

TO: Clergy of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

FROM: Rev. John J. Slovickovski, Ph.D., Director, Ongoing Formation of Clergy

RE: Fall Clergy Conference

DATE: August 30, 2017

It is difficult to believe where 2017 has gone and that the Fall Clergy Conference is fast approaching. With that in mind, I am pleased to inform you that the presenter/facilitator for the Clergy Conference is Father Rev. Raymond F. Dlugos, OSA, Ph.D.

Father Ray Dlugos is an Augustinian Friar from the Villanova Province (Eastern United States) who is currently the Vice-President for Mission and Ministry at Merrimack College in North Andover, MA. Born and raised in the Philadelphia area, he was ordained a priest in 1983. He served as a high school teacher (St. John Neumann High School, Golden Gate, FL from 1984-88) and as a parish priest (St. Denis Parish, Havertown, PA from 1988-1990) before becoming the Director of Vocations for the Augustinians in 1990. He began studies in Psychology in 1994 and received a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University at Albany, State University of New York in 1999. He is a licensed psychologist in the State of New York and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Upon completion of his doctoral studies, Father Ray joined the staff of the Southdown Institute in Aurora, ON in September of 1999. Founded in 1966 by a priest and a group of lay people to help priests recover effectively from alcohol abuse and dependence, The Southdown Institute evolved in a comprehensive residential treatment center helping priests and men and women vowed to religious life to recover from the entire spectrum of psychological, behavioral, and emotional disorders. Father Ray served there as a Psychologist responsible for group therapy, individual psychotherapy, and psychological assessments until being appointed Vice President in August of 2002 and elected Chief Executive Officer in June of 2003. He held that post until coming to Merrimack in 2008.

Please note that the FALL CLERGY CONFERENCE is MANDATORY. Absence requires permission from the Bishop's office prior to the event. This year's conference will take place at Seven Springs Resort for October 16 – October 18. If you must arrive late or leave early, arrangements can be accommodated to stay for one evening for the conference. Regardless of your intention, you need only call the office at 814-536-6110 or email mofarrell@dioceseaj.org with your reservation and your choice of meals. If you do not send payment to the office prior to the event, your

parish will be billed following the conference. A reservation sheet accompanies this memo.

The Spring Clergy Conference will conclude with lunch on Wednesday, October 18. The morning sessions will include a discussion of related topics with Bishop Mark.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at our Fall Clergy Gathering. Not only is it a time to engage in ongoing formation for us, but also a time to renew our commitment to one another and to our diocesan Church by means of our priestly fraternity.

**Fall Clergy Gathering
Schedule
October 16-18, 2017
Seven Springs Resort**

Monday, October 16, 2017

- 10:00 A.M. Arrival (Register at Hotel Lobby; Obtain Program Packets)¹
- 11:30 A.M. Lunch (Dining Room)
- 1:00 P.M. Opening Prayer & Introductory Remarks
- 1:15 P.M. Session I (Seasons 1, 2, & 3)
- 2:45 P.M. Break
- 3:00 P.M. Session II (Seasons 1, 2, & 3)
- 5:00 P.M. Break
- 5:15 P.M. Evening Prayer (Seasons)
- 5:30 P.M. Social (Alpine Room)
- 6:00 P.M. Dinner (Alpine Room)²
- 7:30 P.M. Session III (Seasons 1, 2, & 3)
- 9:00 P.M. Social Time (Cash Bar Open)

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

- 8:00 A.M. Breakfast (Dining Room)
- 9:15 A.M. Morning Prayer (Seasons)
- 9:30 A.M. Session IV (Seasons 1, 2, & 3)
- 10:45 A.M. Break
- 11:00 A.M. Eucharist
- 12 Noon Lunch (Dining Room)
- 1:30 P.M. FREE TIME
- 5:30 P.M. Social (Alpine Room)
- 6:30 P.M. Dinner
- 8:00 P.M. Night Prayer
- 9:00 PM Social (cash bar open)

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

- 7:30 A.M. Breakfast (Dining Room)
- 8:45 A.M. Morning Prayer (Seasons Room).
- 9:00 A.M. Session V(Seasons 1, 2, & 3)
- 9:50 A.M. Break
- 10:00 A.M. Session VI / Q&A (Seasons 1, 2, & 3)
- 11:00 A.M. Closing Comments as Required
- 11:15 A.M. Eucharist
- 12 Noon Lunch and Departure

¹ All meal tickets will be included in your packet

² Car bar during dinner with exception of wine or soda.

