during the month of Mary and in the winter time, we prayed the rosary," Tom Rother recollected in an interview for Catholic News Service.

"I would try to sneak upstairs a little early," he said with a shrug and a laugh. "But it didn't work. They were good parents. They pushed it."

In addition to a strict household order that centered on work and prayer, the Rother parents modeled patience and love, "I hardly ever heard a cross word," between my parents, Tom said.

The parish priest, Father Edmund Von Elm, was a regular part of their family life, helping with the farm work and staying for dinner. "One of my dad's best friends was the priest up here at Holy Trinity," Tom said. "He loved to be around hay and cattle, 'cause he was a farm boy himself. I think that was one of the motivations for Stan and Sister to go to the religious life."

Tom was 13 when Stan and Betty Mae, now Sister Marita, left. "I was surprised. It just didn't happen very often," he said. "I just remember when Sister told me she was going. We were out digging potatoes. She told me that day, that come a little later in the summer, she was going to Wichita to be a nun. I couldn't believe it."

Betty Mae left a few weeks before Stan -- leaving Tom and their brother Jim to take over many of the farm chores. "We lost all of our help!" Tom laughed. "They just doubled up on us, and worked a little harder too."

Sister Marita is a member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and lives in Wichita, Kansas.

A few years after his ordination, when Father Rother volunteered for the mission in Guatemala, Tom wasn't surprised. "He was just a little different," he said.

"It takes a special person," he said, especially in a time when many men were leaving the priesthood altogether. In Father Stan's class alone, five of the 11 men ordained left within seven years. "It was really sad when these priests just started dropping out. We had three at Okarche quit."

His brother persisted, following the model of a parish priest that Father Von Elm set for him. He worked and broke bread alongside his parishioners. He was dedicated to them even when he was in danger. "He was home just before [he was killed] and you could just see it in him, he wanted to go back so bad to

be with those people," he said, recalling when he heard the news of his brother's death.

"We were in Tennessee, that was our only vacation. When they told me that the phone was for me, I says, well, I can tell you what happened. And, so, we took off in the middle of the night, and drove," he remembered. "Next morning, Paul Harvey come on and said that there's been a Catholic priest from Okarche, Oklahoma, who was murdered in Guatemala. Now, that would have been our first news, if Dad wouldn't have got ahold of us."

After Stan died, it didn't occur to him that perhaps his brother was a saint. "That's a thing for back in the 16th century, not to come to a little old farmstead like this, you know," he said.

Since then, he has heard of his brother's intercession in four situations and witnessed it in one, though it is unlikely any are up to the Vatican standards for a miracle. His wife got knocked down by a cow, hit her head, and was in danger of being trampled by the 50 cows in the lot.

"I said, Stan buddy, if you ever help me, help me now," he said, recalling his fear at how the cows were moving around. Miraculously, "some of them went into the barn and stayed."

Pointing, Tom said, "the other ones stayed over in this corner, and there we were, and I was there with her, and them cows could have run right over us. But they just instantly calmed down. So, I just figured that was my miracle."

Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

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

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

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

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

+ + +

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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis
How To Have Hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Young people should love, believe and follow their dreams, never despairing because Jesus is always with them, Pope Francis said.

When life hits hard, they should try to get up again, letting others help them, and if they are bored, they should concentrate on doing good things for others, the pope said Sept. 20 during his weekly general audience.

Continuing his series of audience talks on Christian hope, the pope gave extensive advice on how to teach people, especially young people, to remain full of hope. No matter "where God has planted you, hope. Always hope," he said, explaining:

-- Enemy No. 1 is not out there somewhere, but inside oneself. "Don't make room for bitter or dark thoughts."

-- "Believe in the existence of the most noble and beautiful truths" and trust that God, through the Holy Spirit, is ushering everything toward the good, toward "Christ's embrace."

-- Believers are not alone in their faith. There are others who hope, too. "The world goes on thanks to the vision of many people who created an opening, who built bridges, who dreamed and believed, even when they heard words of derision around them."

-- Never believe the struggles here on earth are "useless." God never disappoints and he wants that seed he planted in everyone to bloom. "God made us to flower, too."

-- "Wherever you are, build!"

-- When life gets hard, and "you have fallen, get up. Never stay down. Get up and let people help you to your feet."

-- "If you're sitting, start walking!" Start the journey.

-- "If you're bored stiff, crush (boredom) with good works."

-- "If you feel empty and demoralized, ask if the Holy Spirit may newly replenish" that void.

-- Work for peace among people.

-- Don't listen to those "who spread hatred and division."

-- No matter how different people are from one another, human beings "were created to live together. With disputes, wait patiently. One day you will discover that a sliver of truth has been entrusted to everyone."

-- Love people. Respect everyone's journey -- whether it be troubled or down the straight and narrow because everyone has a story behind them.

-- Every baby born is "the promise of a life that once again shows it is stronger than death."

