



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

927 S. Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-2604

Telephone: (814) 695-5579

Fax: (814) 695-8894

Website: www.dioceseaj.org

February 6, 2017

To all Priests and Deacons,

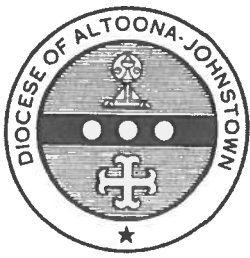
You are cordially invited to participate in the below-mentioned ecumenical service celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. You are welcome to vest and will participate in the procession of clergy.

Would you also kindly place this announcement in our parish bulletin?

All are invited to an ecumenical worship service celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which is to be held at 2 pm on Sunday, February 26, 2017 at First Lutheran Church in Altoona, PA (1401 12th Ave, Altoona PA). A highlight of this service is that we will have Bishop Donald McCoid (formerly Bishop of Pittsburgh and surrounding area) as our preacher and speaker. Bishop McCoid has recently retired as the Ecumenical Executive for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, who was instrumental in the creation of the ecumenical document "Declaration On the Way." This document collects the 32 points of agreement on ministry, mission, and Eucharist where Lutherans and Catholics agree. During the service, Bishop Michael Rhyne of the Allegheny Lutheran Synod, and Bishop Mark Bartchak will proclaim together these points of agreement. All are encouraged to participate in this historic celebration.

Sincerely,

(Rev. Msgr.) Michael A. Becker
Ecumenical Minister



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Parish Life Office

*Youth Ministry
Religious Education
Sacramental Preparation
933 S. Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
(814)693-1401 – Ext. 2646*

TO: All Clergy

FROM: Francine M. Swope
Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Religious Education & Sacramental Prep

RE: Youth Ministry News 2017

DATE: February 2, 2017

Greetings! As we begin February, it is hard believe one month of the new year is passed! The Youth Ministry Office is once again very busy with plans for upcoming programs for the young people of our diocese. Below are some of the current projects that are underway. I ask that you promote these programs and encourage your young people to attend. Attached you will find bulletin inserts concerning these events for use in your upcoming bulletins.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH DAY 2017

All DRE/CRE's, Youth Ministers and Catholic Schools received information on **Junior High Youth Day 2017**. It is scheduled for **Sunday, March 19**, at Bishop Carroll High School, Ebensburg.

Our theme for this year is, **“STAND UP! Being the UNIQUE YOU God Created!”**

The keynote for the day will be *Sean Patrick Malloy*. Sean is an up and coming musician and keynote speaker from the Harrisburg area. Through his music, humor, personal stories and faith sharing, Sean will leave our Junior High Youth participants laughing, smiling, deeply thinking, and engaged. His excitement, enthusiasm, and love of the faith has motivated and inspired many young people and adults.

The day will conclude with Mass with Bishop Mark. **THIS YEAR LITURGY WILL BE AT 3:00 pm**. All pastors are invited to concelebrate. Please call or email me if you will be attending.

FAITH DAY AT DELGROSSO'S

Mark your calendars!! Faith Day is scheduled for **Sunday, July 2** at DelGrosso Park in Tipton, PA. The day will once again include Liturgy with Bishop Mark, rides, the waterpark, games and activities for youth, and a diocesan picnic. More information on All Day Ride-n-Slide passes and the picnic will follow.

CAMP ZACCHAEUS and CAMP TIMOTHY 2017

We will once again be offering our diocesan summer camps at Camp Sequanota in Jennerstown.

Camp Timothy is scheduled for **June 18-22** **Camp Zacchaeus-** Week 1 - **July 16-21** and Week 2 - **July 23-28**.

All parishes and schools have been given forms to order brochures and posters for both camps. To date many have ordered, but we are still waiting for some to respond

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE 2017

The diocese is once again sponsoring a trip to the National Catholic Youth Conference. NCYC is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. The schedule includes keynote addresses, prayer, workshops, liturgy, opportunities to participate in reconciliation and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recreational activities, concerts, exhibits, and an interactive thematic park. NCYC 2017 is scheduled for **November 15-18** in Indianapolis, Indiana

I can say even as an adult, it is truly the faith experience of a lifetime! Gathering with over 23,000 young Catholics (and adult chaperones) to celebrate and share our faith—is amazing!!

Bishop Mark will once again join us for this pilgrimage. He spends time with our group and sponsors a luncheon for the group with discussion and Q & A after the meal.

I know the date seems like it is a long way off, but we need to register and get our spots reserved. Also, this gives everyone an opportunity to do fundraising to help defray the cost of the trip.