Fall Presbyteral Gathering

Seven Springs Resort
Champion, Pennsylvania
October 16-18, 2017

____ I will not attend because I have been excused by Bishop Bartchak's Office.

____ I will be sharing a room with _____

____ I prefer a single room.

____ I am making a special request (see below)¹

Name: _____

Please choose one dinner option for each day.

Monday, October 16th

____ Spinach & Ricotta Ravioli

____ Chicken Scallopini

____ Vegan Vegetarian

Tuesday, October 17th

____ Roasted Beef Tenderloin

____ Maryland Crab Cakes

____ Vegan Vegetarian

Please make your check payable to the **Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown (\$410 per person for a double room; \$450 for a single room).**

Please return this form and your check by **Monday, September 29, 2017** to the address below. Thank you.

**Office of Ongoing Formation
Attn: Melanie
1127 McKinley Ave.
Johnstown, PA 15905**

¹ All issues (rooms, dates, dietary needs, etc. should be indicated here.)



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: All Pastors and Parish Bulletin Editors
FROM: Deacon Michael Russo, Ministerial Coordinator
RE: The Shroud of Turin Talk
DATE: September 19, 2017

~Bulletin Announcement~

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

SAVE THE DATE!

The Shroud of Turin Talk will be held once again at St. Benedict Parish, 2310 Bedford St., Johnstown, **Sunday, October 29th at 3:00 PM.** In 2013 Bill Wingard established "**Shroud Talks**" to present the history and science of the **Shroud of Turin** and tackle the biggest mystery...**Is the shroud the actual burial cloth?** Personal research coupled with the knowledge and help of the original photographer, Barrie Schwartz, for scientific evaluation in 1978 make for a powerful and comprehensive presentation that will not disappoint. **You are invited to hear the talk and see the full size replica of the Shroud of Turin.** Attendees are encouraged to bring their cameras. Priests will be available after the presentation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. No tickets are required; a love offering will be collected. For more information contact Deacon Michael at 814- 288-3036. **All are welcome!**



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

TO: Pastors and Bulletin Editors
FROM: The Office of Lay Ministry

Please place this notice in your bulletin as space permits.

As always, thank you!

Adult Enrichment Classes

Education is a lifelong journey. Since we are all called to holiness, we have an obligation to grow and nurture our faith. Classes are offered through the *Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry* to help nurture YOUR faith. Beginning November 14th the 8 week course, **Old Testament**, taught by Fr. Brian Saylor, will be offered at St. Rose of Lima, Altoona, Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM. The class **Sacraments**, will be offered in two locations this January: Msgr. Robert Mazur will be teaching at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament – Seton Suite, Altoona Mondays, 6:30-9:00 PM, beginning January 8th. Fr. D. Timothy Grimme will be teaching at St. Michael Church Hall, St. Michael Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 PM, beginning January 9th. **These classes are open to all interested.** For further information and registration please contact Marybeth at (814) 361-2000. Class information and forms are available online at www.dioceneaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry/

The **COLLECTION** Basket



Family Life Office

5379 Portage Street

Lilly, PA 15938

(814) 886-5551

familylife@dioceseaj.org

OCTOBER 2017

Volume XXXII, Number 11

IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

Family Ritual

The Church makes us aware of 3 important dates this month: **Respect Life Sunday, Vocation Awareness Sunday, and World Mission Sunday.** They all require three means of sacrifice on our behalf. *Prayer-* Pray for the unborn, elderly, physically and mentally disabled; priests, deacons, religious, singles and married couples; the poor of the world and the missionaries who serve them. *Time-* Take time to learn how you can get involved in the organizations that support all three.

Tithing- Give financially to alleviate some of the burdens that are associated with respecting life in all forms, educating the religious and supporting the works they do, and giving to the poor of the world.



Families and the Gospel

October 1

Mt. 21:28-32

In today's gospel Jesus asked, "What is your opinion?" Why do we think our opinion is dogma or fact? An opinion is only how we perceive a situation or how we feel comfortable doing something. Don't argue over or become divided by "your opinion."

October 8

Mt. 21:33-43

Children will reject many parental values as they grow up and develop their own identity. Like the landowner in today's gospel, parents may feel disappointed or rejected after investing so much of themselves. Today Jesus advises parents to make rejection "the cornerstone" of a new and richer relationship with your developing children.

