



The Catholic Register

Official Publication Of
The Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown

Volume 92, No. 12 Published Bi - Weekly (USPS 094 - 280)

www.dioceseaj.org October 16, 2017



PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE: Bishop Mark approaches the statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima at the 50th annual Family Marian Celebration, held Sunday, October 1 at Saint Benedict Church, Johnstown. This year's event marked the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima, Portugal in 1917. The Pilgrim Virgin Statue will travel to parishes throughout the Diocese as part of a prayer crusade for vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life.

Marian Celebration Marks Fatima Centennial

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

The 2017 Family Marian Celebration was rich in significance.

The Sunday, October 1 event held at Saint Benedict Church, Johnstown, was the 50th time that the celebration, formerly known as the "Rosary

Rally," was held. And as the diocesan event celebrated fifty years, it marked the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima, from May to October in 1917.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, principal celebrant and homilist at the celebration, spoke of the Fatima apparitions to the several hundred worshippers who filled the vast church.

Mary, at Fatima, he said, spoke of prayer and repentance to three shepherd children, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, and their cousin, Lucia dos Santos, and those children took her message to heart.

(Continued On Page 10.)

Higher Education

Honorary Alumnus

Cresson: The Mount Aloysius College Alumni Association selected Johnstown native William C. Polacek as an Honorary Alumnus of the College. The Alumni Association awarded the special recognition to Polacek at the 2017 Alumni Recognition Luncheon. The event, held in the Bertschi Center and Technology Commons, was the highlight of the College's 2017 Homecoming/Alumni Weekend festivities.

Mount Aloysius College President Tom Foley commended the Alumni Association's choice of Bill Polacek as the 2017 Honorary Alumnus. "Bill Polacek has given this college valuable service on our Board of Trustees," said Foley, "But in a much broader sense, his service and that of his family to our

southern Allegheny Mountain community, and to our nation is truly profound. The story of Bill Polacek and of the entire Polacek Family is a bootstrap epic that is leavened only by the humanity and the humility of the man and his family. Indeed, when you take the hand of any one of the Polacek Clan you cannot help but feel generational strength, generosity and profound good will."

In 1957, Bill's father, John Polacek found himself working for Bethlehem Steel and providing for his nine children. To help ends meet he put a welding machine on the back of his pick-up truck and started Johnny's Welding. When John Polacek passed away in 1987, his welding company was located in a two - car garage and had one employee - - his son, Bill. Bill bought the company from his mother and started Johnstown Welding and Fabrication. After a few years of



HOMECOMING: Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg, celebrated Homecoming Friday, September 22. Members of the Homecoming court were (left to right) First row: Lexi Zazvrskey, Mattie Bossler, Emily Zabrzkeski, Olivia Biletdeaux, Kayla Repko, Elisabeth Keim, Madeline Murphy, Caroline Ratchford, Lauren Dvorchak, Ashlee Smithtro, Caroline Semelsberger. Second row: Hegemann, Matt Hammond, Zach Bohrer, Jared Delauter, Evan Becquet, Jarrett Grove, Trevor Hogue, Carson Ertter, Noah Kanich, Nathan Butterbaugh and Alec Ratchford. Jared Delauter and Caroline Semelsberger were crowned Homecoming King and Queen. At that evening's football game, the Bishop Carroll Huskies defeated Penn Cambria 15 - 6.

growth, Bill shortened the company name to JWF Industries to reflect its continuing diversity.

From those humble beginning in 1987, Polacek has grown the business from a two - man shop to a company with nearly 500 employees in two states. In addition, Polacek owns Johnstown Machining and Fabrication Inc.; Flexosonic; Atlantic Welders, Inc. of Baltimore MD.; Anderson Cutting Systems;

Laurel Automated Painting, and WCP Erectors. In 2007, Polacek started JWF Defense Systems - - a business specifically focused on supplying Department of Defense prime contractors with reliable, on - time, fabrications and subassemblies. Since his humble beginnings, Bill has led this small - town company into a thriving business. Today, JWF Industries has annual sales over \$120 million, operates three

facilities encompassing over 900,000 square feet, and employs 450 men and women in Johnstown.

(Continued On Page 6.)

CASH PAID

WWI & WWII Items

814-944-0404

Dr. Fraundorfer

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE - (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: **The Catholic Register**

2. Issue Date: **September 27, 2017**

3. Issue Frequency: **Bi-weekly**

4. Issue Number for Circulation Data Below: **26**

5. Annual Subscription Price: **\$6.00**

6. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, City, County, State, and ZIP+4®):
925 S. Logan Blvd., - Bellefonte, PA 16840

7. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher:
925 S. Logan Blvd., - Bellefonte, PA 16840

8. Complete Mailing Address of the Principal Office of the Publisher:
925 S. Logan Blvd., - Bellefonte, PA 16840

9. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher:
Rev. Msgr. Timothy P. Stoltz - 925 S. Logan Blvd. - Bellefonte, PA 16840

10. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Managing Editor:
Rev. Msgr. Timothy P. Stoltz - 925 S. Logan Blvd. - Bellefonte, PA 16840

11. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of the Publisher:
Rev. Msgr. Timothy P. Stoltz - 925 S. Logan Blvd. - Bellefonte, PA 16840

12. Publication Title		13. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	
The Catholic Register		September 18, 2017	
14. Issue and Number of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		28,524	28,505
b. Paid and/or Requester Circulation (Street Vendors, Carriers, or other paid distribution outside the mail; or paid distribution through the mail)		15,830 (53)	15,213 (53)
c. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Street Vendors, Carriers, or other paid distribution outside the mail; or free or nominal rate distribution through the mail)		12,694 (43)	13,292 (43)
d. Total Paid and/or Requester Circulation (Sum of 12b and 12c)		28,524	28,505
e. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		30	30
f. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 12e, 12d, 12c and 12b)		30	30
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 12f and 12d)		28,554	28,535
h. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers at page 402)		75	75
i. Total (Sum of 12g and 12h)		28,554	28,555
j. Presswork (See Instructions to Publishers at page 402)		95,432	95,823

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE - (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

15. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner:
Rev. Msgr. Timothy P. Stoltz

16. Date: **September 27, 2017**

In The Alleghenies



SEMINARIANS: Three seminarians from the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown are pursuing studies at Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe. They are pictured with three of the seminary's administrators. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Benedictine Fathers Patrick Cronauer, academic dean; Edward Mazich, rector; John Mary Tompkins, vice rector and director of human formation. Second row: Justin Treon, pre - theology I; Michael Pleva, first theology and Mark Groeger, first theology. Justin P. Treon of Cresson is entering the pre - theology program. He is a 2013 graduate of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg, and earned a bachelor of arts degree in English from Mount Aloysius College, Cresson, in 2017. He is the son of Raymond and Mary Ann Treon of Cresson. Michael A. Pleva of Altoona is a 2013 graduate of Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, Altoona. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from Gannon University, Erie, in 2017. He is the son of Russell and Mary Ann Pleva of Altoona.



Photo By Chris Heisey, The Catholic Witness

FATIMA CONSECRATION MASS: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak was among the bishops of Pennsylvania at a Mass of Consecration to Our Lady of Fatima Wednesday, September 27 at Saint Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg. During the Liturgy, Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia, consecrated the province to Our Lady of Fatima. Earlier this year, the Bishops of Pennsylvania voted that each Diocese and Eparchy in the state be consecrated to the Blessed Mother in observance of the 100th anniversary of the Blessed Mother's apparitions at Fatima.