-- "Jesus has given us a light that shines in the darkness; defend it, protect it. This unique light is the greatest richness entrusted to your life."

-- Dream of a world still not seen, but will certainly come one day. Think of those who sailed oceans, scaled mountains, conquered slavery or made life better for people on earth.

-- Be responsible: "Every injustice against someone poor is an open wound" and countless generations will come after you have lived.

-- Ask God for courage every day. "Remember Jesus conquered fear for us" and "not even our most treacherous enemy can do anything against faith."

(Continued On Page 15.)



ONE MORE TIME: Members of the Holy Name Society pose for a picture in 1974 at Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Altoona, marking the 50th anniversary of the parish's foundation.

Anti-Catholicism has been called "the last acceptable prejudice." Tragically, it was on display at the Senate Judiciary Committee's confirmation hearing for Amy Coney Barrett, nominated to be a federal appellate judge.

Barrett, a professor at Notre Dame Law School, is a constitutional law expert who has clerked for appellate and Supreme Court judges. She is eminently qualified. A Catholic at a Catholic university, she has helped law students and others understand how to reconcile being a good Christian and a good judge.

This should not be a problem. Article VI of the Constitution requires judges and other public officials "to support this Constitution." It also demands that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

Professor Barrett clearly subscribes to the first of these clauses. As she said at the senate hearing: "It's never appropriate for a judge to impose that judge's personal convictions, whether they derive from faith or anywhere else, on the law." But some Democrats on the committee seemed not to have heard of the second clause.

Senator Dianne Feinstein, D-California, expressed a concern to Barrett that, based on her past speeches, "the dogma lives loudly within you." (This strange accusation has cre-



A More Human Society

By Richard Doerflinger
The Last Acceptable Prejudice

ated a wonderful backlash, as the sale of "The dogma lives loudly within me" T-shirts becomes a cottage industry among Catholics.) Feinstein implied that believers who accept their church's moral teachings are un-American.

Then came Senator Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, whose 100 percent approval rating from NARAL Pro-Choice America may make him a Catholic that Senator Feinstein can accept. He grilled Professor Barrett on a 1998 law review article she co-authored as a student with law professor John Garvey (now president of The Catholic University of America).

That article discussed the dilemma of someone with moral or religious objections to something he or she is asked to do as a judge. For example, authorizing an abortion for a minor girl or imposing a death sentence could present a conflict of conscience for an "orthodox Catholic" (by which, the authors explained, they simply meant someone who believes Catholic teaching on the point at issue).

Such conflict would occur rarely, and for an appellate judge probably never. Such a judge does not order abortions or executions, but reviews lower courts' actions for consistency with required legal procedures.

But if conflict is unavoidable, said the authors, the judge should not compromise the integrity of the law or one's conscience, but recuse herself from the case as someone whose "impartiality might reasonably be questioned" (as per Title 28 of the U.S. Code).

Durbin read the article to say a judge can impose her beliefs on the law -- the opposite of what it says -- and forced the nominee into an exchange about who is an "orthodox Catholic." He said he saw Pope Francis as "a pretty good Catholic," apparently unaware that such assessments are more the pope's job than his own.

(Continued On Page 9.)



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Duties Of A Pastor

Q. Can you please explain what a pastor's duties are and whether he has anyone overseeing him? Does he report directly to the bishop? Does the bishop ever meet or check with the pastor to see how things are going? (Syracuse, New York)

A. A pastor, as the word itself signifies, is essentially a "shepherd" entrusted with the care of souls for those in his parish. The pastor's responsibilities are laid out in Canon 528 of the church's Code of Canon Law.

They are multiple and include such things as: nourishing the faithful through the sacraments; preaching the word of God and the truths of the faith; providing for Catholic education, especially for children and young people; fostering chari-

table works and social justice; evangelizing the unchurched and those who have left the faith; and encouraging family prayer.

The very next canon (529) instructs the pastor to strive to know his parishioners personally - especially by visiting the sick and those experiencing special difficulties. Depending on the size of the parish and its staff, a pastor might also find himself involved in temporal matters, such as overseeing building projects or managing finances, but his primary duties are spiritual ones, as the code indicates.

As for overseeing the pastor's performance and his welfare, that can vary somewhat according to the size of the diocese. Dioceses in the U.S. range

from a few thousand Catholics to more than a million.

Generally in smaller dioceses, there is frequent interaction between the bishop and his priests, while in larger ones, regular supervision may be entrusted to a vicar for clergy or director of priests' personnel. Even in "megadioceses," though, bishops tend to schedule periodic meetings with their priests to share thoughts on pastoral matters and to hear each others' concerns.

With the decline in the number of Catholic priests in the U.S. (some 58,000 in 1965, 37,000 in 2016), most parishes now have only one priest and that priest is busier than he has ever been. So to counter isolation and loneliness, fraternities of priests ("support groups") are growing in number -- six or eight priests meeting together monthly to share a meal as well as ideas and challenges in ministry.

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

A More Human Society

(Continued From Page 8.)