Please consider offering this trip for your young people - it can be life changing experience for them. Maybe there are one or two youth you can think of in the parish who can represent your parish. I would be happy to send brochures for you to distribute!

All DRE/CRE's, Youth Ministers and Confirmation Directors received this information. If you would also like to receive this information for yourself, please give me a call and I will be glad to forward it to you.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR TEENS WITH BISHOP MARK

There are three Eucharistic Adoration opportunities coming up in the next few months for our teens.

Saturday, February 18 at St. Rose of Lima in Altoona – 10:00 AM

Tuesday, March 21 at St. John Parish in Bellefonte- 6:00 PM

Saturday, April 1 at St. Michael Parish in St. Michael – 10:00 AM

Registration forms have been sent to all DRE/CRE's and Youth Ministers.

If you would like to help with confessions during any of these Adoration days, please contact the pastor of the parish.

As always if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to email (fswope@dioceseaj.org) or give me a Call (814)317-2646.

**PLEASE POST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
IN YOUR UPCOMING PARISH BULLETINS
YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE BULLETIN INSERTS for FEBRUARY 2017**

ATTENTION - ALL YOUTH GRADES 6-8:
YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH DAY 2017!
SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017 – BISHOP CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL, EBENSBURG
Featuring music and keynotes by Sean Patrick Malloy. Through music, humor and faith sharing,
Sean will treat our Junior High youth to a great day and a real faith connection!

The day will consist of uplifting keynotes, challenging games, and Liturgy with Bishop Mark. There will be lots of faith, fun and friendship for all! To register, contact your pastor, parish Director of Religious Education/ Youth Ministry or Catholic Elementary School Principal. Deadline to register is Friday, March 10th! Hope to see you there!!

ANGEL FUND 2017

Consider giving a gift now that will enrich the life of a young camper in the Summer of 2017!
Camp Zacchaeus Grades 4-9 and Camp Timothy Grades 10-12 (and newly graduated seniors 2017)

We are looking for people, groups, parishes or organizations to sponsor a child to attend
Camp Zacchaeus 2017 or Camp Timothy 2017 through the *Angel Fund*.

We will accept full or partial sponsorships of any amount to help cover the cost of camp – **(100 PERCENT of the funds collected through Angel Fund donations are dispersed to needy campers)**! If you are interested in sponsoring a child,
or for more information, please contact Francine Swope at the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office (814)814-317-2646, or mail your contribution directly to Camp Zacchaeus or Camp Timothy Angel Fund, 933 S. Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

Become an *Angel Fund* sponsor and help send a needy child to camp to experience a wonderful week of **Faith, Fun and Friendship** in the great outdoors!

DIOCESAN SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES 2017

Registrations for our diocesan summer camps, Camp Timothy (Grades 10-12 and newly graduated seniors) and Camp Zacchaeus (Grades 4-9) and are being accepted. Camp "Z" and Camp "T" offer our young people an opportunity to supercharge their faith in a wonderful outdoor setting of faith, fun and friendship!

Due to the generosity of many of the faithful in our diocese there are Angel Fund scholarships available to help offset the cost of camp for any family who is eligible. Every year we have had a pool of donors that continue to support the Angel Fund. We have been very blessed that we have never have had to turn any down any family that wanted to send their child to Camp Zacchaeus or Camp Timothy. We do not want ANY child to miss camp because of financial concerns. Scholarship forms are available through the Youth Ministry Office.

DATES: Camp Timothy – June 18-22

Camp Zacchaeus – Week 1-July 16-21 and Week 2-July 23-28

For more information or an application, contact Francine Swope in the Youth Ministry Office (814)317-2646.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
FAITH DAY 2017 AT DELGROSSO AMUSEMENT PARK!
SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2017**

Featuring Liturgy with Bishop Mark Bartchak, games, rides, expansive pool and waterpark, And of course, delicious DelGrosso's food!

More information on meal tickets and reduced rate "All Day Ride and Slide" passes to come!

It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.
Saint Theresa of Kolkata

2016 Annual Catholic Appeal Receipts

In January we mailed 10,000 charitable gift receipts for cumulative contributions made to the ACA throughout 2016. We believe many contributors prefer to receive these receipts as they begin to prepare their income tax filings.

Unfortunately, a handful of contributors believed this to be an invitation to support and have sent us checks for the receipt amount. I am returning these checks with a note clarifying the situation and informing them the 2017 campaign will not be mailed until late April.

If the parish receives similar gifts, we would encourage you to return them as well.