DONATION: Arlene Alison of the Gabriel Project at Our Lady of Victory parish, State College, receives a check from Grand Knight Dennis Marince of Father O'Hanlon Council 4678 of the Knights of Columbus, representing the proceeds of the Council's 4th Annual Baby Bottle Campaign held at the parish this summer. The Council raised over 9,000.00 for the Gabriel Project, a local non - profit pro - life movement offering parish - based pastoral care to women in a crisis pregnancy. The Gabriel Project helps women with their practical and spiritual needs, as well as offering them unconditional love and support, throughout their pregnancy.

Holy Land Tour

"In The Footsteps of Jesus"

May 16-28, 2018

Informational Meetings at 7:00 PM:

- Oct. 30 Saint John The Evangelist Church, Altoona;
- Nov. 6 Saint Michael Church, Saint Michael;
- Nov. 16 Our Lady of Victory Church, State College
- Nov. 20 Saint Peter's Church, Somerset



Escorted by
Msgr. Michael A. Becker,
pastor, Saint John the
Evangelist Church in
Lakemont, Altoona

Visiting:

Caesarea, Samaria,
Mount of Beatitudes,
Mt.Carmel,Nazareth, Capernaum,
Cana, Sail across the Sea of
Galilee,
Mt. Tabor and the
Church of Transfiguration,
Jerusalem, Mount of Olives,
Garden of Gethsemane,
Bethany, Bethlehem,
Via Dolorosa (Stations of the
Cross) and much more.

For Further Information Contact:

Festival Travel

(814) 467-6277 or (814) 241-1641

THE CATHOLIC REGISTER SERVING THE DIOCESE OF ALTOONA - JOHNSTOWN	Subscriptions: \$8.00 Parish Based \$18.00 Individual	Publisher: Most Reverend Bishop Mark L. Bartchak
	Periodical Class Postage Paid At Altoona PA and other mailing offices. Postmaster send change of address to: 925 South Logan Boulevard (USPS 094 - 280) Member Publication Of The Catholic Press Association	Editor: Rev. Msgr. Timothy P. Stein
Published Bi - weekly at 925 South Logan Boulevard Hollidaysburg PA 16648		Secretary: Frances M. Logrando
Phone (814) 695 - 7563 FAX (814) 695 - 7517		

Point Of View

It's as loud as a fire alarm (except it goes off 20 times a day). It screeches like fingernails down a chalkboard. And rather than fleeing to escape it, we're supposed to run right toward it.

A baby's cry.

Our baby shrieks like any other newborn: when he is hungry, tired, wet, lonely or otherwise annoyed. But after many new babies in our home, I admit that my husband and I have slowed in our response time. We used to leap at the slightest snuffle from our first, but now we know that babies sometimes quiet themselves right back to sleep.

But the baby's brothers? They can't let him cry. Not for one single second.

They look up in alarm as we're sitting down to eat and wails erupt upstairs: "He's crying! We have to go get him!" As soon as he squawks from his car seat, they lunge over their own seats to comfort him. "Poor buddy! It's OK! We'll help you!"

I smiled at this quietly for the first few weeks of his life, delighted that the siblings had accepted a new number into their ranks with such love and attentiveness.

But then I realized they were calling me out, too. Trying to wake me up, like biblical prophets from the back seat.

Because hearing the cries of the neediest is what I'm supposed to be doing all the time.

"The Lord hears the cry of the poor." We sing the refrain to Psalm 34 at Mass. And we read



Faith At Home

By Laura Kelly Fanucci

The Lord Hears The Cry Of The Newborn



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

this truth over and over again in Scripture: "This poor one cried out and the Lord heard, and from all his distress he saved him" (Ps 34:7). "See, you lowly ones, and be glad; you who seek God, take heart! For the Lord hears the poor" (Ps 69:33-34).

Our cooing, gurgling, squalling newborn is the "poorest" one in our family. The one who has the least and who needs the most. My mom always says that God made babies' cries impossible to ignore for good reason: that we would always attend to them.

The three big brothers remind me what it means to act like the God I love. To respond without hesitation to cries of need. To drop everything else

and rush to comfort. To live with ears inclined toward the poor.

God is known throughout Scripture by hearing and seeing. He hears Hannah's lament at the temple over her infertility. He sees Hagar weeping when she and her son Ishmael are cast out into the wilderness.

We, too, see with God's eyes when we behold our spouse, children, friends or family with eyes of love. We hear with God's ears when we hear the needs of those in poverty and those on society's margins.

The cry I can never ignore is a hungry baby howling to nurse, especially when I'm stuck somewhere (like rush-hour traffic) where I can't reach out and pull him to me. In those anguished moments, I feel my pulse quicken in my ears, my blood pressure rising as every cell in my body longs to pick up my child and give him what he needs.

This whole-body response is what I imagine God might feel when we cry out in need. Every impulse of God's being lunging toward us in love.

The Lord hears the cry of the poor -- and the newborn. Do we?



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
Jesus Is Always There

When preaching at a funeral Mass, I most often turn to Saint John's gospel where Jesus says "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places" (John 14:2). I find this to be a particularly appropriate passage in my current parish assignment, where my parishioners are blessed to live extraordinarily long lives. Sadly, the longer we live, the fewer people there are left behind to mourn us. The older we grow, we find ourselves worrying about whether or not the day will come when anyone will ever remember who we were, or that we passed this way.

The Lord's reminder of the many dwelling places in His Father's house is a powerful reminder that there is someone who will never, ever forget us; someone who has loved us from the very dawn of eternity. We came to this earth from His mansion in heaven, and at the end of this life's pilgrimage, it is our fondest hope to return to that mansion. Knowing and believing that God is waiting to welcome us back into His loving embrace is a most consoling thought. I love, too, that this passage begins with the admonition "Do not let your hearts be troubled." This gospel reading addresses so many of the fears that surround the whole business of dying and death. I never grow tired of reading this passage or preaching about it. It is one that has served me well.

But, from time to time, there have been in our parish, and in my family, those deaths that have caught us unawares -- perhaps the death of a young person taken from us well before their time. Then I turn to another passage from John's gospel: the story of Jesus going to console Martha and Mary on the death of their brother, Lazarus. Mary, typically, sits quietly at home, waiting for the Lord, but good old forthright Martha goes out to meet Jesus and does just what all of us would like to do in a situation like that. She gives Him a piece of her mind, and tells Him "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (John 11:21).

Perhaps we have all felt like Martha felt when confronting the death of a loved one. We find ourselves wondering where Jesus was when the one we loved was suffering and dying. We want to ask "Lord, where were you in the midst of all of this heartbreak and tragedy?" We want an answer to the fears and doubts that gnaw at our hearts. We can't imagine that the Lord might have been right there, right beside the one we mourn for; right there, right beside us in our pain and sorrow. But Martha, as hurt as she was, went on to make a great act of faith. She proclaimed her belief in Jesus the Lord, and said "I have come to believe that you are the Christ."

"I have come to believe . . ." Ah, there's the rub. Martha acknowledges that her faith in Jesus has developed - has grown. She has come to see the truth of who He is and what He is. And as we mourn, as we reflect on the pain in our hearts, we have to give ourselves the time and the space to come to that same conclusion.

After the horrific mass murder in Las Vegas two weeks ago, many people were surely asking "Where was the Lord" when this was going on. Friends, He was right there, right where He always is, in the midst of His suffering people. He died on a cross. He knows the pain of death. He does not abandon us in our times of trial. We need never doubt His presence.

I was consoled by the thought that just across the street from the fairgrounds that were turned into a killing field that night in Las Vegas there stands the Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer. Jesus was as close to His suffering people as He could possibly be. He is always with us.

And He always will be.

Stopping Sexual Violence Through Technology

By the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

Technology and social media dominate how many of us communicate to others, learn of news, and have fun. However, they can also be sources of support for victims of sexual abuse.