Finally, Senator Al Franken, D-Minnesota, accused Barrett of consorting with "hate groups" comparable to the Ku Klux Klan, because she once spoke at an event sponsored by the Alliance Defending Freedom -- a legal defense firm that has won important religious freedom cases at the Supreme Court.

Franken relied on the Southern Poverty Law Center, which brands as "hate groups" many organizations whose crime is to defend traditional Christian views on abortion and same-sex marriage. By that standard, Pope Francis leads a "hate group."

Maybe these senators wanted to warn devout Catholics that they will be shamed by the powers that be if they seek public office. They might only succeed in making more Catholics ashamed to be Democrats.



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
The Father Martin Controversy

The Theological College in Washington, the national seminary of The Catholic University of America, recently canceled a lecture by Jesuit Father James Martin.

Father Martin was to speak on his popular book, **Jesus: A Pilgrimage**. But the college announced that "in the interest of avoiding distraction and controversy" about his more recent book, **Building A Bridge: How The Catholic Church And The LGBT Community Can Enter Into A Relationship Of Respect, Compassion, And Sensitivity**, they were disinviting the Jesuit. A couple of other groups likewise canceled his appearances.

In doing so, they bowed to trolls and online vitriol, to organized cyber bashing that appears all too frequently in the comments section of online publications, to ad hominem attacks, to hatred. Personal insults and gay slurs have been hurled at Father Martin by a crowd of bullies masquerading as guardians of Catholic orthodoxy.

The college was not questioning the Catholic credentials of the book. **Building A Bridge** was endorsed by Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, head of the Vatican's office on the family, and many other prelates.

Catholic University of America quickly distanced itself from the cancellation. Father Matt Malone, editor of **America Magazine**, the Jesuit journal, defended Father Martin.

Father Malone called the attacks on Father Martin, an editor-at-large at **America**, "unwarranted, uncharitable and un-Christian," and decried the online barrage as "invective that is as appalling as it is toxic."

This column is not an endorsement of **Building A Bridge**, nor is it a book review. It's on my list, but I haven't read **Bridge** yet. That's not the point.

Someone rightly described Father Martin's writing as "gentle." When a friend asked me for good Catholic reading material for her daughter-in-law going through the RCIA process, I quickly said, "Anything by James Martin."

My Life With The Saints, Between Heaven And Mirth, In Good Company - these books are easy reading that surprise you with how much you've learned, and how joyful you feel to be a Catholic.

Bridge has not been without critics, left and right. Cardinal Robert Sarah, head of the Vatican's office on liturgy, penned a **Wall Street Journal** op-ed in which he expressed disappointment that the book hadn't more thoroughly explained the church's view on sexuality. Father Martin responded by saying sexual morality was not the book's focus.

This exchange was healthy dialogue, what the church needs. Under Pope Francis, dialogue has been encouraged, and while that road is sometimes bumpy, it's yielding many graces. Father Martin has called his book an invitation to dialogue and prayer, and, in an interview with Religion News Service, specified that neither the book, nor he, would ever challenge church teaching.

Meanwhile, Father Martin's online presence bursts with praise and thanks for his book, while the online minority of haters fill posts and blogs impugning Father Martin's integrity, and hurtling homophobic smears that insult Father Martin and gay people in one swipe.

And we give in? Will we as church allow cyber bullies to silence a leading voice in the American church?

Although so far not employing actual violence, these right-wing zealots remind me of the antifa folks, who do threaten violence in an effort to curb speech that they consider fascist. They took aim at Ann Coulter this summer. I disagree with just about everything Coulter represents, but her right to express her opinions should be inviolable.

What can the church do about trolls? We must stand firm for open dialogue and Christian respect. Giving in because we don't want "controversy" is a coward's way out.

With the decline in the number of Catholic priests in the U.S. (some 58,000 in 1965, 37,000 in 2016), most parishes now have only one priest and that priest is busier than he has ever been. So to counter isolation and loneliness, fraternities of priests ("support groups") are growing in number -- six or eight priests meeting together monthly to share a meal as well as ideas and challenges in ministry.



The Holy
Guardian Angels
Feast - October 2

The concept of guardian angels, as developed in Catholic theology and piety, has biblical roots. The angel Raphael aids Tobit and his family; one angel interprets for the prophet Zechariah, while another guides Cornelius in Acts of the Apostles; and angels are called "ministering spirits sent to serve" in the Letter to the Hebrews. In Matthew, Jesus teaches: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father." The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd." Pope Clement X set this date as the feast of guardian angels in the 1670s.

Diocese Honors Teachers For Years Of Service; Recognizes Achievements With Awards

Photos And Text
By Bruce A. Tomaselli

The Annual Diocesan Teacher In - Service Day was held Friday, September 22 at Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, Altoona.

Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Malachi Van Tassel, PhD, president of Saint Francis University, Loretto, was the keynote speaker.

The day began with a Mass concelebrated by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, and Father Malachi.