2017 Diocesan Annual Campaign

[Originally e-mailed from "giving@dioceseaj.org" to Pastors, Parochial Administrators and Parish Secretaries.]

Please note that the diocesan annual campaign will take place after Easter this year.

- Campaign Announcement on April 29/30, the Third Sunday of Easter
- Campaign Commitment on May 6/7, the Fourth Sunday of Easter

There are many details which we intend to finalize in the very near future, including campaign title, parish goals, etc. We will also have a revised "order form" for campaign materials and gift processing preferences.

Thank you for your patience during the "silent" phase of this year's campaign.

Development Office	(814) 695-5577	giving@dioceseaj.org
Chris Ringkamp , Director	ext. 2686	cringkamp@dioceseaj.org
Connie Veller , Administrative Secretary	ext. 2679	cveller@dioceseaj.org
Mary Boslet , Development Assistant <i>Gift recording, census updates</i>	ext. 2678	mboslet@dioceseaj.org



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Family Life Office

5379 Portage St.
Lilly, PA 15938
Telephone (814) 886-5551
familylife@dioceseaj.org
www.dioceseaj.org

February 7, 2017

TO: Priests/Deacons
FROM: Family Life Office
RE: FOCCUS inventory online

The implementation of the FOCCUS instrument online has been very successful! The online change has met a need of the priests/deacons who no longer have to administer the paper copy inventory to the engaged couples. You will only have to discuss the results with them as you have done in the past. The new process has also been well received by the engaged couples.

Please allow us to once again review the changes regarding the online process:

- When a newly engaged couple is ready to take their FOCCUS Pre-Marital Inventory, you will simply have them contact the Family Life Office at 814-886-5551 or email familylife@dioceseaj.org and convey that they are in need of taking the FOCCUS inventory

The engaged couple needs to provide the following information:

- 1) first and last names of both
- 2) email addresses of both (required in order to take online)
- 3) name of the priest/deacon who should receive the results and will be going over these results with the engaged couple. FOCCUS is not a pass or fail test, it is a very helpful tool to go over strengths and weak areas in relationships.

For your convenience we developed a handout that you can give the couples containing all the information they need to start this process. A copy is included with this letter for you to reproduce or you can contact our office for printed copies.

- Our office staff will give the couple step by step instructions on how to access the inventory online in the convenience of their own homes. The inventory is based on the honor system. We tell couples they are to take the inventory by themselves, not together. The couples will be given a separate and different inventory to protect the authenticity.
- Once the couple has finished the inventory online, their responses will automatically be scored by FOCCUS and the results will be emailed to the Family Life Office. We will then forward the results by email to the priest/deacon who requested the inventory. We can also send a printed copy upon request.
- This fee has not changed and will continue to remain at \$15.00. You will receive an invoice at the end of May and November for all the inventories in that six month period.

The only task required of the clergy is to simply refer the couples to the Family Life office by calling or emailing our office. We will take care of answering all of the couple's questions and guide them through the steps needed to successfully complete the inventory.

The **FOCCUS® Pre-Marriage Inventory** is designed to help engaged couples appreciate their unique relationship, learn more about themselves, and discuss topics important to their lifelong marriage.

Are you ready to take your online FOCCUS?

To receive the necessary information to start the online process, contact the Diocesan Family Life Office at 814-886-5551 or email familylife@dioceseaj.org. Please provide your first/last names, both email addresses (required to take online) and name of the priest/deacon and parish that will receive your results. FOCCUS will email each of you a login ID and password to begin your separate session.