Technology can play a positive role in preventing sexual abuse and supporting victims. The internet or even social media may be the first place that survivors turn to after an assault. Online resources provide victims of sexual abuse immediate information about help that is available following an assault. They also allow for survivors to immediately connect with someone without leaving their own home—this is often crucial for victims following an assault and for those in a distressed state.

There are countless online resources, and even mobile apps that help survivors connect with someone virtually following an assault. Survivors can virtually “chat” with a victim advocate and can even report their assault anonymously and confidentially to their local law enforcement. Many websites also allow for others to discreetly reach out if they feel their friends are in risk of danger.

Many colleges and universities also have unique apps that provide information on sexual violence within their campuses. These apps may serve as a confidential space to learn about resources on how to get help. Some apps have GPS tracking and can send messages to friends and family if a student feels in danger.

Today, we also see many businesses and universities utilizing technology to promote prevention education. Many colleges require students to complete online learning related to preventing sexual abuse. Some of this education is through creative online modules, like video games or virtual-reality programs. Students create “characters” and roleplay through a series of situations. Scene by scene, it takes the players through what happens before and after someone experiences sexual assault. This help students understand and practice ways to take action if they hear comments or see behaviors that concern them, and prevent sexual assault before

As technology continues to improve, the tools available to survivors of sexual violence increase. New innovative methods of communication and online platforms allow for survivors of sexual abuse to find and access immediate help and support at the click of a button.

it happens. Through blog forums, online communities create areas for survivors to share stories and seek support through their peers in the aftermath of an assault. Online communities provide therapeutic anonymity to survivors. Many of these forums are publically accessible, but some require membership to join. This privacy helps protect the identity of survivors that may not feel comfortable publically coming forward and helps protect them against further harm from potential abusers.

As technology continues to improve, the tools available to survivors of sexual violence increase. New innovative methods of communication and online platforms allow for survivors of sexual abuse to find and access immediate help and support at the click of a button. If you or someone you love has experienced sexual abuse and you want more information, please visit www.pcar.org for more information or call 1-888-772-7227 to speak with a victim advocate. PCAR also offers a new pilot program, called SAVE (Sexual Assault Virtual Environment), which connect survivors with a victim advocate via online counseling. For more information, please contact PCAR to see if your local rape crisis center offers this service.

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. 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.

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 6.)

For nearly 20 years, the Polacek family has cared for the region's needy through their non-profit Polacek Family Human Needs Foundation founded in 1998. Polacek's service commitments include Junior Achievement, Mom's House, Johnstown YMCA, Johnstown Area Regional Industries (JARI), Mount Aloysius College, Southern Allegheny Regional Planning and Development Committee, The Chamber of Commerce Advisory Board, Johnstown Area Heritage Association, Geistown - Richland Pee Wee Football league and Venture Quest.

Prayer

Carmelite Novena

Loretto: The year's tenth novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Therese, the Little Flower, offered by the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, will

open Sunday, October 22 and conclude Monday, October 30.

All intentions submitted to the Nuns will be remembered with the special Novena prayers following daily Mass in the renovated chapel at Carmel.

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

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is given every Sunday and every First Friday of the month at 4:00 p.m. in the public chapel at Carmel, followed by veneration of the relic of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus of the Holy Face.

Schools

Arts And Crafts Show/Sale

Loretto: The Saint Mi-



HONORARY ALUMNUS: Johnstown's William Polacek (second from left) accepts the Mount Aloysius College Honorary Alumnus Award for 2017 at the College's recent Alumni Reunion and Homecoming Weekend. From left are: Brad Mikitko, '12 & '14, vice president of the Mount Aloysius College Alumni Board of Directors; Polacek; Mount Aloysius College President Tom Foley; and Mount Aloysius Vice President for Institutional Advancement Jennifer Dubuque.

chael Home - School Association will hold its 38th Annual Arts and Crafts Show and Sale Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22.

The event will take place

from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. both days, and will be held in the Our Lady of Loretto Community Hall next to Saint Michael School.

Both days will feature many

artists and craft persons, and beautiful handcrafted items will be on display.

The Home - School Association will be offering refreshments, including homemade pies, cookies, apple dumplings, homemade soup and sandwiches.

Parking and admission are free.

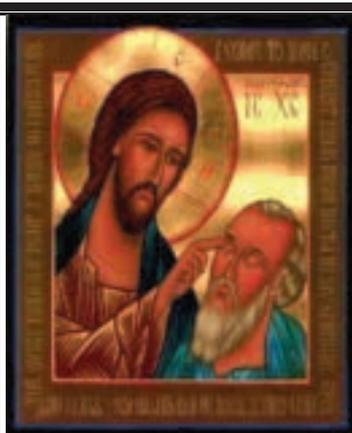
Vocations

Quo Vadis Days

Hollidaysburg: The Dioceses of Altoona - Johnstown, Erie and Greensburg will host Quo Vadis Days, a vocations summer camp for high school boys entering 9th grade in 2018 up to age 17, Sunday, July 8 to Wednesday, July 11, 2018, at the Saint Phillip Center in Linesville.

"Quo Vadis" is Latin for "Where are you going?" It is a phrase adopted from a traditional story of Saint Peter's return to Rome at the time of his martyrdom.

For more information, contact the Vocations Office at (814) 695 - 5579 or vocations@diocese-seaj.org.



HEALING MASS

Monday
October 23, 2017
7:00 pm
Fr. Bill Kiel
CELEBRANT

CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

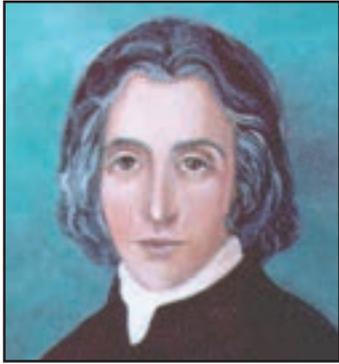
For all in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing and those who support them.

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

MUSIC LED BY CATHEDRAL PRAYER GROUP MUSIC MINISTRY

A promotional poster for a Christmas catechism event. It features a black and white photo of a nun looking through a magnifying glass at a Christmas tree. Text includes: "Sister's Christmas Catechism by Maripat Donovan with Marc Savva and Jane Morris", "THE MYSTERY OF THE MAGI'S GOLD", "7:30 PM Saturday, December 9, 2017", "The Benzel Stage at The Mishler Theatre", "Gingerly and Jovially Presented by: Those Bold and Cheeky Blair County Arts Foundation-ers", "Tickets are \$30.00, plus a \$3.00 Box Office Handling Fee", "Purchase online at www.mishlertheatre.org. Or at the Mishler Box Office, Monday through Friday, 11:30-5:00 814-944-9434".



A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840

Mexican Child Martyrs Recalled For Devotion To Faith

By David Agren
Catholic News Service

MEXICO CITY (CNS)

-- Blessed Cristobal was about 12 or 13 when he confronted his father in 1527 over drinking "pulque," an alcoholic beverage made from fermented sap of agave plant.

He poured out the pulque in the family home and told his father, a cacique (local leader) called Acxtecatl, to give up idolatry.

His father, according to an account from the Diocese of Tlaxcala, Mexico, locked Blessed Cristobal in his room and repeatedly beat him. The youth, lying on his death bed,



THE CHILD MARTYRS
OF TLAXCALA

Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

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

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

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

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

+ + +

Kindly send information about favors granted to:

**The Cause for the Servant of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
Diocese Of Altoona - Johnstown
927 South Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg PA 16648**

promoted as models of Christian life and intercessors for the universal church," said a small diocesan booklet on the three.