Along with Father Malachi's address, the Years of Service Recognition Awards and Master Catechist Awards were presented.

Father Malachi spoke to the educators about their personal spirituality as it pertains to their mission.

"We need to ask the Lord what our mission is as educators, and what God wants us to do with that mission," said Father Malachi.

He also spoke of the contrast between virtues and vices, and how they relate to spirituality. "As educators we look to virtue, and to lead our students by example," he said.

(Continued On Page 11.)



FORTY YEARS: (Left to right) Sister Donna Marie Leiden, Pamela McConnell, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Marian Cyburt, Janice Burley and Jo - Ann Semko.



TWENTY - FIVE AND THIRTY YEARS: (Left to right) First row: Michelle Fleming, Vicki McCord, Cathy Damiano, Dorothy Kenner, Pamela DiRenzo. Second row: Sister Donna Marie, Melissa Monoski, Elaine Spencer, Bishop Mark, Kathleen Maurer and Jo - Ann Semko. Not pictured is Carolyn Becker of Holy Trinity Catholic School in Altoona/Hollidaysburg.

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"What a Pharmacy Was Meant To Be"

(Continued From Page 10.)

Father Malachi has been president of Saint Francis University since May of 2014. Prior to that he spent 12 years as an adjunct assistant professor of accounting and served as treasurer and vicar provincial of the Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars, Sacred Heart Province.

He also served as NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative and a campus minister. For more than 10 years Father Malachi was deputy fire chief and chaplain of the Loretto Volunteer Fire Company.

In his homily, Bishop Mark spoke of Saint Paul a man who "told it like it is. Material things and money are at the bottom of the list of things that will help us reach the Kingdom.

"It's the spiritual things in life, such as faith, hope, and love, that give our lives joy and meaning." He said preoccupation with material things is the cause of many problems.

"Our job is to teach the truth about the whole human person; body, mind, and spirit. Your work is truly important, he told the teachers and administrators. "We need to encourage one another.

"I applaud you and I thank you for your efforts as Catholic teachers."

A list of Years of Service Awards follows:

Five Years: Eric Bishop, Holy Name School in Ebensburg; Jeremiah Grosser, Christine Laverick, and Michelle Beyer of Bishop Carroll High School in Ebensburg.

Michael Ciambotti and Karla Gardner of Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School in Altoona; Richard Ciambotti, Laura Cunningham, and Christian Klepeiss of Saint Joseph Academy in Boalsburg.

Tanya Cramer of Northern Cambria Catholic in Nicktown; Tammy Crawford of Saint Thomas the Apostle School in Bedford; Tammi Dirienzo of Saint Peter School in Somerset; Theresa Stone of Our Lady of Victory School in State College; and Taija Zedek of All Saints School in Cresson.

10 Years: Katrina Beckel and Corey Crow of Holy Trin-



MASTER CATECHISTS: (Left to right) Sister Donna Marie, Cynthia Miller, Nancy McMullen, Renee Phister, Bishop Mark, Vicki McCord and Jo - Ann Semko

ity Catholic School in Altoona-Hollidaysburg; Ashley Chalich of Holy Name School in Ebensburg; Robert Sutton of Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School in Altoona; and Ryan Woodruff of Divine Mercy Catholic Academy in Johnstown.

15 Years: Leana Maloney-Pears of Bishop McCort High School in Johnstown; Melissa Roxby of Divine Mercy Catholic Academy in Johnstown; Pamela Smithro of Holy Name School in Ebensburg; and Jane Yingling of Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School in Altoona.

20 Years: Lori Holloway of Saint Peter School in Somerset; Gina Meintel of Holy Trinity Catholic School in Altoona-Hollidaysburg, Nancy Mickey of Saint Thomas the Apostle School in Bedford; Debby Miller of Saint John the Evangelist School in Bellefonte; and Susan Stevens of Saint Michael School in Loretto.

25 Years: Kathleen Maurer of All Saint School in Cresson; Melissa Monoski of Lock Haven Catholic School in Lock Haven; and Elaine Spencer of Holy Trinity Catholic School in Altoona-Johnstown.

30 Years: Suzanne Cooper of Lock Haven Catholic School in Lock Haven (retired); Cathy Damiano, Dorothy Kenner, and Vicki McCord of Holy Trinity Catholic School Altoona-Hollidaysburg; Linda Policicchio

(retired) and Pamela DiRenzo of Divine Mercy Catholic Academy in Johnstown; and Michelle Fleming of Northern Cambria Catholic School in Nicktown.

35 Years: Carolyn Becker of Divine Mercy Holy Trinity Catholic School in Altoona-Hollidaysburg (retired).

40 Years: Janice Burley of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg; Marian Cyburt of Divine Mercy Catholic Academy in Johnstown; and Pamela McConnell of Holy Trinity Catholic School in Altoona-Hollidaysburg.