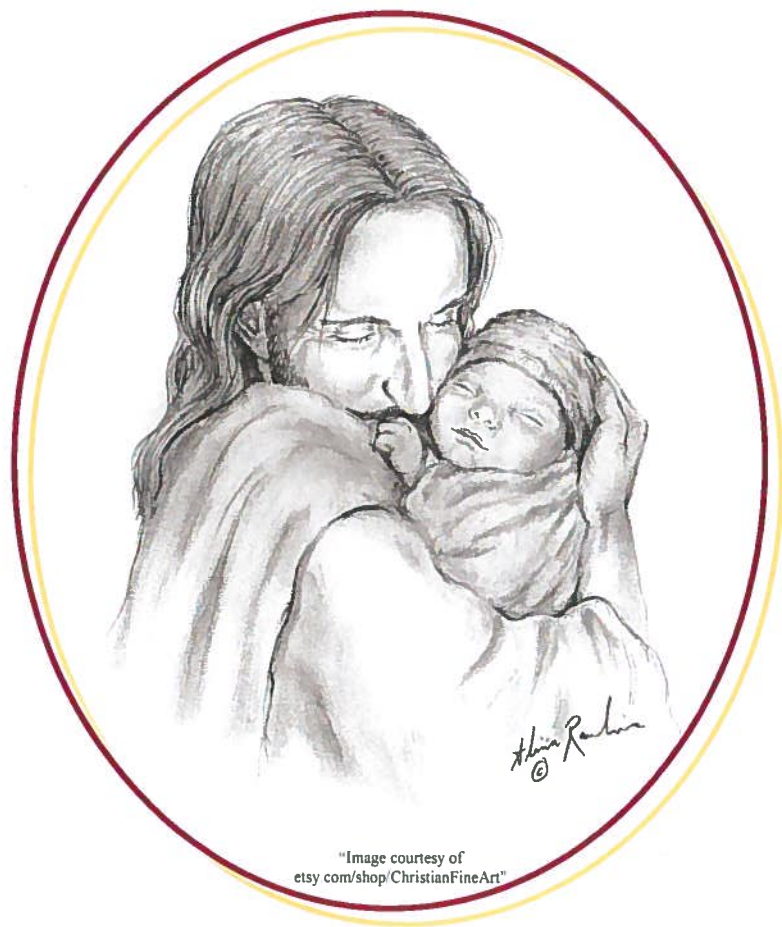
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Heaven's Treasure Program



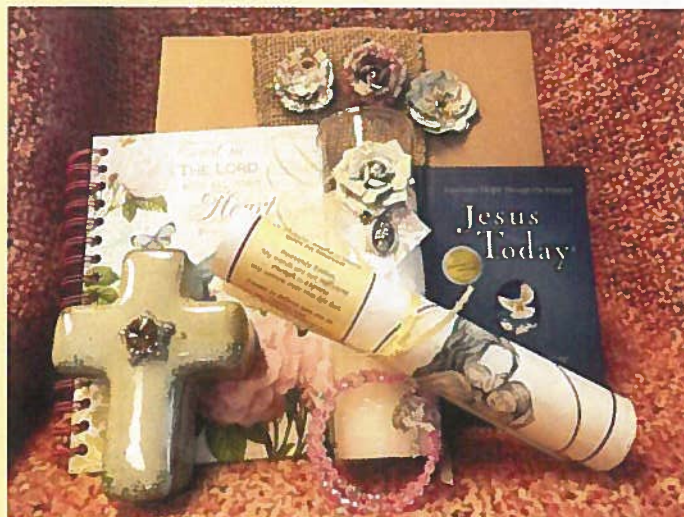
The Family Life Office of the Altoona–Johnstown Diocese, through the generous grant of the Nazareth Family Foundation, is very humbled and blessed to introduce a new ministry, titled *Heaven's Treasure*.

This ministry attempts to reach out to families who have experienced the loss of a child through miscarriage or early fetal death by providing them with spiritual tools to help them to grieve their child through the care of the Catholic Church and also give families tangible memorials which forever recognizes and celebrates their child's life no matter how briefly they may have lived.

Each *Heaven's Treasure* box comes with...

- ~Certificate of Life
- ~Remembrance Candle
- ~St. Gianna Medal
- ~Rosary Bracelet
- ~Meditation Book
- ~Prayer Journal
- ~Keepsake Box

The *Heaven's Treasure* boxes can be obtained through the Family Life Office, 5379 Portage St., Lilly, PA 15938. Treasure boxes are available at a reduced price of \$20 due to the generous grant. The boxes are only available for sale in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. Call our office for more information at 814-886-5551 or email familylife@dioceseaj.org.





Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministries

625 Park Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15902

Telephone: (814) 361-2000

E-mail: mheinze@dioceseaj.org

Website: www.ajdiocese.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry

To: Pastors and Bulletin Editors
From: The Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry

-Bulletin Announcement-

Please run this announcement in bulletins as space allows.
Thank you!

Christian Prayer and Spirituality Course will be offered at two locations this March. Sr. Marilyn Welch, CCW will be teaching Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 PM at **St. Catherine of Siena, Duncansville**, beginning March 7th and Deacon Michael Russo will be teaching Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 PM at **St. Patrick School, Johnstown** beginning March 6th. During this 8 week course, participants will explore both traditional and contemporary expressions of Christian prayer and spirituality that will help deepen their relationship with God. The cost of this course which includes registration and materials is \$55. For further information and registration please contact the Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry at (814) 361-2000 or email mheinze@dioceseaj.org. **All our welcome!**