"That spirituality of the child martyrs should take us (to) live the mission, taking the message of Christ to our relatives, friends, neighbours, colleagues ... in our Diocese of Tlaxcala to other places in Tlaxcala and the world," the booklet said.

The three were baptized and trained as evangelizers by the Order of the Friars Minor in what is now Tlaxcala state, just to the east of modern day Mexico City. They later attempted to spread the faith in their own families and elsewhere in Mexico.

Blessed Antonio was the grandson of Xicohtencatl el Grande (the Great), one of the main rulers of Tlaxcala. He was joined by Blessed Juan and a third person, Diego, to evangelize nearby Oaxaca state.

Both Blessed Antonio and Blessed Juan were killed in what is now Puebla state. The pair collected and smashed idols, bringing a reaction of beatings from locals, which led to their deaths. Diego escaped.

The story of the child martyrs was recorded early on, but was regional in importance even though their story is part of a narrative positioning Tlaxcala as the "cradle of the faith" in Mexico.

Indeed, Tlaxcala, Mexico's smallest state, has played an outsized role in the country's history. Tlaxcala's native population cooperated with the Spanish, led by Hernan Cortes, and joined with the conquistadores to take Tenochtitlan, the seat of the Aztec empire that later became Mexico City.

The Aztecs were disliked by other indigenous groups such as the Tlaxcaltecas. After the Aztecs were defeated in 1521, the Tlaxcaltecas enjoyed special privileges under the Spanish crown, including freedom to settle other parts of the country. The history and arrangement with the Spanish led to them being seen as traitors, though some see the stigma as unfair.

"It's unfair (because) Mexico didn't exist at the time" and many of the indigenous groups

were at odds with each other, especially the Aztec, prior to the Europeans' arrival, said Father Ruben Rodriguez, an Opus Dei priest who has studied the child martyrs.

The martyrs were beatified in 1990 by St. John Paul II at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

With the canonization, the story of the child martyrs becomes better known and serves as an example for young people to follow nearly five centuries later, Father Rodriguez said.

They were important for the church in its early evangelization of indigenous populations, though the masses started to convert after Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531 at Tepeyac Hill, Father Rodriguez said.

Others see the church trying to appeal to indigenous populations with the canonization of indigenous figures, not unlike what happened with the canonization of St. Juan Diego, whose existence is disputed by some historians and who has not attracted a strong devotion since becoming a saint in 2002.

The existence of the "ninios martires" (child martyrs) is not disputed, however. Nor is the role of the Tlaxcaltecas in the Spanish conquering Mexico.

"They were willing to deal with the Spaniards and to help them defeat the Mexica" as the Aztecs were also known, said Rodolfo Soriano-Nunez, a sociologist in Mexico City. "Without Tlaxcalteca help, Cortes would have had a hard time figuring out how to attack Tenochtitlan."



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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis
True Christians
Must Remain Hopeful

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Real hope lies in the proclamation of Jesus' death and resurrection, not just with one's words but also in deeds, Pope Francis said.

Christians are called to be witnesses of the resurrection through "their way of welcoming, smiling and loving" instead of just "repeating memorized lines," the pope said Oct. 4 during his weekly general audience.

"Look," he said, "that's what a real Christian is like, not whiny and angry, but convinced by the power of the Resurrection that no evil is infinite, no night is without end, no person is permanently in error, no hatred is stronger than love."

Arriving later than usual, Pope Francis was quickly ushered around St. Peter's Square to greet the estimated 15,000 pilgrims, stopping only once to greet a crying child.

The pope continued his series of audience talks on Christian hope, reflecting on a reading from the Gospel of St. Luke, which describes the astonishment and disbelief of the disciples upon being visited by the risen Christ.

Christians are not "prophets of doom" but rather missionaries of hope who are tasked with proclaiming Jesus' death and resurrection, which is "the nucleus of Christian faith," Pope Francis said.

"If the Gospels ended at Jesus' burial, the history of this prophet would be added to the many biographies of heroic people who have given their lives for an ideal," the pope said. "The Gospel would then be an edifying and consoling book, but it would not be a proclamation of hope."

Instead, he continued, Jesus' resurrection is not only "beautiful news that is brought to everyone," but rather a powerful event that "transforms us by the power of the Holy Spirit."

However, at times proclaiming hope may come at the price of one's own life, as it did for the disciples, the pope said.

Recalling the lives of countless Christian martyrs who "did not abandon their people when the time of persecution came," Pope Francis said their witness and sacrifice proved that "injustice is not the final word in life."

"Let us think of our brothers and sisters of the Middle East who give witness to hope and offer their lives for this witness," the pope said. "These are true Christians. They carry heaven in their hearts."

"Those who have had the grace to embrace the resurrection of Jesus," he said, "can still hope in the unexpected."

Christians are not "prophets of doom" but rather missionaries of hope who are tasked with proclaiming Jesus' death and resurrection, which is "the nucleus of Christian faith," Pope Francis said.



ONE MORE TIME: The ladies of Saint Joseph Parish, Bellwood, gathered for a social event in 1973.

I sat staring out the window all day paralyzed. At night, panic attacks hit and in the morning, I wanted to go back to sleep hoping to wake feeling better. Nothing in life held meaning and medicine was useless. The depression stopped me dead in my tracks and dreading meeting the day.

What causes depression?

For me, it was a sudden lifestyle change. I had worked the same job for 20 years. During that time, I traveled the country conducting research, wrote a national syndicated column, authored articles, lectured and worked with esteemed social scientists.

I lived with a wonderful group of gifted priests who were filled with fun and laughter. Our house was like living in an embassy in which dignitaries from around the world dined with us and expanded our knowledge of church life and various cultures.

With time, turnovers in personnel occurred. Fun times, camaraderie, intellectual stimulus and interest in research diminished. The moment arrived for moving on. The problem was not being prepared for change. I was 20 years older, less flexible and now needed to live alone.

My next job with the president of The Catholic University of America and new friends was wonderful: lots of creativity and travel. Work in Argentina was my first assignment. Then depression hit me out of nowhere. Even though I knew everyone experiences some degree of it, knowing this was no help.



The Human Side

By Richard Doerflinger
Fighting Slumps
Of Depression

My depression, however, was short-lived thanks to an old Benedictine teacher who would tell his students, "You have enough under your skill cap, get out and get dirt under your fingernails." Why this experience crossed my mind, I don't know. I do know within a week I was back to normal.

I stopped all business, put on old clothes and returned to my trade of gardener, pulling weeds, planting, and pruning trees and bushes from 8 a.m. until sundown. Mother Nature saved the day by getting me out-

doors and communing with her gifts.

And it was invigorating to step back and take pride once again in my garden work at day's end. Going home, taking a shower and thanking God for accomplishing the day's work were absolutely refreshing. I also practiced getting out of bed immediately and doing something constructive with my hands.

For those overwhelmed by depression, try getting out and communing with nature; she's a terrific girlfriend!



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Leaving Mass
After Holy Communion

Q. I am surprised by the number of people who regularly leave church immediately after receiving the Eucharist. In the diary of St. Faustina, Jesus says how sad he is that people treat him as a dead object and busy themselves with other things.

It is distracting and disruptive of my own personal prayer when I see these people head directly to the exits. This is the closest and most holy time we have to spend with the Lord. Am I being overly sensitive about the actions of others? (Louisville, Kentucky)

A. St. Philip Neri, the saintly parish priest in 16th-century Italy, once noticed that a member of his congregation would regularly leave Mass immediately after receiving Communion, and he decided that the man needed to be taught a lesson.