Master Catechist Status:

Vicki McCord of Holy Trinity Catholic School in Altoona-Hollidaysburg; Nancy McMullen of Northern Cambria Catholic School in Nicktown; Cynthia Miller of Saint Peter School in Somerset; and Renee Phister of Saint Michael School in Loretto.

Pope Makes Surprise Visit To Rome Rehabilitation Center

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis, continuing his occasional series of Friday afternoon visits to people who are suffering or in need of encouragement, visited a well-known Rome rehabilitation center for people with neurological disorders or nerve damage.

The Vatican press office said the pope arrived at the Santa Lucia Foundation at 4 p.m. Sept. 22 and "was greeted with joy by the people who found themselves at that moment in the parking lot of the complex of hospital buildings."

Top staff accompanied Pope Francis to the ward for the rehabilitation of children with neurological diseases. He "joked



CNS Photo/L'Osservatore Romano, Handout
BLESSING: Pope Francis blesses a man during a visit at the Santa Lucia Foundation rehabilitation center in Rome Friday, September 22.

with them" and offered their parents words of encouragement.

"With great attention," the Vatican said, the pope watched some of the children doing their exercises. The therapy often is difficult and painful, the press statement said.

Pope Francis also visited a ward of young adults, ages 15 to 25, who are completely or almost completely paralyzed. The Vatican statement said some of the youths lost the use of their arms and legs after being in car accidents.

The pope began the so-called "Mercy Friday" visits in late 2015 during the Year of Mercy. The visits were designed to reflect the spiritual and corporal works of mercy with "those who live in situations of physical and social exclusion."



CNS Photo/Dave Crenshaw, Eastern Oklahoma Catholic

SISTER: Blessed Stanley Rother's sister, Sister Marita Rother, gives the first reading during the beatification Mass for her brother Saturday, September 23 at Oklahoma City's Cox Convention Center. Blessed Rother, a priest of the Oklahoma City Archdiocese, was murdered in 1981 in the Guatemalan village where he ministered.

Blessed Stanley Rother Is First U.S. - Born Martyr

(Continued From Page 1.)

An overflow crowd of 20,000 packed the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City for the beatification of Father Rother, murdered in 1981 as he served the faithful at a mission in Guatemala sponsored by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The evening before a prayer service was held at St. Benedict Parish in Broken Arrow.

Before the Mass began, the congregation was shown a documentary made about his life and ministry titled "The Shepherd Cannot Run: Father Rother's Story." Then Cardinal Amato, Archbishop Coakley, Archbishop Beltran and about 50 other U.S. bishops, over 200 priests and about 200 deacons processed in for the start of the beatification ceremony.

Archbishop Coakley welcomed Catholics "from near and far" who traveled to Oklahoma "to celebrate the life and witness of Father Rother." He acknowledged the ecumenical, interfaith and civic leaders in attendance and those joining the celebration by watching live coverage of it on the internet, TV and radio.

Before Cardinal Amato read the apostolic letter declaring Father Rother "Blessed," Archbishop Beltran gave some remarks, saying that little did Father Rother know that his growing-up years on his family's farm near Okarche "would mold him into the kind of man who would make great strides when he volunteered to go to Guatemala."

"He struggled in seminary," the archbishop remarked, referring to the difficulty the priest



CNS Photo/Dave Crenshaw, Eastern Oklahoma Catholic

PROCLAMATION: Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, reads the proclamation that bestowed the title of "Blessed" on Father Stanley Rother during his beatification Mass Saturday, September 23 at Oklahoma City's Cox Convention Center.

had with learning Latin. He was nearly expelled because he had such a hard time, but he went on to be ordained for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in 1963. Once in Guatemala to serve in Santiago Atitlan, he learned Tz'utujil, the language of the many Mayan descendants who were his parishioners. He helped translate the Bible into Tz'utujil.

He worked side by side with the people "teaching them many of the agricultural practices he learned in Okarche," Archbishop Beltran said.

(Continued On Page 13.)



CNS Photo/Dave Crenshaw, Eastern Oklahoma Catholic

OVERFLOW CROWD: An overflow crowd estimated at 20,000 attended the beatification Mass for Father Stanley Rother Saturday, September 23 at Oklahoma City's Cox Convention Center.

(Continued From Page 12.)

The mission was about 10 years old when Father Rother arrived in 1968 and had a staff of 10, but the number of missionaries dwindled as Guatemala's civil war, which began in 1960 and lasted until 1996, intensified. Eventually, Father Rother's name appeared on a death list and he returned home.

"His ways were very quiet and unassuming but eventually he began to receive death threats," the archbishop continued. "He made infrequent visits (back to Oklahoma). On his last visit (in 1981) he felt the need to return to his people no matter what the consequences."

Friends recalled him say-

ing, "The shepherd cannot run. I want to be with my people." Within three days of his return, three men entered his rectory in the dead of night and murdered him.

"His saintly life has become well known beyond boundaries of Oklahoma and Guatemala and the faith of those familiar with his life has been greatly strengthened. How grateful we are to almighty God this day for the beatification of Father Rother," Archbishop Beltran said.