October 15

Mt. 22:1-14

The king in today's gospel had a bottom line beyond which he would not negotiate. As parents we need to identify what is critical (non-negotiable) and what is open to discussion. Not all issues are equal.

October 22

Mt. 22:15-21

Jesus sounds like a frustrated parent when he says "Why are you testing me?" Children test parents because that is how they learn limits. Imitate Jesus in today's gospel: be firm but fair.

October 29

Mt. 22:34-40

In today's gospel the Pharisees were asking about a commandment (something we have to do)! And Jesus was talking about love (what we want to do with our "whole heart, mind and soul"). In families we daily lay down our lives for one another, not because of a law but out of love.



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A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

*The greatest honor
you can give Almighty God,
greater than all your sacrifices and
mortifications, is to* **LIVE
JOYFULLY**
because of the knowledge of His love

JULIANA OF NORWICH

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Passion for Life

By Jeanne Hunt

Madelyn sits in the last pew of church. Her thoughts and prayers go to the faces she encountered that day as the parish director of religious education.

First, she treasures the image of little Henry whose parents brought him to the Baptism class. Next, Madelyn sees Clara attending Mass with her daughter, Linda. Clara gets confused now and she's pushing 90 and needs constant care. Finally, she prays for Anna, a sophomore in high school who is six months pregnant.

A Response: Soon to be baptized, Henry weighs six pounds and came into this world two months early. Madelyn remembers the tears in Henry's parents' eyes as she shared with them God's love for their infant son. Without regret and with amazing patience, Linda put aside her busy life to be her mother's companion. Madelyn recalls Linda's words, "Once she diapered, fed and cared for me. Now it's my turn. Life comes full circle." The youth group is planning a baby shower for Anna, and the Young Mothers' group is gathering used items for a nursery. Madelyn makes a mental note to call the baby's father to see how he's doing.

Madelyn's weary "Amen" comes with knowledge that God will keep them all under the shadow of his wing. As she prepares to leave, Madelyn turns, and looks at the silent sanctuary and crucifix and thanks Jesus for this Church that cares so passionately for life.

Every Catholic parish is pro-life. We cannot be theoretically in favor of a consistent ethic of life; we must act on that conviction. From cradle to grave we must provide support and care for everyone. The most necessary support are to those in crisis. Ministry to the unborn, the marginalized, the sick and dying must be our special concern. The gospel is a guidebook in this work. Just as Jesus sought out the lepers, the lame, the Samaritan woman, the children, we need to look around our parish family and help those who struggle.

We don't need an organization or monthly meeting to live the mandate of pro-life. What we need is awareness and a decision to do something. Catholic families can do simple things like adopt a nursing home patient who has no one or volunteer to provide child care for a family who can't afford to pay a babysitter. We must pray for the sick and dying. Keeping God's family is everyone's concern. Church isn't just a place to visit once a week; it's a life choice—putting the gospel of life into action.

Used with permission from: *Every Day Catholic*.
28 W. Liberty St., Cincinnati, OH 45202 or www.EveryDayCatholic.org

The Pumpkin Prayer

Author Unknown



Dear God,

As I carve my pumpkin help me say this prayer:

Open my mind so I can learn about You. (Cut the top)

Take away all my sins and forgive me for the wrong things I do. (Clean out the inside)

Open my eyes so Your love I will see. (Cut the eyes out in heart shapes)

I'm so sorry for turning up my nose to all you've given me. (Cut a nose in the shape of a cross)

Open my ears so your word I will hear. (Cut the ears shaped like the Bible)

Open my mouth so I can tell others You are near. (Cut the mouth)

Let Your light shine in all I say and do! Amen. (Place a candle inside and light it)

Reprinted with permission from:
The Family Life Office NEWSLETTER

Sing...Dance...Climb...

By William Arthur Ward

Sing a new song, dance a new step, take a new path.

Think a new thought, accept a new responsibility, memorize a new poem.

Try a new recipe, plan a new adventure, entertain a new idea.

Learn a new language, blaze a new trail, enjoy a new experience.

Make a new friend, read a new book, see a new movie.

Climb a new hill, scale a new mountain, launch a new career.

Find a new purpose, fill a new need, light a new lamp.

Exercise a new strength, grasp a new truth, practice a new awareness.

Discover a new answer, envision a new image, conceive a new system.

Dream a new dream, chart a new course, build a new life.

Open a new door, explore a new possibility, capture a new vision.

Watch a new program, be a new person, radiate a new enthusiasm.

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"Apple Seeds"
Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R.