So the following Sunday, St. Neri assigned two Mass servers to accompany the man with lighted candles out of the church and down the street. The man,

of course, returned demanding an explanation, which gave St. Neri a chance to explain the importance of taking time to thank God for the gift of the Eucharist.

It bothers me, as it does you, to see people rush out to their cars right after taking the host -- although I've never had the courage to use the same pedagogical technique as St. Philip Neri!

Your question makes me think of what Elizabeth said at Mary's visitation; in shocked surprise, Elizabeth asked her cousin, "And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Even more, each of us should be struck with awe that God himself in the person of Jesus has deemed us worthy of a visit.

In "Inaestimabile Donum," his 1980 instruction on the Eucharist, St. John Paul II reminded us that we should not "omit to make a proper thanksgiving after Communion" -- perhaps with some moments of silence "or also after the celebra-

tion, if possible, by staying behind to pray for a suitable time."

Q. Is there anything that can be done at a local Catholic school about the parent of a student who has a violent and criminal background? My own child was just beginning her Catholic school education when I crossed paths with this dangerous individual.

Knowing his history, I informed the school principal. I was assured that this man would not be allowed to assist in any of the school children's activities but that his children were welcome to remain as students at the school. While I understand that his own actions should not reflect on his children, I wonder whether his violent potential should be at the expense of others.

I felt strongly enough that I withdrew my own daughter from this school and enrolled her in a different Catholic school, but my heart still goes out to the other innocent children and uninformed parents.

My moral compass is telling me that it is my duty to do more than I have done; am I right in this conviction, or should I drop the issue? (City of origin withheld)

A. I believe that you have done all that you needed to do by putting the school on notice. Certainly, the principal is as concerned for the students' welfare as you are and would take all necessary precautions to keep the children out of harm's way. And if the man's arrest record is as extensive as you describe, I would think that the other school parents have surely been forewarned.

To be honest, that this individual is not a registered sex offender and that you are not certain about any convictions causes me to wonder whether your concerns may be founded in part on rumor and hearsay. But you were right to share your apprehensions with the school principal and, in so doing, have discharged your moral duty.

(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com)



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
Father Flanagan's Legacy

The tall, good-looking priest had the craggy profile prompting the comment, "He had the map of Ireland written all over his face."

Father Edward Flanagan was the founder of Boys Town, an innovative village for runaway and orphaned boys near Omaha, Nebraska, a landmark that revolutionized the treatment of neglected kids.

Although his isn't a household name today, when he died in Berlin in 1948, Father Flanagan was something of a media sensation. His passing, on a mission for the U.S. government studying child welfare concerns in postwar Europe, was covered extensively by the national press.

And a decade before that, the great actor Spencer Tracy won an Academy Award for portraying the priest in a Hollywood movie.

The Archdiocese of Omaha has declared Father Flanagan "a Servant of God," which propelled his cause for sainthood to Rome.

So who was this man?

Father Flanagan was born in County Roscommon in Ireland, immigrated to the U.S. with his sister, and planned to study for the priesthood in New York. But ill health sent him west to Omaha to be near siblings, and after recuperating, he became a priest for the then-Diocese of Omaha.

A hundred years ago, the young priest secured an old house in downtown Omaha to house neglected boys. He had been working with homeless men, but he became convinced that the seeds of homelessness start young.

According to the Father Flanagan League's biography of him, he made an "exhaustive study of the juvenile justice system and immersed himself in studying the social theories and insights of his time."

"There are no bad boys," he famously declared. "There is only bad environment, bad training, bad example, bad thinking."

Four years later, he bought a farm 10 miles west of Omaha. He turned it into not a rough reform school or orphanage, which was the rule of the day, but into a village with its own youthful mayor, a police force, fire station, post office and dormitories full of loved and cared-for young citizens.

Eventually, he would have a nationally renowned choir, sports teams that rivaled any in the state, and kids, particularly during the Great Depression, who would show up on his doorstep alone but confident they had found a home.

When I was a child growing up in rural Nebraska, Boys Town was a marker on the road to Omaha. Today, Boys Town is engulfed by Omaha but endures as an incorporated Nebraska village.

I often go to daily Mass at the beautiful Gothic chapel that has stood on the Boys Town campus for more than 60 years. I love praying in the tiny, beautiful room at the back of the church where the vault holding Father Flanagan's body is inscribed with his words. He's very present there.

Saints are usually a few steps ahead of their times, and Father Flanagan was way ahead. He integrated Jews and blacks into Boys Town, earning threats from the Ku Klux Klan. He honored other faith traditions, saying all boys should pray but should pray in their own way.

He also opposed the forced internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, and accepted nearly 200 Japanese-Americans to live in housing available at Boys Town.

Boys Town -- which now welcomes girls -- has changed since the founder's death. The national movement that advocates keeping kids in their own homes is impacting the need for residential places like Boys Town. But Father Flanagan's vision continues to mold the child welfare debate.

Father Flanagan's expansive and inclusive love and his sense of justice is a good model for our divided times.

Saint Margaret Mary
Alacoque
1647 - 1690
Feast - October 16



This French saint, who increased devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, spent her life in Burgundy. A pious child, Margaret was bedridden from ages 9 to 15 with a rheumatic illness. She gradually understood a call to religious life, and already had a mature prayer life when she entered a Visitation convent near Lyon in 1671. Between 1673 and 1675, she received four visions of Christ's heart in flames, burning with love for humanity, with instructions to promote a special feast and First Friday devotions. Margaret, aided by a Jesuit priest, overcame disbelief and jealousy within her own convent and saw the feast celebrated there and in other French Visitation convents in her lifetime. She was canonized in 1920.



YOUNG WORSHIPPERS: A large number of young worshippers attended the Sunday, October 1 Family Marian Celebration at Saint Benedict Church, Johnstown. At left, a family prayed together, with father and daughter sharing the beads of a rosary. At right, Bishop Mark and a young church-goer exchange a “fist bump” greeting after Mass.

Fatima’s Call To Prayer And Penance Still Relevant, Says Bishop At 50th Annual Marian Celebration

(Continued From Page 1.)

The call to prayer had an especially deep impact on Francisco, Bishop Mark said.

“Francisco, who was just nine - years - old, began to pray every day. He prayed many times, every day, especially the rosary.”

Praying the rosary showed Francisco “how to meditate on the mysteries of God’s love for him.”

Constant prayer moved the children of Fatima “to a deeper and more trusting relationship with God,” Bishop Mark said, “and indeed over the course of the past 100 years many people have been moved in that same way.”

Francisco and his sister, Jacinta, who was seven - years - old at the time of the apparitions, were canonized by Pope Francis when he visited Fatima, in Portugal, in May. Their cousin,

Lucia, who was 10 - years - old when Mary appeared to them, died in 2005 at age 97, after a long life as a Discalced Carmelite Nun. Her cause for beatification and canonization has been introduced at the Vatican.

The children of Fatima, Bishop Mark explained, illustrate how “we become holy - - we move in the direction of becoming Saints - - by doing God’s will.” For the three children, God’s will was manifested in the call to prayer and penance. The children of Fatima received encouragement to carry out this mission from the apparitions of Mary. “The children of Fatima opened their hearts and minds to

the love of God as it was made manifest to them in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,” said Bishop Mark.

One hundred years after Mary issued her call to prayer and penance at Fatima, “there is still a need for repentance and conversion,” the Bishop stated.

As the people marking the centennial of the Fatima apparitions “You and I have a job to do,” Bishop Mark told the congregation. “You and I are the next generation to share the message of Fatima.” Bishop Mark said that message was summed up in the first reading of the day’s Mass when the Prophet Ezekiel said the person who turns away from wickedness and “does what is right and just shall preserve his life; since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.”