Cardinal Amato followed the archbishop by reading the formal letter about the priest's beatification. When he concluded, a huge colorful banner was unfurled above the altar with a likeness of Blessed Rother and

an image of his Guatemalan mission and the Oklahoma City archdiocesan coat of arms at the bottom.

His feast day will be celebrated July 28, the day when he was fatally shot in the head by masked men.

Relics of Blessed Rother, including a piece from one of his rib bones, were brought to the altar in a golden reliquary and set on a small table to the left of the main altar. Cardinal Amato venerated the relics and censed the reliquary.

Rother family members then came up to the altar to greet the cardinal: his sister, Sister Marita Rother, a member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, who lives at her community's

motherhouse in Wichita, Kansas; and his brother Tom and his wife, Marti, who live on the farm where the martyred priest and his siblings grew up, located three miles from the center of Okarche.

In his remarks, Archbishop Coakley said that on behalf of the local church in Oklahoma "and in communion with my brother bishops in the United States and Guatemala," he felt "profound gratitude" for the opportunity to help celebrate the beatification of a native son.

"We are grateful for your (Pope Francis) recognition of the heroic witness of this good shepherd (who) remained with his people," the archbishop said.

"He gave his life in solidarity with so many suffering individuals and family who endured persecution for the sake of the Gospel. We pray the church will experience a new Pentecost and an abundance of vocations to the priesthood inspired by the witness and aided by the intercession of Blessed Stanley Rother."

He thanked Archbishop Beltran for formally opening the Rother cause, as well as the postulator, Andrea Ambrosi of Rome, who attended the Mass, and the many men and women who worked diligently over many years to advance the cause and "make known the holiness and heroism of this ordinary priest."

Now Showing

'Kingsman' A Real Fun - Killer

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Stylish but wayward, director and co-writer Matthew Vaughn's action sequel "Kingsman: The Golden Circle" (Fox) spoils its own fun by refusing all hint of restraint.

This leads to cartoonish but gruesome mayhem as well as a distasteful bedroom sequence that, together with other over-

the-top elements, push the proceedings beyond the boundaries of acceptability.

In following up on his 2015 feature, "Kingsman: The Secret Service," Vaughn and his returning script collaborator Jane Goldman once again focus on Gary "Eggsy" Unwin (Taron Egerton), the working-class London lad whose transformation into a skilled espionage operative was charted in the original.

Now an established agent of the independent Kingsman



CNS Photo/Fox

KINGSMAN - - THE GOLDEN CIRCLE: Channing Tatum and Halle Berry star in a scene from the movie "Kingsman: The Golden Circle." The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

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A half - hour of local Church news and features

service, Eggsy takes on Poppy Adams (Julianne Moore), a psychopathic international drug trafficker intent on blackmailing the U.S. government into legalizing all narcotics. Early scenes find Eggsy and Merlin (Mark Strong), the group's tech guru, staggered by Poppy's murderous assault on their headquarters and on the homes of some of their colleagues.

Following an emergency protocol, the duo discovers the existence of the Kentucky-based American counterpart of their organization, and travels to bluegrass country seeking assistance.

Where the Kingsman, as viewers of the first movie will know, use the eponymous Savi-ville Row tailor shop as a front their operation, their cousins across the water conceal themselves behind the Statesman whiskey distillery. And, just as Kingsman agents use figures from Arthurian legend for their codenames, Statesman spies, including their leader, Champagne (Jeff Bridges), get their monikers from a variety of beverages.

With Champagne's aid, as well as that of his subordinates, Tequila (Channing Tatum), Ginger Ale (Halle Berry) and

Whiskey (Pedro Pascal), Eggsy battles to bring down both Poppy and Charlie Hesketh (Edward Holcroft), a rejected Kingsman applicant who's backing her.

Continuing to work from a comic book series by Matt Miller and Dave Gibbons, Vaughn edges Eggsy toward a more committed relationship with his live-in girlfriend, Tilde (Hanna Alstrom), a Swedish princess he rescued from peril in the first outing. And the screenplay dwells on Eggsy's ties to his mentor, Harry Hart (Colin Firth), aka Agent Galahad.

Yet, to cite just one instance of the movie's excesses, the au-

dience watches as characters are fed into a meat grinder. There's no helping that kind of hamburger.

The film contains persistent, sometimes shocking, bloody violence, a scene of cannibalism, a drug theme, cohabitation, frivolously portrayed casual sex, some sexual humor, a couple of uses of profanity as well as pervasive rough and much crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

October 8 - - Doctor Thomas Foley, President of Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, discusses the college's theme for the academic year, "Authentic Discourse."

October 15 - - Saint Francis University students Valerie Boles and Danielle Link interview Bishop Mark about faith matters impacting college students.

May They Rest In Peace



Sister Eileen Scott C.S.J.

Sister Eileen Scott (Sister Mary James), 87, died Sunday, September 17, at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Baden in her 70th year as a member of the Congregation.

The daughter of Victor and Mary (Friel) Scott, Sister was the first of three siblings to enter the Congregation from St. Joseph Parish, Natrona.

The Pope Teaches

(Continued From Page 8.)

-- If fear or evil looms so large it seems insurmountable, remember "that Jesus lives in you. And, through you, it is he, who, with his meekness, wants to subdue all enemies of humanity: sin, hatred, crime and violence."

-- Be courageous in speaking the truth, but never forget, "you are not above anyone." Even if one feels certain that he or she is the last person on earth who holds to the truth, "do not spurn the company of human beings for this" reason.

-- Hold onto ideals and live for something greater than yourself, even if it comes at a high price.

-- "Nothing is more human than making mistakes and these mistakes must not become a prison for you." The son of God came "not for the healthy, but the sick" so people should not be afraid to get up again and start over when they fall, "because God is your friend."

-- "If bitterness strikes, firmly believe in all those people who still work for the good; the seed of a new world is in their humility."

-- Spend time with people who have kept a child-like heart. "Learn from splendor, nurture amazement."

-- "Live, love, believe, and with God's grace, never despair."

For 23 years, Sister Eileen served in education in the Dioceses of Altoona - Johnstown and Pittsburgh. She ministered locally at Saint Patrick, Johnstown (1950-52); Saint Patrick, Gallitzin (1956-57); and returned as principal at Saint Patrick in Gallitzin from 1964 to 1970.

At age 45, Sister Eileen fulfilled a lifelong dream to become a nurse when she enrolled in Saint Francis Nursing School, which paved her way to nearly three decades in health care. She served as a staff nurse at Saint Francis Hospital, Jefferson Center (South Hills Health System) and Allegheny County Jail, and as head nurse at the Sisters' infirmary in the Motherhouse.

From 2004 to 2012, Sister Eileen volunteered at Saints Simon and Jude Parish in Green Tree in various capacities as religious education instructor, secretary in the religious education department and sacristan. In 2012, she moved to the Motherhouse where she continued to volunteer and participate in the ministry of prayer.

Sister Eileen is survived by her sisters, Sister Jeanne and Sister Rosaleen, cousins, long-time friend, Sister Dolores Patsch, associates, and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Baden.

The funeral Mass for Sister Eileen Scott C.S.J. was celebrated Wednesday, September 20 in the chapel of Saint Joseph Convent, Baden. Committal was in the Sisters' Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.

Memorial donations in the name of Sister Eileen may be sent to the Sisters of Saint Joseph Memorial Fund, Development Office, 1020 State St., Baden PA 15005.

Into your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters. In this life you embraced them with your tender love; deliver them now from every evil and bid them eternal rest.

The old order has passed away: welcome them into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain, but fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

By Matthew Fowler
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) -- Msgr. Rene Laurentin, who spent a lifetime studying Marian apparitions, died Sept. 10 at the age of 99 in Evry, France.

Msgr. Laurentin had published more than 160 books and 1,000 articles about Mariology, including the **Dictionary Of The 'Apparitions' Of The Virgin Mary**.

The 1,200-page volume lists more than 2,400 alleged apparitions of Mary all over the world and provides details about the church's investigations of them. To this day, only a handful of the claimed appearances of Mary are recognized by the Catholic Church.

"The apparitions are not seen with the most benign eye by the church," he had said, emphasizing how seriously the church investigates the claims and citing the long approval process of even the most popular visions.

"Apparitions are the least scientifically studied, the most hidden and most controversial of all theological subjects," the French priest said.

In the introduction to his "dictionary," Msgr. Laurentin wrote that he had been working for more than 50 years on the catalogue at the request of bishops and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The goal, he said, was "to put to rest the many misunderstandings and confusion" surrounding claims of visions.

Msgr. Laurentin, who served as a peritus, or expert, at the Second Vatican Council from 1962 to 1965 and as a religion correspondent for France's **Le Figaro** daily, is also the author of **Bernadette Of Lourdes: A Life Based On Authenticated Documents**, a highly praised biography of the visionary. He also wrote several books on the alleged apparitions of Mary at

Renowned Marian Scholar Dies At 99



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

FATHER RENE LAURENTIN

Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The situation in Medjugorje is very confused because there are conversions every day, but the bishop is against it," he said in October 2007. "And when Rome protects and covers the bishops, one can't say Rome is in favor of the apparitions."

While Pope Francis, too, has expressed some doubts about the Medjugorje apparitions, which allegedly continue, he appointed a Polish archbishop to visit the town and make recommendations about the pastoral care of the townspeople and the millions of pilgrims who visit there each year.

Born in Tours on Oct. 19, 1917, Rene Laurentin was or-

ained to the priesthood in 1946. In addition to his longtime professorship at France's Catholic University of the West in Angers, Msgr. Laurentin taught at Catholic universities throughout Europe and, from the early 1960s to the early 2000s, was a visiting professor at the Marian Institute at the University of Dayton in Ohio.