To help the people of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown respond to our Lady’s message at Fatima, the Bishop explained that a Pilgrim Virgin statue, present in the sanctuary at the Marian Celebration, will soon

be traveling throughout the eight counties of the Diocese, available to every parish, and sent out to visit family homes where neighbors and friends will be encouraged to gather to pray, especially for an increase of vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life in the local Church.

The Family Marian Celebration was sponsored by the Legion of Mary - - Altoona - Johnstown Curia; the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Saint Benedict Parish, and the Benedictine Oblates. “It’s very good to see all of you here for this celebration,” Bishop Mark said. “Thank you for your presence here today.”

Bishop Mark gave special thanks for the presence of a large number of children and young people present at the celebration. “You did a great job sitting up front and leading the rosary,” he said.

“This is a special event,” Bishop Mark concluded. “Fatima continues to impact peoples’ lives, today.”

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Virtues Are Aid To Living A God - Like Life, Conference Attendees Reminded



ETHICAL TRADE BOOTH: Sister of Saint Joseph Patti Rossi, works at the Ethical Trade Booth for Catholic Relief Services at the Catholic Life Day of Reflection held Saturday, September 30 at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson. Articles on sale were crafted by people from around the world. The largest part of the proceeds raised are distributed to the artisans to help them in becoming self - sufficient.

“The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God,” Bishop Mark said. “Correct living is an inner strength that is enforced by one’s own actions.”

(Continued From Page 16.)

“A good example is the recent beatification of Blessed Father Stanley Francis Rother, a missionary who was martyred in Guatemala.” His death fills us with sadness, said Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect for the Congregation of Saints’ Causes, but it also gives us the joy of admiring the kindness, generosity, and courage of a great man of faith. “He rose above ordinary virtue to seek the highest good,” the Bishop said. Father Rother’s beatification was celebrated Saturday, September 23 in Oklahoma City.

Bishop Mark said Saint Maximilian Kolbe was another man of heroic virtue. He volunteered to die in the place of a stranger, a man who was lamenting the fate of his wife and children, when he was condemned to die in the Nazi death camp of Auschwitz, in Poland. Saint Maximilian was canonized by Saint John Paul II at the Vatican in 1982.

Bishop Mark said that we don’t have to perform such remarkable acts because there are also average everyday heroes of heroic virtue just like us.

Nancy Yauneridge of Holy Family Parish in Portage, said she was really pleased with the day. It gave her much needed spiritual energy to overcome some impending tasks looming on her horizon.

“To open some small part of the mind or heart to the idea of goodness is like letting the soul breathe,” Nancy explained. “The Catholic Life Day of Reflection was just that, an open window to refresh the mind, the heart and the soul.”

She went on to say that the Cardinal and Theological Virtues are “a set of skills to be

exercised, similar to a surgeon practicing medicine. Skills that when practiced, become second nature.

“The total of these virtues creates a magnanimous, grace - filled - to - overflowing being, a person who has ultimate confidence in our loving God.”

Section 1803 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church cites Philippians 4:8 and says, “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

“A virtue is a habit and a firm disposition to do good,” said Bishop Mark, quoting the Catechism.

“The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God,” Bishop Mark said. “Correct living is an inner strength that is enforced by one’s own actions.”

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Church More Aware Of Crime, Harm Of Child Abuse, Vatican Official Says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) -- Child abuse is not only a crime, it is sacrilege, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said at a world congress promoting the protection of children online.

"The church has become increasingly aware of the harm experienced by victims, of their suffering and of the need to listen to them," he told an international assembly of more than 100 top experts and leaders in government, law enforcement,

nonprofit organizations and technology, who are working in child protection.

Action must be taken to "heal wounds, restore justice, prevent crimes" and establish a culture of "real safeguarding" so children can grow up healthy and safe, Cardinal Parolin said Oct. 3 in a keynote address opening the four-day gathering.

"Fortunately, with regard to the church, this is already happening, in various institutions and regions, even when society in general has not yet developed the necessary awareness," he said. "These efforts, however, must continue, must be expanded and deepened with clarity and firmness."

"To disparage infancy and to abuse children," he said, "is for the Christian, therefore, not only a crime, but also -- as Pope Francis has stated -- sacrilege, a profanation of that which is sacred, of the presence of God in every human being."

The congress, "Child Dignity in the Digital World," was being held as the Vatican was investigating accusations that one of its foreign diplomats had violated laws relating to child pornography images.

Italian Msgr. Carlo Capella was recalled to the Vatican from his post at the Vatican nunciature in Washington, D.C., after the U.S. State Department notified the Holy See of his possible crimes. Police in Canada also issued a nationwide warrant for the monsignor's arrest on charges of accessing, possessing and distributing child pornography while he was visiting Canada.

"It is a very painful affair, a huge ordeal for everyone who is involved," the cardinal told reporters in response to requests for his comments on the case involving one of his diplomats. "We are handling the case with the utmost diligence, the utmost seriousness."



CNS Photo/Tony Gentile, Reuters

CARDINAL PAROLIN: Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, attends the World Congress "Child Dignity in the Digital World" at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Further information must remain confidential "in order to protect the investigations and, therefore, to safeguard truth and justice," the cardinal said. In regards to an expected time frame of how the case will proceed, "it's premature to talk about that."

Communicating quickly and proactively is critical, a member of the advisory board of the Center for Child Protection at the Pontifical Gregorian University told Catholic News Service.

While some things cannot be divulged while an investigation is underway, "you can tell the public there is an investigation going on and it's being dealt with in an appropriate manner," said Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, a licensed psychologist and a former Air Force intelligence officer.

"There is a communication issue here" because of very different expectations between the Vatican and the United States and Canada, he said Oct. 4. "In the U.S., it's expected before the

sun goes down there should be a public statement," so when there are gaps or a lack of prompt communication, "for us it's frustrating."

"The Catholic Church should be a leader in child protection rather than a follower," said the monsignor, who is clinical associate professor of pastoral studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

"It is part of our mandate as a Gospel-based organization. Jesus said very strong things about those who would harm children," he said, "so why is it the Catholic Church has not been a leader?"

The Rome congress and its gathering of so many top-notch experts is an example of the beginning of this kind of leadership and of the church becoming a platform for the protection of children, "as it should be," he said.

The Gregorian University's Center for Child Protection was hosting the world congress in partnership with WePROTECT

Global Alliance in an effort to get faith communities, police, software and social media industries, mass media, nonprofits and governments working together to better protect minors from online abuse, violence and exploitation in a "digital era."

The founder of WePROTECT, Baroness Joanna Shields, said in her keynote address Oct. 3 that "the progress we make together will determine the future of over 1 billion children who suffer abuse and violence in their everyday lives."

"We need an era of cooperation and shared responsibility that puts the needs of children first," she said.

Because the "unique needs of children must be paramount in the development of online products and services," Shields said she supported updating U.N. Convention of the Rights of the Child for the digital age with the right to remove content, the right to know, the right to safety and support, the right to be informed and the right to digital literacy.

"To disparage infancy and to abuse children," Cardinal Parolin said, "is for the Christian, therefore, not only a crime, but also -- as Pope Francis has stated -- sacrilege, a profanation of that which is sacred, of the presence of God in every human being."

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Pope Pledges Church's Commitment To Fight Child Abuse Online And Offline

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Acknowledging how often the Catholic Church failed to protect children from sexual abuse, Pope Francis pledged "to work strenuously and with foresight for the protection of minors and their dignity," including online.

"As all of us know, in recent years the church has come to acknowledge her own failures in providing for the protection of children: Extremely grave facts have come to light, for which we have to accept our responsibility before God, before the victims and before public opinion," the pope said Oct. 6.

Pope Francis welcomed to the Vatican participants from an international congress on protecting children in a digital world. Hosted by the Pontifical Gregorian University's Center for Child Protection in partnership with WePROTECT Global Alliance, the congress Oct. 3-6 was designed to get faith communities, police, software and social media industries, mass media, nonprofits and governments working together to better protect minors.

At the beginning of the audience, Muireann O'Carroll, a 16-year-old from Ireland, summarized the congress conclusions "on behalf of all children."

Participants appealed to governments, church leaders and tech companies to do everything possible to remove online images of children and young people being sexually abused, identify and help those children, and end cyberbullying and "sex-tortion," which is using sexual images to blackmail someone. They also asked people involved in health care to increase the training needed to know when a young patient is being abused and how to help them.

Pope Francis told the group that as a result of the "painful experiences" of seeing some of

its clergy abuse children, but also as a result of "the skills gained in the process of conversion and purification, the church today feels especially bound to work strenuously and with foresight for the protection of minors and their dignity, not only within her own ranks, but in society as a whole and throughout the world."

The 80-year-old pope said that with the explosive growth of digital technology, "we are living in a new world that, when we were young, we could hardly have imagined."

"If, on the one hand, we are filled with real wonder and admiration at the new and impressive horizons opening up before us," he said, on the other hand its quick and widespread development has created new problems.

"We rightly wonder if we are capable of guiding the processes we ourselves have set in motion, whether they might be escaping our grasp, and whether we are doing enough to keep them in check," Pope Francis told the group.

The "extremely troubling things on the net," he said, include "the spread of ever more extreme pornography, since habitual use raises the threshold of stimulation; the increasing phenomenon of sexting between young men and women who use social media; and the growth of online bullying, a true form of moral and physical attack on the dignity of other young people."

In addition, he said, there is the phenomena of sextortion and the solicitation online of minors for sexual purposes, "to say nothing of the grave and appalling crimes of online trafficking in persons, prostitution and even the commissioning and live viewing of acts of rape and violence against minors in other parts of the world."

"The net has its dark side -- the 'dark net' -- where evil finds ever new, effective and pervasive ways to act and to expand," the pope said. "The spread of printed pornography in the past



CNS Photo/L'Osservatore Romano

GREETES TEEN: Pope Francis greets Muireann O'Carroll, 16, from Ireland during an audience with participants in an international congress on protecting children in a digital world, at the Vatican Friday, October 6. The pope pledged "to work strenuously and with foresight for the protection of minors and their dignity."

Acknowledging how often the Catholic Church failed to protect children from sexual abuse, Pope Francis pledged "to work strenuously and with foresight for the protection of minors and their dignity," including online.



CNS Photo/L'Osservatore Romano

GREETES FAMILY: Pope Francis greets family members during an audience with participants in an international congress on protecting children in a digital world, at the Vatican Friday, October 6.

was a relatively small phenomenon compared to the proliferation of pornography on the net."

The problem is huge and global, the pope said, and no one should underestimate the harm children and young people face.

"Neurobiology, psychology and psychiatry have brought to light the profound impact of violent and sexual images on the impressionable minds of children, the psychological problems that emerge as they grow older, the dependent behaviors and situations, and genuine enslavement that result from a steady diet of provocative or violent images," he noted.

"The spread of ever more extreme pornography and other improper uses of the net not only causes disorders, dependencies and grave harm among adults, but also has a real impact on the way we view love and relations between the sexes," he said. "We would be seriously deluding ourselves were we to think that a society where an abnormal consumption of internet sex is rampant among adults could be capable of effectively protecting minors."

While the internet has given people greater access to information and a vehicle for self-expression, it is not simply "a realm of unlimited freedom" without consequence, the pope said. The freedom of the internet "also offered new means for engaging in heinous illicit activities," often with children as their victims.

"This has nothing to do with the exercise of freedom," Pope Francis insisted. "It has to do with crimes that need to be fought with intelligence and determination, through a broader cooperation among governments and law enforcement agencies on the global level, even as the net itself is now global."

Now Showing

'Battle Of The Sexes' A Poignant Look Back At The '70s

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- The early 1970s in all its revanchist sexism, double-knit-fabric garishness and choking cigarette smoke is the setting of the coming-of-age story that is "Battle of the Sexes" (Fox Searchlight).

That the coming of age arrives for Billie Jean King (Emma Stone) when, as a 29-year-old champion tennis player, she achieved her greatest fame by defeating 55-year-old Bobby Riggs (Steve Carell) in the gaudiest, most-hyped ten-

nis exhibition match of all time in Houston's Astrodome, makes this no less poignant.

This lightly fictionalized version of history is ultimately more about King than the past-his-prime Riggs, but the script by Simon Beaufoy, as directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, takes pains to show each character's harsh isolation and crippling doubts leading up to the match.

King, married to the bland Larry (Austin Stowell), copes with her realization that she's attracted to hairdresser Marilyn (Andrea Riseborough) despite the scandal and loss of income that would have meant then. Cut



CNS Photo/Twentieth Century Fox

BATTLE OF THE SEXES: Emma Stone and Steve Carell star in a scene from the movie "Battle of the Sexes." 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.

off from equal prize money by the all-male gatekeepers of the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association, she seeks equal pay for women on the small Virginia Slims tour. (A cigarette sponsoring tennis? Welcome to the '70s!)

Riggs, trapped in a corporate job and a loveless marriage to wealthy socialite Priscilla (Elisabeth Shue) and unsuccessfully struggling with a gambling addiction, is desperately trying to make himself relevant in a sport in which he'd excelled decades before, but he has to settle for hustler stunts.

He finally sees a lucrative opportunity -- the chronic gambler's vision of the ultimate payoff -- by promoting himself as the ultimate male chauvinist pig who takes on women to "prove" male superiority in tennis and other matters.

Riggs isn't entirely serious, but most of professional tennis, which has long spurned his clowning, is on his side, and he knows it all makes for good TV.

King's other major rival is Australian Margaret Court (Jessica McNamee), the only player on the women's tour with a child, and suspicious of King's sexuality. "That's what happens on an all-women's team," Court

tells husband Barry (James Mackay). "Licentiousness, immorality, sin."

Well, not in this movie, no. Stone makes King both conflicted and a little prim, and Larry, who knows the score and also Billie Jean's ultimate fixation only on her game, eventually lectures Marilyn with, "I'm her husband -- and we're just both a phase."

Real life is never this neat, of course, but the plot necessarily churns toward the big showdown with all the formula and backstage cliches this requires.

Riggs first takes on Court,

and manages to break her confidence as he defeats her before the match with King that drew 90 million TV viewers. King, however, is one tough cookie who polishes her skills while Riggs pops vitamins and fails to train.

The film contains references to aberrant sexuality and fleeting profanities. 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:

October 22 -- Olivia Butler of Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School in Altoona shares her unique educational and leadership experiences in the Bishop's "Student Spotlight" series.

October 29 -- Betty Rosmus, Director of Religious Education at Most Holy Trinity Parish in South Fork, discusses her more than three decades of educating children about the Catholic faith.

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Hundreds Attend Blessing Celebrating Restoration Of Beloved Indiana Shrine Chapel

By Katie Rutter
Catholic News Service

ST. MEINRAD, Ind. (CNS) -- A steady stream of vehicles climbed the narrow, winding road that dead-ends on the hilltop named Monte Cassino Hill.

Beginning more than an hour before the appointed time, hundreds alighted from their cars on the outskirts of the town of St. Meinrad and headed toward a small sandstone building that crowns the landscape.

"We just wanted to peek at the shrine before everything started," laughed St. Meinrad resident Jennifer Kunkler as she watched the bustle. "I guess that's what everyone else thought too."