Cardinal DePaolis Dead At 81

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Italian cardinal who oversaw the Vatican-led reform and reorganization of the Legionaries of Christ died in Rome just several days before his 82nd birthday.

Cardinal Velasio De Paolis died of cancer Sept. 9 at the age of 81.

An expert in church law who specialized in religious institutes, the Italian cardinal was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010 to be his papal delegate with broad powers of authority over the Legionaries following an apostolic visitation of the order.

Born in Sonnino, Italy, the late cardinal was ordained a Scalabrinian priest in 1961, named a bishop in 2003 and an archbishop in 2008. Pope Benedict made him a cardinal in 2010.

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Popular Speaker Will Again Keynote SHYCON

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

A popular speaker will again lead a diocesan gathering of young people.

ValLimar Jansen will make a return visit to the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown to address the theme *Called To Be a Disciple: How Will You Answer?*, when SHYCON (Senior High Youth Conference) is held from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, October 22 at the Stokes Center on the campus of Saint Francis University, Loretto. The event is open to youth in grades 9 through 12.

Jansen has appeared at conferences across the United States and abroad, and last addressed SHYCON in 2015.

Jansen is known especially for her work with contemporary Christian music. She is a university professor, and a leader of worship and prayer. A highly regarded singer, Jansen is also a composer and recording artist.

Jansen tours regionally and nationally as an inspirational speaker, a storyteller, a psalmist, a song leader, and a principal vocalist.

Francine Swope, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Religious Education and Sacramental Prep, said Jansen has an excellent way of sharing her faith through stories, music, and performance. "She interprets Bible stories to help us understand how we should be living as disciples of Christ."

The deadline for students to register is October 9. They must register with their parish Director of Religious Educa-

tion (DRE), Youth Minister, Campus Minister or high school principal. This is a closed event designed for youth participants and parish leaders.

"I feel it's very important for the students to participate in these kinds of functions as part of their spiritual growth towards young adulthood," said Swope. She said this annual diocesan celebration and gathering of young people grows each year. "I think it's nice for young people to celebrate and learn more about their faith while enjoying the company of their peers from throughout the Diocese.

"It's important that kids see beyond their limited view of the world, and meet other students from throughout our Diocese." When students are young, the scope of their world tends to be limited to the school districts in which they live, Swope said. "When they gather they learn there are more people out there that live similar daily lives."

As usual, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will join in the activities and celebrate Mass at the end of the day.

Again this year, the young people will pack meals, which are distributed through the group Rise Against Hunger. "It's an activity that really made the kids feel like they were making an immediate difference in peoples' lives," Swope said. They packed 30,000 meals last year and they hope to do the same this October.

She said the Rise Against Hunger warehouse is depleted



VALLIMAR JANSEN

because of the recent natural disasters in Florida and Texas. With the earthquake in Mexico, and a hurricane that devastated Puerto Rico, it has become even more important.

Rise Against Hunger is non-profit international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable, mobilizing the necessary resources to end hunger by 2030.

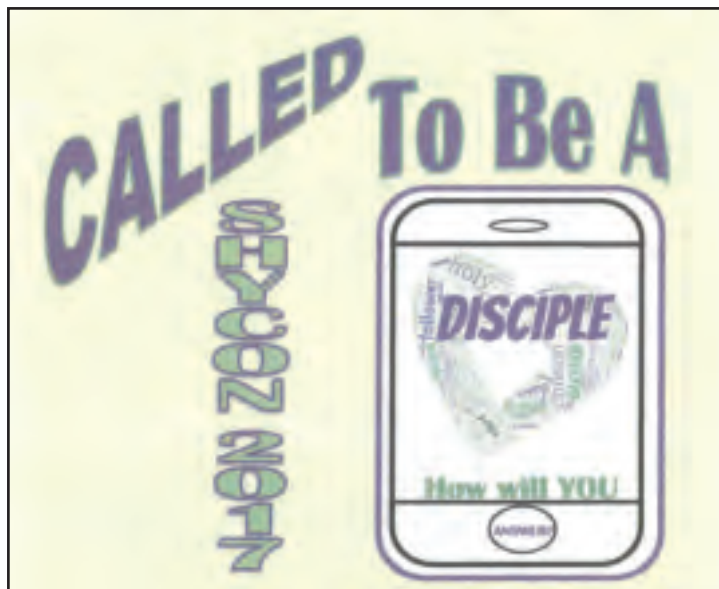
Swope said "We had so much positive feedback from the kids, parents, and group leaders after last year. It's a hands-on

activity and they know they're helping someone else in need."

Persons can contribute by sending a check to: The Youth Ministry Office, Attn: Rise Against Hunger, 933 Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

Any amount is appreciated and every penny that is donated is used solely for the meals.

"I would ask that all parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. encourage your teen to attend," Francine said. "It's really a fun time and the kids always enjoy it."



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