The pilgrims struggled to squeeze past one another in the single aisle of the 24-by-50-foot chapel. Eyes and fingers pointed upward with hushed exclamations of "wow" and "beautiful."

"To see what they've done now, it is absolutely -- it brings tears to my eyes it's so gorgeous," Kunkler said.

The gathering Oct. 1 marked the conclusion of a more than two-year restoration project. The small sandstone building, named the Monte Cassino Shrine after the famous Italian monastery founded by St. Benedict, has a history nearly as long as the nearby Benedictine-run St. Meinrad Archabbey.

"The chapel actually started with the picture of Our Lady being tacked to a tree by one of the monks," explained Benedictine Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, referring to the year 1857.

Over the next decade, word spread about the makeshift shrine and pilgrims journeyed to the hilltop to pray to Our Lady of Monte Cassino. The archabbey dedicated the present structure in 1870.

Less than two years later, the shrine gained fame for what is widely believed to be a mir-

acle. An epidemic of smallpox broke out in St. Meinrad, taking the lives of several townspeople. As members of the monastery and seminary fell ill, the community processed to the shrine and began a novena to Our Lady of Monte Cassino.

"After that novena, the infirmary emptied out and no more people either in the seminary or the archabbey contracted the smallpox," said Archabbot Stasiak, "and so we attribute the good recovery, the health to the intercession of Our Lady."

Thus began regular pilgrimages up the hill to the Monte Cassino Shrine. Every Sunday in October and May, months traditionally dedicated to Mary, hundreds flock to southern Indiana from as far as Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Louisville, Kentucky, for prayers and a rosary procession.

"We've brought my family here from out of state to see it," said Lucy Himstedt, a parishioner of St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville, Indiana. "It's special."

"People have come up here during times of war, during times of peace," Archabbot Stasiak told CNS. "It's a place that's made holy because of the things that people have done up here: pray, expressing their dependence on God, asking God's favor."

Two years ago, a donor offered to help fund a full restoration of the weather-worn shrine. A year of planning led to the start of construction in the spring of 2016. Work concluded just before this year's first fall pilgrimage Oct. 1, which was attended by an excited crowd of about 500 people.

Most pilgrims arrived well before the prayer service began and took dozens of pictures in the crowded shrine. Many commented on the now-vibrant, gold-accented murals that cover the chapel's walls and the ceiling.

"When you walked in, it was stunning," said Himstedt.

"The whole thing was beautifully done."

Originally painted in 1931, these intricate depictions of Mary had been cracked, worn and damaged by moisture in the building. Thoroughly cleaned and retouched by the professional restoration company Conrad Schmitt Studios Inc., the images also were given new life by modern lighting that was installed throughout the space.

The lower portion of the walls was previously a stark white that contrasted with the decor of the rest of the space. These were decorated with period artwork designed by a St. Meinrad monk, Brother Martin Erspamer.

"(The project) cost an excess of \$600,000. A large portion of that was the art restoration," said Andy Hagedorn, director of physical facilities at St. Meinrad. "We were very fortunate to be able to go all out and get it done right."

Essential repairs included the stabilization of the shrine's foundation as well as filling and sealing the mortar joints of the sandstone walls. Workers also installed a heating and cooling system to protect the artwork from temperature changes and add to the comfort of visitors.

The grounds, formerly comprised of gravel and grass, received a new prayer garden, a large paved area around the chapel and a surrounding sandstone wall.

"We cut sandstone from the quarry which is just right over the hill -- there's an old quarry where the sandstone came for the shrine years ago in 1870," Hagedorn said.

The visitors seated themselves in newly installed benches around the shrine, crowded onto the sandstone wall or set out their own lawn chairs for the outdoor prayer service.

Archabbot Stasiak blessed the grounds and the chapel with holy water, the group sang several hymns and pilgrims prayed



CNS Photo/Katie Rutter

SHRINE: The interior of Monte Cassino Shrine in St. Meinrad, Ind., is seen Oct. 1 after two years of restoration efforts. It is adjacent to the Benedictine St. Meinrad Archabbey.

the rosary as they processed around the hilltop carrying a statue of Mary.

Attendees lingered long after the conclusion of the service. Many had personally donated to the restoration effort to preserve the beloved location for future generations.

"This will last through our grandchildren now," said Himst-

edt. "So we'll bring them here to spend time."

"It's important to the abbe, but I think it's equally important to the community. Not just this community here (in St. Meinrad), but a much larger community," explained Michael Edwards, a resident of the area.

"This is our cathedral," he said.

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Day Of Reflection Goers Encouraged To Live Virtue - Filled, Hopeful Lives

Photos And Text
By Bruce A. Tomaselli

As he began his presentation, Bishop Mark laughed as he recalled his first experience with the word "Magnanimity."

"It's not a word we often use and I had to research it myself," he recalled. But, it's an important word, he said, "that reminds us we must seek to live lives of virtue."

A virtue is a crucial life skill that enables a person to do the right thing easily, and to love God, and neighbor, and self, as if it were second nature. As many of us learned in parochial school and religious education classes, when it comes to our relationship with God, with our neighbor, and with ourselves, we are to love in a big way; with our whole mind, heart, soul, and strength.

There are many virtues, hundreds, said Bishop Mark, but the important ones include the Theological Virtues: faith, hope, and charity (love); and the Cardinal Virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak was the keynote speaker at the Catholic Life Day of Reflection held Saturday, September 30 in the Bertschi Center on the campus of Mount Aloysius College, Cresson. The day began with Mass concelebrated by Bishop



DAY OF REFLECTION: Women attending the Catholic Life Day of Reflection Saturday, September 30, show their interest in remarks made by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak during the keynote address. The annual event was held at the Bertschi Center on the campus of Mount Aloysius College, Cresson.

Mark and Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, rector of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.

The annual gathering focused on the essential virtue of magnanimity, which requires living, loving, and giving of one's self without expectation of a return. The event is sponsored by the Parish Life Office of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown.

Monsignor Mazur followed

the Bishop's presentation with a discussion on "Living a Virtuous Hope - Filled Life."

Nicole and Matt Heiss of Saint Catherine Parish in Duncansville, really enjoyed the morning. They said both Bishop Mark's and Monsignor Mazur's spiritual reflections were presented in such a way that made it very easy for all to relate.

"To practice living and loving in a positive, intentional big

way," was a great reminder for us, said Nicole. "We are to love as if it is second nature. We must love with our whole mind, heart, and strength."

Matt and Nicole also felt that Monsignor Mazur's message to be a beacon of hope for others resonated well with them. "We must break down barriers that destroy our hope," they added. Monsignor Mazur said that feelings such as loneliness,

anger, and negativity are obstacles to maintaining our hope.

"Scripture is filled with references to hope. Hope is defined as a Theological virtue in the Catechism of the Catholic Church in section 1817," he said for those that would like to read about it themselves.

Hope is a basic part of our lives. It is what distinguishes Christians from others. "Hope is the anchor that grounds us," said Monsignor Mazur. "Through life, the hope that God gave us is always there."

Magnanimity is defined as loftiness of spirit enabling one to bear trouble calmly, to disdain meanness and pettiness, and to display a noble generosity.

"Virtue," said Bishop Mark, "has no limits. It goes beyond what the world has placed on us."

Bishop Mark said we receive the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love at Baptism. He spoke of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: chastity, generosity, sacrifice, temperance, meekness, humility, and diligence.

"All of these things are building blocks to becoming a magnanimous person," he explained. "But, I'd like to add another type of virtue: heroic.

(Continued On Page 11.)

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**Official Publication of the
Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown**