

# The Catholic Register



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## Schools Will Taylor National Theme To Local Celebration Of Catholic Schools Week

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

Catholic Schools Week is celebrated with special activities every year. But the spirit of the week is a daily theme that courses through the schools in religious activities and academics.

The young students benefit from the religious guidance, prayers and support their parishes provide. Many parishes are celebrating Mass during the week devoted to Catholic Education.

The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), has proclaimed this year's special week, January 28 through February 3, to honor Catholic schools in our nation.

The NCEA has developed a new theme this year: "Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed." Through a variety of events, schools focus on the value Catholic Education provides to young people and its contribution to Church, local communities and the nation.

The NCEA has suggested themes that each school may celebrate daily. They are: Celebrating the Local Community; Celebrating Students; honoring the Nation, Families, Vocations, Faculty, Staff and Volunteers. The schools come up with unique activities to celebrate each day. Charity Sister Donna Marie Leiden, diocesan director of Education; and Jo - Ann Semko, assistant director of Education; are very happy with the schools this



# Catholic Schools

Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

year. "Things are going very well," said Sister Donna Marie. "This is a great year for our schools. So far it

has been a smooth year."

The week will be observed with Masses, open houses and a

many activities involving the students, families, parishioners and community members.

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**SAINT ANDREW CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS:** Christmas traditions came alive at Saint Andrew Parish, Johnstown, Sunday, December 24, 2017 when Father Angelo Patti, pastor, read the Christmas story to Religious Education students, and then joined them in presenting their annual Nativity play at Christmas Eve Mass.

**Community**

**March For Life**

**Loretto:** The Saint Francis University community welcomes Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and Pro - Life advocates for the 5th annual "March for Life on the Mountain" today, Monday, January 22.

The SFU event has been

recognized by Marchforlife.org as an official Pro - Life march, and will coincide with the 45th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade and the March for Life in Washington DC..

The Rosary will be recited prior to the March in the Immaculate Conception Chapel, located on campus, beginning at 10:30 a.m. This will be followed by several guest speakers. The March itself will begin at 11:00 a.m. in front of the Chapel. The walk will then proceed around the mall in the center of campus and will conclude at approximately 11:55 a.m, followed by Mass. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held immediately following the Mass, until 5:00 p.m.

For further information contact Paul Girardi in the Campus Ministry department at Saint

Francis University at (814) 472 - 3328.

The March on the Mountain is sponsored by the Saint Francis University Campus Ministry Department and Students for Life.

Learn more at [francis.edu/marchforlife](http://francis.edu/marchforlife).

**Foundation**

**Strong Results Shown**

**Altoona:** Through the efforts of its Finance Committee, portfolio manager Christian Brothers Investment Services, and consultant Cornerstone Advisors, the Independent Catholic Foundation announces that its investment portfolio increased 14.7% in calendar year 2017.

*(Continued On Page 3.)*



**BLESSING BAGS:** During Advent 2017, Religious education students and teachers at Saint Patrick Parish, Johnstown, collected, packed and delivered 70 Blessing Bags, containing personal care items, hats, gloves, school supplies, coloring and activity books, which were donated by parishioners, local businesses and Conemaugh Health System, for women and children residents of the Women's Help Center in Johnstown.

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**THE DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN**

**Director of Education**

This position is responsible for furthering the mission of the Diocesan Catholic Schools by providing impactful educational and spiritual leadership to entire staff and students in addition to presiding over general operations of the elementary and secondary schools beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

To view job description and application requirements go to [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org). Information must be submitted by January 29, 2018 to 927 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; Attn: Human Resources.

# In The Alleghenies



**ADVENT PARTY:** Religious Education students and teachers at All Saints Parish, Boswell, held an Advent Party Sunday, December 17, 2017. The event included a visit from Santa Claus. During November, the students joined parish members in collecting items to be sent to needy children. Of the 60 Samaritan's Purse boxes sent, one was tracked to Kenya.



**NATIVITY PLAY:** Religious Education students at Saint Bernard Parish, Hastings, presented a nativity play before and after Christmas Eve Masses, Sunday, December 24, 2017.

*(Continued From Page 2.)*

With its investment value growing \$5 million since December 31, 2016, the Foundation now has \$31 million under management for the first time in its history. As investments increase, so too does the amount of the annual distribution to beneficiary ministries.

In addition to the double-digit portfolio return, the Foundation received \$1.6 million in contributions to existing endowments or to the eleven new endowments that were created throughout the year. The Foundation now manages 255 permanent endowments that benefit parishes, schools, cemeteries, religious orders, scholarship funds and diocesan ministries.

The Independent Catholic

Foundation was established 28 years ago as a self-governing, non-profit organization to manage permanent endowments for the long-term benefit of Catholic causes of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown. The Foundation has grown as a result of ordinary Catholics making extraordinary planned gifts. The portfolio investment policy is based on socially-responsible Catholic values influenced by fiscal guidelines issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is recognized as a four-star charity by Charity Navigator.

To learn how to contribute to an existing parish, school or ministry endowment, or create your own named endowment, contact the Foundation at (814) 201-2080 or [www.icfdaj.org](http://www.icfdaj.org).

## High Schools

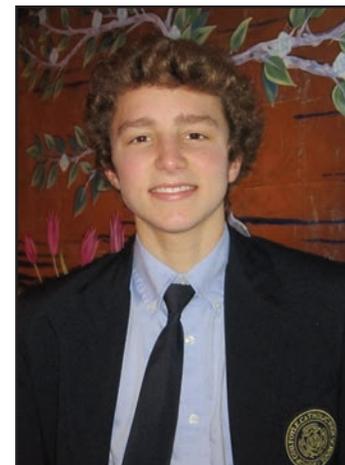
### Open House

**Ebensburg:** Bishop Carroll Catholic High School will hold an Open House for parents and students on Wednesday, January 31 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.. A financial aid meeting will follow from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

All new students will be eligible for a drawing for a \$250.00 scholarship. Parents can fill out a ticket at the door and the drawing will be held at the end of the financial aid meeting. You must be present to win.

Representatives from Saint Francis University, Saint Vincent College, and Mount Aloysius College will also be on

**RECOGNIZED:** Kyle Ruggery was the Altoona Sunrise Rotary Student of the month for December 2017. Altoona Sunrise Rotary recognizes students for their potential leadership, good grades and involvement in community service. Kyle is a sophomore at Bishop Guilfoyle (BGCHS). He is very involved in community service in the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown as well as student activities and athletics at BGCHS. He has participated in Autism Awareness Basketball Tournament as a coach and score keeper. Doug West Basketball Camp for Kids as a coach and mentor and BGCHS Basketball Summer Camp for youth as a coach and mentor. Kyle is Vice-President of his class both freshman and sophomore years. He is a



member of the Spanish Club and Point Guard for J.V. and Varsity Basketball Team as well as Pitcher and Infielder in Baseball. Kyle is honored to be recognized for his academics and community service affiliations, not just athletics.

hand to explain the financial and educational advantages for attending Bishop Carroll and continuing on to one of these institutions.

For more information, please call the school at (814) 472-7500 extension 105 or email [jnagy@bishopcarroll.org](mailto:jnagy@bishopcarroll.org).

## Prayer

### Carmelite Novena

**Loretto:** The year's first novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Therese, the Little Flower, offered by the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, will open today, Monday, January 22, and conclude Tuesday, January 30.

All intentions submitted to the Nuns will be remembered with the special novena prayers recited following daily Mass.

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 requested 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, fol-

lowed by veneration of the relic of Saint Therese.

## Cursillos

**Ebensburg:** The Altoona - Johnstown Cursillo community offers opportunities to make a fresh spiritual start to the New Year.

Two Cursillo weekends will be held in the Spring at Mount Saint Ann Retreat Center. Men's Cursillo #121, will be held April 19 - 22, and Women's Cursillo #122 will take place April 26 - 29.

For further information contact Pre-Cursillo chairpeople Mike and Juanita Kissell at [MJKISSELL73@gmail.com](mailto:MJKISSELL73@gmail.com).



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## Point Of View

“Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.”

For months, I have listened to familiar words from a distance, spending part of every Mass in the chapel next to our church’s sanctuary, nursing our youngest when he fusses.

“May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,” I hear echoing off the chapel walls, “for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy church.”

I long to be back in the pew, but the baby spits up again. The contrast cuts sharp in my mind’s eye: the priest’s hands holding shining gold vessels, mine swabbing stains with a damp burp cloth.

What is the sacrifice at the priest’s hands that we celebrate in call and response? The gifts of bread and wine, our prayers of praise and thanksgiving, the memorial of Christ’s sacrifice of love?

Yes to all of this. The sacred mysteries of our faith.

But sitting apart from the congregation, I hear it differently, too. Voices young and old joined together, gathering from homes and schools and workplaces, offering the sacrifices of their lives to God.

Their voices remind me to look down and see the sacrifice I hold in my lap. The surrender of my own desires to my child’s needs.

“May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands.” I carry these words as I bring the baby back to our pew.



## Faith At Home

By Laura Kelly Fanucci  
**The Sacrifice At Your Hands**

Could this refrain be a prayer I carry into my ordinary time? To ask that the sacrifices of my own hands might become a worthy offering to God?

Sacrifice is thick at the hands I know, once I open my eyes to see.

Adult children caring for their aging father, bathing and feeding the one who once washed and fed them. A single mother who stays up late sewing to support her three children with special needs. New bakery owners who spend hours kneading dough and crunching numbers to birth their dream.

I pray for them as the week winds on. As I pull wet laundry from the washer, carry groceries, wipe the dog’s paws and pour medicine for sick children.

May the Lord accept the sacrifices at these hands, too. The gifts of lives poured out and broken open and given up in humble memory of the God we love.



CNS Photo/Michael J. Johnson

Think of all the things hands can do. Think of the thousand things your hands have done this week.

Our hands type spreadsheets and file bills. They grow grimy with dirt in gardens to feed others. They get slick with motor oil to keep machines running. They send texts to friends and hold open doors for strangers.

Hands get calloused from shoveling, pruned from washing and wrinkled from years of labor. They raise families, build businesses, support communities and fix problems.

Not all hands offer sacrifice, of course. We can be tempted toward selfishness instead. Some hands cannot hold or carry, so they need the support of others.

But the limits of our fingers teach us as much as their abilities. We do not get through life without help. And we all know when our hands have done hard work out of love.

We may never grasp the fullness of Christ’s sacrifice -- on the cross or in every Eucharist. But what we touch here on earth can remind us.

In the words of St. Teresa of Avila, Christ has no hands now but yours.



## Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein  
**The ‘Old Country’  
Was No Garden Of Eden**

As the grandson of immigrants I am both appalled by President Trump’s use of a particularly egregiously vulgar term to describe the countries that immigrants come from, but compelled to say that I understand what he was getting at when he used that term.

My maternal grandparents had vastly different experiences of life in “the old country” -- Italy -- and very different experiences of what it meant to be an immigrant.

Grandma Ferramini was four - years - old when she came here in 1913. She was born and raised in Sicily, not on the Italian mainland. Her memories were the rosy ones of a little girl who took a walk through the hilly streets of her hometown every evening with her grandfather, and who was excited to have a new coat to wear on her voyage to America. Sicily had been part of the old Kingdom of Naples and the Two Sicilies, and was a very traditional community. Grandma respected the King and the House of Savoy, and had a great regard for Princess Mafalda, the King’s second daughter. Grandma’s wish to someday see Italy again was frustrated by the fact that Grandpa refused to go!

Grandpa was 21 when he came to the United States. He left Italy just as Benito Mussolini was usurping the constitution and the powers of the King, and establishing his Fascist dictatorship. The kindest word Grandpa ever had for the King of Italy was that he was “crooked,” a man whose politics led to the death of Princess Mafalda in the Buchenwal Concentration Camp.

Grandpa had hoped to come here with his parents and younger siblings, but couldn’t leave Italy until he completed his two years of compulsory military service. The Italian army had been decimated by the First World War. Grandpa’s unit was assigned to service as prison guards in Rome, and his stories were harrowing. He told of sitting up all night with a dying comrade at arms -- not a humanitarian gesture, but waiting to take the man’s boots when he died; there was no other way to get a new pair.

Grandpa Ferramini thanked God every day for having had the opportunity to come to the United States of America and to build a better life than anything he could have had in Italy. He never wanted to go back. The old country was a place best left behind.

His memories of life in Italy make me feel sure that he would have been unapologetic in using a pretty harsh term to describe his native land; maybe not the term President Trump used, but one just as strong. And, I must say, he would have been justified.

Immigrants don’t leave home because their country of origin is the Garden of Eden. They leave because there are limited opportunities for the things that we hold dear: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Immigrants wanted something better, and they found it here.

If we apply the President’s vulgar term to the immigrants themselves, then we’re in big trouble. Immigrants are not the problem: they are the ones who made America great, and have continued to do so. Thank God for them!

Children depend on parents, relatives, teachers and many adults to provide them with love, support and guidance as they learn and grow. We all want to see every child grow up to his or her full potential. It will also take all of us to create safe environments within our parishes, schools and diocese. Everyone can make a difference to support a safe culture for all ages. It's as simple as 1-2-3-4.

1. Recognize abuse exists and we can do something about it.

Awareness that child sexual abuse exists and can affect anyone is a start. It is critical to build safety around children and young people to keep them from harm. These come in the form of protective guardians, codes of conduct, background evaluations, policies and procedures, and safety training programs.

2. Everyone is accountable and need to follow the same rules.

What some think is just common sense is not all that common. Not everyone automatically knows boundaries. If people wish to volunteer for the church, in a parish or school, they must follow diocesan guidelines on background checks, safe environment training, policies and procedures, and codes of conduct. Making the rules and boundaries clear and the same for everyone makes sense...common sense. No one, no matter who they are,



## Creating Safe Environments: It's Everyone's Responsibility

By Cindy O'Connor



has an automatic right to be around children or young people who are in the care of the church without proper screening and without following the rules.

3. Everyone can do his or her part.

Sometimes, people are afraid to report abuse or neglect because they don't want to break up a family. People don't want to get involved in someone else's problem. When you report suspected child abuse or neglect, you could be saving that child's life. You also are keeping all families safe.

## 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

4. Communication is key.

When parents and caregivers are involved and talk about what is happening in their lives children learn how to communicate and share. Children try to protect their parents from bad news, so they need to learn they can tell their parents anything. Conversations can include understanding personal and physical boundaries that make all children safer. The more effective safe environment programs include parents in the learning process. This gives the child a clear signal that this subject is not off limits but instead is something to be talked about with family members.

For vulnerable populations, feeling "safe" involves not only the physical environment, but also emotional and psychological well-being. Safe church policies help protect the most vulnerable among us. Everyone is safer when policies are in place and are carefully followed.

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown currently of reviewing the existing youth protection policies and anticipates to be finalized by the second quarter of 2018. For inquires on youth protection or to schedule training workshops on Youth Protection Awareness and Mandated Reporting, please contact Cindy O'Connor at (814) 695-5579, extension 2621 or via email at [coconnor@dioceseaj.org](mailto:coconnor@dioceseaj.org).

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

### Huntingdon - - Mifflin - - Juniata Counties

The Abuse Network  
(717) 242-2444  
Abusenetwork.org

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

### Clinton County

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

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

### Franklin - - Fulton Counties

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

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

### Centre County

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

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

## Reporting Child Abuse

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown are firmly committed to protecting children and young people. If you have any information concerning suspected sexual or other abuse of minors, you are urged to report it immediately to:

- PA Child Line 1 - 800- 932 - 0313 (intake is available 24/7)
- Pennsylvania Attorney General Hotline (888) 538 - 8541
- Pennsylvania State Police Headquarters (717) 783 - 5599 or your local Pennsylvania State Police Station
- Your local police department

If there is an indication of imminent danger, you should call 911 immediately.

The Diocese reports all information regarding sexual abuse of minors to law enforcement. You are urged to do the same. Anyone may and should report suspected child sexual abuse.

To report to the Diocese any suspected abuse of a minor, please call Jean Johnstone at (814) 944 - 9388.

## Bank's Gift Will Help Diocese Educate Students In Need

**Photo And Text  
By Bruce A. Tomaselli**

Christmas may have just ended, but First National Bank keeps on giving. The local financial institution presented a check for \$49,000 to the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (E. I.T.C.), which in turn will be used by the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese's Second Century Scholarship Fund.

The fund provides scholarships to 14 Catholic elementary schools and four high schools. For the 2016 - 2017 school year, 83 companies participated in the E.I.T.C. Program, which provided over \$1,217,903 to help families who desire to give their children an education rooted in Gospel values, but who are unable to afford the full tuition.

Contributions to the second Century Scholarship Fund may be unrestricted (assisting students with the greatest financial need) or restricted to a school or schools of one's choice.

"We are extremely grateful for the businesses that support us and we are excited to see that the program is growing to allow individuals to participate," said Pam Seasoltz, director of Stewardship and Development for the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese.

"The E.I.T.C. program is a great way to keep dollars at home and in our community while nurturing area students to inspire their faith and build their futures."

Mark Condrin, First National Commercial Banker, said, "We feel it is important to give back to the community by helping support education within the community such as Catholic Schools."

The Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit Program is a great way for area businesses and individuals to direct their tax dollars to support area Catholic schools instead of sending taxes to Harrisburg, said Seasoltz.

Donations to the E.I.T.C. provide tuition assistance to financially-eligible students from kindergarten through 12th grade, while donations to a separate Pre-Kindergarten Tax Credit Program (P.K.T.C.) provide tuition assistance to eligible preschoolers.

Companies can earn up to 90 percent tax credit for E.I.T.C. donations and a 100 percent tax credit for P.K.T.C. program. Individuals with an annual tax liability of \$3,500 or more can participate in a program through an expansion of the E.I.T.C. and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (O.S.T.C.), called a Special Purpose Entity. By becoming of a Special Purpose Entity, individuals will receive the same tax consideration as businesses.

"These gifts not only help businesses serve their employees and customers directly, but our community also benefits, so it is a win - win for everyone," said Seasoltz.

Condrin added, "It's a great way to support non - profits and agencies that help support members of our community in need. We like to support programs and charities in our communities to help enable them to reach their goals."



**FNB MAKES DONATION:** The First National Bank presented a check for \$49,000 to the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese's Second Century Scholarship Fund. Pictured (left to right) are: Pam Seasoltz, director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese; Mark Condrin, Commercial Banker; Sister of Charity Donna Marie Leiden, director of Education; Nick Gates, Senior vice president for Commercial Banking; Zach Craig, regional Manager for Wealth Management; and Matthew Stever, chief financial officer for the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese. The Second Century Scholarship Fund provides tuition scholarships to 14 elementary schools and four high schools. It's an aid to families that desire to give their children an education rooted in the Gospel values but who are unable to fully afford tuition.

## Sister Donna Marie Will Retire In June

Bishop Mark Bartchak has announced that Sister Donna Marie Leiden, a Sister of Charity of Seton Hill, will retire from the position of Director of Education for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown effective June 30.

A native of Altoona, Sister Donna Marie has served as Director of Education since 2007. She was the Principal of Bishop McCort Catholic High School in Johnstown from 1997 - 2006.

During her time as Director of Education, Sister Donna Marie was part of the team that worked on the structure for the current independent model of Catholic high schools in the Diocese. She was also involved in the founding of Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg in 2011 - - now a thriving Catholic high school in Centre County.

At the request of Bishop Bartchak, a Diocesan-wide study



**SISTER DONNA MARIE  
LEIDEN S.C.**

of the elementary school structure began in 2011. The effort involved clergy and laity with assistance from Sister Donna Marie and the Education Office. The study led to the creation of the current quadrant model for

schools and the regionalization of Catholic elementary schools in the Altoona and Johnstown areas.

"The Diocese has taken many positive steps to strengthen Catholic education over the past decade, and Sister Donna Marie played a key role in those efforts," said Bishop Bartchak. "I am very grateful for all she has done to position our schools for success. She and I have a shared commitment to Catholic education, and I have truly enjoyed working with her. I wish her good health and many other blessings as she begins the next chapter in her life."

*(Continued On Page 11.)*

### Letrent's PHARMACY

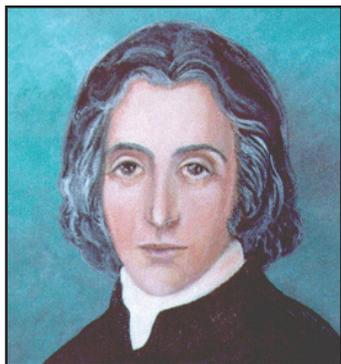
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## A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

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# Postulator Says Monks To Be Beatified As Martyrs

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- A bishop, seven Trappist monks and 11 other religious men and women killed by extremists in Algeria in the 1990s will soon be recognized as martyrs, the

postulator for their causes said.

The decree for their beatification should be published sometime in January, Trappist Father Thomas Georgeon said Jan. 1 in an interview with **Mondo e Missione** (World and Mission), a monthly magazine and website run by the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions.

A 10-year-long armed con-

flict between government forces and extremist Islamic rebel groups left tens of thousands of people dead, making the deaths of the 19 religious "a martyrdom in the midst of a sea of violence that devastated Algeria," he said.

"To pay homage to these 19 Christian martyrs means also paying homage to the memory of all those who gave their life in Algeria those dark years" as they were killed "for their country and for their faith," the priest said.

The conflict began in 1992 when the army canceled the general election that fundamentalist politicians looked ready to win and cracked down on the Islamic Salvation Front political movement. Human rights groups said at least 44,000 people, mostly civilians, were killed in the war between extremist rebels and Algerian government forces.

The 19 Catholic priests and religious proposed for sainthood died between 1993 and 1996, and include Bishop Pierre Lucien Claverie of Oran, Algeria, who was killed with his driver by a remote-controlled bomb left by the bishop's residence, and seven Trappist monks, who had been kidnapped from the monastery of Tibhirine and beheaded by a group of Islamic terrorists trained by the al-Qaida network. The monks' story was treated in the film "Of Gods and Men," which won the grand prize at its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in 2010.

The monks of Tibhirine knew that they were in danger and would likely be killed if they remained in Algeria. French Fa-



CNS Photo/Sony Pictures Classics

**MARTYRED MONKS:** Actors star in a scene from the 2011 movie "Of Gods and Men." The seven Trappist monks depicted in the film are among the victims of Algeria's civil war and are expected to officially be recognized as martyrs.

ther Christian de Cherge, the slain prior of the monastery, had written in a letter nearly three years before his death that he and the other monks would willingly offer themselves as a sacrifice for the people of Algeria.

Father de Cherge wrote, "When the time comes, I would like to be able to have that stroke of lucidity which would permit me to ask forgiveness of God and of my brothers in humanity, forgiving wholeheartedly, at the same time, whoever my killer might be."

"May we meet each other again, happy thieves, in paradise, should it please God," he added.

While different extremist Islamic revolutionaries were held responsible for the deaths of many of the religious, Catholic missionaries were largely respected by their Muslim neighbors.

Bishop Claverie in particu-

lar was praised for his personal courage and long-standing efforts to promote dialogue between Muslims and Christians in the North African country.

The bishop, who was born in Algeria to third-generation French settlers, contributed to the formation of the first human rights league in Algeria. He was a well-known advocate for peace and a critic of the Islamic rebels killing in the name of God.

Following Bishop Claverie's murder, St. John Paul II said that "his martyrdom must become the seed of love and the reason of hope."

"In the face of violence that respects no one and nothing, Algeria more than ever needs peacemakers and brotherhood," the pope had said at his Sunday Angelus. "May God move the Christians and Muslims there to gather together and imitate the witness of Bishop Claverie."

## Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

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

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

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

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

+ + +

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# Word of Life



## The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis  
**Don't Rush Through  
 Silence At Mass**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- The silence that precedes the opening prayer at Mass is an opportunity for Christians to commend to God the fate of the church and the world, Pope Francis said.

Departing from his prepared text at his weekly general audience Jan. 10, the pope urged priests "to observe this brief silence and not hurry."

"I recommend this to the priests. Without this silence, we risk neglecting the reflection of the soul," he said.

Continuing his series of audience talks on the Mass, Pope Francis spoke about the Gloria and the opening prayer.

After the encounter between "human misery and divine mercy" experienced in the penitential rite, the faithful are invited to sing the ancient hymn of praise that was sung by the angels after Christ's birth, the pope said.

"The feelings of praise that run through the hymn," he said, "are intertwined with the confident pleading of divine benevolence" that characterizes the entire liturgy and "establishes an opening of earth to heaven."

After the hymn, the priest invites the assembly to pray and observes a moment of silence so that the faithful may be conscious of the fact that they are in God's presence and formulate their petitions, the pope explained.

This silence, he said, is not just an absence of words but a time to listen "to other voices: that of our heart and, above all, the voice of the Holy Spirit."

"Perhaps we come from days of toil, of joy, of sorrow and we want to tell the Lord, to invoke his help, to ask that he be near us; we have family members and friends who are ill or who are going through difficult trials," the pope said.

The priest's posture -- with hands outstretched in supplication -- is also an important sign as it is an imitation of Christ with his arms open on the cross, the pope said.

"In the crucifix, we recognize the priest who offers pleasing worship to God; that is, filial obedience," he said.

Pope Francis said that pondering the prayers and gestures, which are "rich in meaning," Christians can make "many beautiful meditations" that can benefit their spiritual lives.

"To go back and meditate on the texts, even outside of Mass, can help us to learn how to turn to God, what to ask, which words to use," the pope said. "May the liturgy become for all of us a true school of prayer."

**Silence, Pope Francis said, is not just an absence of words but a time to listen "to other voices: that of our heart and, above all, the voice of the Holy Spirit."**



**ONE MORE TIME:** In 1963 women and girls from Holy Rosary Parish in Juniata, Altoona, accompanied by Sister Mary Otto and Sister Robert Ann, went on pilgrimage to Emmitsburg MD to visit sites associated with the life of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, foundress of the Sisters of Charity in the United States, who was beatified that year. Mother Seton was canonized in 1975. At the time of the pilgrimage, the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill were staffing the school at Holy Rosary Parish.

The homeless person sitting on the corner near our church never moved off his bench despite freezing temperatures. No matter the time of day, there he sat bundled up in clothes people had donated.

As I handed him \$10, I told him, "Do me a favor, get a good meal and take cover near our rectory." The confused look in his eyes said to me, "He won't move off that bench."

I was again struck by the plight of the homeless when driving under a viaduct. Overnight, an entire tent city had risen up under it.

Down the hill from the U.S. Capitol, homelessness is visible all along Constitution Avenue. Grates that spew steam are covered by homeless people who prefer -- or are left with no choice -- but to sleep on them rather than take shelter.

When we consider the world of homelessness, it is mind-boggling. How can people sit outdoors in freezing weather all day doing nothing? Although they may be living in the freedom of the outdoors, their lives are far from free. They are imprisoned in a world of daily meaninglessness.

For many, it is a life of loneliness devoid of social amenities



## The Human Side

By Father Eugene Hemrick  
**The 'Nonsignificant'  
 Among Us**

we take for granted. For others who are mentally or physically impaired, it is a life of wandering. Many were victims of abuse as children or faced other traumatic experiences, and many suffer from addiction.

And then there are those who are angry at the world and have divorced themselves from it.

The bane of homelessness is feeling insignificant -- to feel you don't count or have anything to contribute to life. When a sense of importance is lost,

one's vitality is lost. Zest and gusto, vital for a wholesome life, ceases to exist.

Abundant success stories about homelessness have been documented. At the core of these stories are dedicated persons who were able to restore another person's self-worth. This is not an easy task. It means breaking into a mind often times filled with blockades, resentments, hurts, distrust, disillusionment and bitterness. In many cases, it translates into trying to repair years of mental chaos.

Today, we are truly blessed by those devoted people who are out there in the streets and shelters serving the destitute daily. Not everyone is blessed with this vocation. All of us, however, can do our part. When we see homeless people, all it takes is stopping to talk with them, asking them how they are, and in doing so, to make them feel significant.



CNS Photo/Lucas Jackson, Reuters



## Question Corner

### By Father Kenneth Doyle Dispensation From Abstinence

**Q.** Please settle a dispute I am having with a colleague. Our society's annual St. Patrick's dinner is normally held on a Friday during Lent. We therefore request a dispensation in order to serve steak that evening.

I contend that all we must do is to request that dispensation from the pastor of the parish in which the restaurant is located; my colleague, though, says that we need to go to the bishop of our diocese and that only a bishop can grant it. Who is correct?

(I went to a Jesuit college, St. Peter's; he went to a non-Jesuit school, Seton Hall, and I would love to prove him wrong. Of course, if he is right, I probably won't tell him!) (central New Jersey)

**A.** Your question is a bit more complicated than you may have thought. The answer is that it depends on the diocese in which you are located. The church's Code of Canon Law situates the authority with the bishop:

"A diocesan bishop, whenever he judges that it contributes to their spiritual good, is able to dispense the faithful from universal and particular disciplinary laws issued for his territory or his subjects by the supreme authority of the church" (No. 87).

A later canon clarifies that "a pastor and other presbyters or deacons are not able to dispense from universal and particular law unless this power has been expressly granted to them" (No. 89). That later canon does seem to suggest, though, that the power to dispense from abstinence may at times be extended by a bishop to his priests -- and that is, in fact, both the law and the practice.

In 2017, when the feast of St. Patrick (March 17) occurred on a Friday, a statement from the Archdiocese of Detroit (to use just one example) said:

"All priests ministering in the archdiocese possess the faculty to dispense (remove) or commute (replace with some-

thing else) the obligation for an individual or family to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. Therefore, those wanting to partake in a celebratory meal on St. Patrick's Day that includes meat simply need to talk to a priest, who may grant this 'for a just reason.'"

Generally, when a diocese on such an occasion lifts the obligation of abstinence, it stipulates that the person should choose some other penitential practice instead.

So the answer to your question depends on what your own diocese has provided for. (I recognize that my response does not resolve the Jesuit/non-Jesuit rivalry -- because both of you could be right!)

**Q.** A few years ago, I had a miscarriage early in a pregnancy. While my husband and I were sad, we never really felt a substantial loss -- perhaps because we quickly became pregnant again.

This is in stark contrast to the experiences of friends who suffered miscarriages later in pregnancy. They have been devastated and truly felt that they lost a person, not just a pregnancy. Are my feelings wrong -- or worse, sinful? (Cincinnati)

**A.** Please don't punish yourself. First of all, feelings are outside of our control; morally, we are not responsible for our feelings -- only for our words, actions or omissions. Yes, the church does teach that a child in the womb is a person from the moment of conception. (And science would seem to support this -- heartbeat at 24 days, brain waves at 43, etc.)

But surely, a mother's emotional link to the child grows as the pregnancy advances -- which makes it not surprising that a child lost later in pregnancy would prompt deeper pain. Thank God for the children who are with you now -- and look forward, one day, to meeting the one who went to heaven early.

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



## For The Journey

### By Effie Caldarola Where Gladness And Hunger Meet

You may have heard this before: "The place to which God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

That line is from Frederick Buechner, an ordained Presbyterian minister, theologian and author.

Most of us, within the context of our busy lives, want to serve God, whether it's pursuing a whole new career or just finding a volunteer role. But sometimes we get bogged down in "what is God calling me to?" and we stand still.

Maybe Buechner's quote is a good one to pray with during the new year.

Discovering the world's "deep hunger" isn't a challenge. Every day, the news bombards us with the cry of the poor in this weary world. We can all name organizations in our town that need help, and we all know our parish has hosts of ministries needing assistance.

We know where the hunger is. It's that "deep gladness" part that requires some prayer.

Years ago, when I was first married, I volunteered at a center that offered help to women caught in unexpected, and sometimes unwanted, pregnancies. I have always felt that as Christians, our response to women experiencing this situation should be bountiful and full of compassion, and that every woman should be treated with respect.

This was in the days before pregnancy tests were available at every drug store or supermarket, so we provided free pregnancy testing. Just as with home tests today, these required a urine sample. Sometimes women would produce one in our office, or sometimes they would come in with jam jars full of urine whose contents had splashed through and permeated the soggy paper bag they offered us.

Taking the specimen, we would run the test as we talked with the women about their fears and hopes. Surprisingly, it was only with the advent of HIV in the 1980s that the organization had belatedly begun using latex gloves.

Sharing the result, either positive or negative, was a grace-filled moment of intimacy with another woman. Reactions to either result might be happiness, fear, joy, relief and copious tears. We needed to be fully present to a woman at this moment.

The problem: I wasn't. Oh, I felt the intense emotion and reacted with compassion. But I'm really squeamish. Inevitably, I had a hard time handling someone else's urine. I could never be a medical professional -- I'm darn close to being a germaphobe.

I tried to subsume my interior repugnance in my sense of the sacredness of the moment, but finally I realized this wasn't working for me. Worse, I wasn't at my best for those whom I hoped to serve.

Deep gladness was missing. So I shifted my commitment and became the author of the organization's monthly newsletter, something I enjoyed and for which I had a wee bit of talent. I also produced handwritten thank-you notes for every single donation we received.

I loved this commitment. It was, as the old saying goes, right up my alley.

Often, we see a need, as when the bulletin screams, "The faith formation program needs 20 more teachers!" and we have a sense of "have to." Sometimes taking on a "have to" project works out. But sometimes, an interior battle rages and gladness is missing.

Questions to ponder in the new year: What kind of service would bring me fulfillment and gladness? What do I do well? When am I sharing at my best? What gets me excited to serve? Where will I be wholly present to another?

Answer those, and then run, do not walk, to make this commitment.

### Saint Paula 347 - 404 Feast - January 26



The patron saint of widows, Paula was a wealthy Roman widowed with five children at age 32. Another widow introduced her to St. Jerome, a priest and papal secretary to St. Damasus. Jerome became her spiritual director, urging a life of asceticism and charity. When he learned she was fluent in Greek, he enlisted her help in translating Greek biblical texts for his new Latin version of the Bible. Paula had joined the circle of nobility-born Roman women in Jerome's orbit, and followed him to the Holy Land when he left Rome. She taught herself Hebrew, and exhausted her wealth building a monastery, three convents and a hospital in Bethlehem.



**CELEBRATING:** Catholic schools from the State College area gathered at Our Lady of Victory Church to celebrate Catholic Schools Week in 2017. The observance always gives local communities ways to personalize their celebrations while organizing around a common, national theme.

## Variety Will Mark Catholic Schools Week Activities

*(Continued From Page 1.)*

These events will focus on the value of Catholic Education to our young people, and the contribution it makes to the Church and local communities.

Holy Trinity School, Altoona/Hollidaysburg, has invited Bishop Mark L. Bartchak to celebrate the week with a Mass at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, February 2 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona. The Mass will honor vocations, and celebrate the special week for Catholic Schools. The Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) donors, parents, pastors, board members, teachers and administrators will gather for a brunch following the Mass.

"Our schools manage to select unique topics for each day of the week," said Charity Sister Donna Marie. "There are Faith and Community appreciation days, open houses, parents days, and the students themselves are celebrated along with our nation." She said Divine Mercy Catholic Academy, Johnstown, Quadrant will hold open houses at their three campuses. Sister Donna Marie said more informa-

tion can be gathered on the diocesan website; [www.ajdiocese.org](http://www.ajdiocese.org).

Sister Donna Marie said most schools will have a special Mass during the week, or on Sunday, January 28 to open Catholic School Week.

The diocesan website will also have a link to the National Catholic Education Association, where donations can be sent to aid Catholic Education. All of the money (100%), collected in a 24 - hour period, will be returned to local schools.

There are a variety of activities planned such as Pajama and Movie Days. Some of those schools include Lock Haven Catholic; Saint Benedict and Saint Matthew in Tyrone.

Saint Matthew's will also participate in their "Pennies for Patients" program. The 3 - week program allows students to share their

kindness and compassion while they learn about sick children. Each class collects pennies to aid those who find cures for childhood illnesses such as leukemia and lymphoma. They feel they succeed in following in Jesus' footsteps by caring for one another.

Saint Peter School in Somerset has declared their celebration: "Saint Peter School...For We Are God's Masterpiece." They will have a school talent show in the Church Hall on Friday, Feb. 2, and will celebrate Tuesday, January 30 with the theme "We Color the World with God's Love," in which each student comes to school dressed in many different colored clothes.

Many schools will have Staff Appreciation Luncheons, Hat Days, Dress Down Days. The list of celebrations is varied. In addition, many school will be registering new students for the new school year.

"Our Catholic schools are healthy and they are very happy place to be," said Sister Donna Marie. "I always tell people if you would go visit a school during the day, there would be no question as to where you send your child to school."



**SERVICE PROJECTS:** Service projects, such as collecting cereal and other breakfast products for distribution at soup kitchens and food pantries, is characteristic of Catholic Schools Week. Pictured are students at Saint Patrick School, Newry, in 2016.

# Saint Thomas School, Bedford, Closing In June

It was announced Monday, January 8, that this spring will mark the final semester for Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish School, Bedford, which will close its doors in June 2018 after serving the community for more than 50 years.

Father Richard Tomkosky, pastor, said, "After long prayerful reflection with the Parish Council, Parish Finance Committee and Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, of the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese, we have made this decision to close our school. Since 1966, Saint Thomas School has provided exceptional education and Catholic teaching to the families and community members of our parish and has been a beacon for local Catholic education. However, the realities of 21st-century demographic changes and reduced Bedford County birth rates have resulted in a significant decline in student

enrollment. Over the past several years, the teachers and parents have made extraordinary efforts to increase enrollment and to maintain the school with generous financial and personal contributions. For that, the entire parish and school community are forever grateful."

During the 2017 - 2018 school year, 24 students have enrolled, down from an enrollment level of several hundred students during the 1960s and 1970s. This reflects the change in the population of the Bedford area: in 2016, Catholics made up just 5% of the total population, while according to the 2010 census, just 21.2% of Bedford households had children under the age of 18 living with them.

The school will remain operational until June, to allow the children to complete their school year, and to provide time for the 8 faculty and staff mem-



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH SCHOOL

**"Since 1966, Saint Thomas School has provided exceptional education and Catholic teaching to the families and community members of our parish and has been a beacon for local Catholic education. However, the realities of 21st-century demographic changes and reduced Bedford County birth rates have resulted in a significant decline in student enrollment."**

bers to seek new positions. The parish will assist the faculty and staff through job counseling and recommendations.

The parish plans to keep the school building at 215 Penn Street in the borough and to repurpose the facility for parish activities and enhanced religious education classes for parish children.

For parents who are interested in continuing the Catholic education of their children are encouraged to contact Holy Trinity Regional Catholic School in Altoona where some of the Saint Thomas parishioners are already sending their children.

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish is one of the oldest Roman Catholic parishes in Western Pennsylvania. Founded by Father Demetrius Gallitzin in 1816, the parish celebrated 200 years of service in 2016.

## Sister Donna To Retire

(Continued From Page 6.)

Prior to coming to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Sister Donna Marie served as a teacher and administrator in Catholic schools in the Dioceses of Greensburg and Pittsburgh. She also held a leadership position on the general council of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Greensburg.

"I was fortunate to have a wonderful Catholic education as a child growing up in Altoona, and I have been especially blessed to spend a lifetime sharing the gift of Catholic education with others," said Sister Donna Marie. "It has been a pleasure to educate young people in the faith. I have enjoyed working with students, parents, teachers, board members, and everyone else I have met along the way."

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown will begin the search for Sister Donna Marie's successor. An advertisement for the position appears on Page 2 of this issue.



CNS Photo/L'Osservatore Romano

**GREETES CATHOLIC TEACHERS:** Pope Francis greets members of the Italian Association of Catholic Teachers during a Friday, January 5 meeting in Clementine Hall at the Vatican. The group of elementary school teachers recently held its national congress in Rome.

## Pope To Teachers: Help Kids Live With Care For All Of Creation

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- A lifestyle that is environmentally ethical cannot be "schizo-

phrenic" -- for example, by showing more care for animals and forests, than for the plight of people, Pope Francis said.

A green lifestyle must be consistent and complete, driven by a love for God the creator and all of his creation, the pope said in a speech Jan. 5 to the Italian Association of Catholic Teachers, which held its national congress in Rome in early January. The elementary school teachers must help children from a young age understand and practice an environmentally ethical lifestyle that must not be "schizophrenic," that is, a kind of disconnected concern for, as an example, "taking care of animals in extinction, but ignoring problems facing the elderly. No. Or defending the Amazon rainforest, but neglecting the rights of workers to have a fair wage," he said.

This approach demands teaching the importance of personal responsibility, not bombarding the children with slogans or catchy commands that someone else will have to carry out, he said. Teach children to have an enthusiastic appetite for "experiencing an environmental ethics that stem from the choices and behaviors in daily life," he said.

The pope also encouraged teachers and schools to rebuild a new alliance with families that

mutually supports and strengthens each other.

The educational alliance or "pact" that once existed among the state, schools and parents unfortunately "is broken" and must be repaired, he said.

Since constructive collaboration no longer comes "naturally," plan and design a way for it to happen, even with the help of experts in education, said the pope, who used to teach at a Jesuit high school in Buenos Aires.

"But even before that, foster a new 'conspiracy' -- and I am fully aware of this wording -- between teachers and parents," becoming jointly responsible accomplices to promote the well-being of children, he said.

Teachers and parents cannot see each other as opposing forces and or point fingers at each other, he said, but rather, they must put themselves "in the other's shoes, understanding the real difficulties both sides face today in education, and thus creating greater solidarity, a supportive collusion."

(Continued On Page 13.)

# Catholic Leaders Condemn President's 'Racist' Comments

By Rhina Guidos  
Catholic News Service

## WASHINGTON (CNS)

-- Some Catholics said it was more important to look at the sentiment, not the vulgarity of the words the president of the United States allegedly used to refer to immigrants from certain countries: Disparaging, hateful, racist.

Those are the words some Catholic organizations used to describe how they feel about profane comments attributed to U.S. President Donald Trump at a Jan. 11 meeting about immigration.

On Jan. 12, Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Illinois, said the president used profanity to refer to people from certain countries, and other "things which were hate-filled, vile and racist" during a meeting about immigration, and at least one Republican senator, South Carolina's Lindsey Graham, confronted him about it.

In a statement following the reports, the National Black Catholic Congress said it condemned the remarks.

"As people of faith, concerned with the dignity of all of God's people, we deplore such racist and hateful speech," the group said.

While speaking to the press, Durbin said the comments, made while trying to hash out a deal on immigration, came after he was listing the countries with the highest numbers of people who benefit from Temporary Protected Status and include Haiti, El Salvador and some African nations, countries that, one by one, have seen the protection evaporate since Trump took office. Trump questioned why the U.S. would accept more immigrants from Haiti and "(expletive) countries."

"Those countries the president disparaged are by no means Shangri-La's (sic) but, that's why people emigrate from

them," said Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski Jan. 12 via Twitter. "And as Emma Lazarus' poem on the Statue of Liberty suggests, they become the 'best and the brightest' of the immigrants to this country."

The Archdiocese of Miami, which he leads, is the spiritual home to one of the largest populations of Haitian Catholics in the country.

Archbishop Wenski also said via Twitter that while the president had on Jan. 9 suggested he would sign whatever Congress brought him on immigration reform, his remarks instead "laid bare the true motivations of those that want to close our nation to immigrants."

A Jan. 12 statement issued by James Rogers, chief communications officer for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the reported "disparaging" remarks "have aroused great concern."

"As our brothers and sisters from these countries are primarily people of color, these alleged remarks are especially disturbing," the statement said.

In Maryland, Jeanne Atkinson, executive director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., said "the hateful disrespect (the president) expressed only confirms the bigoted attitude that undergirds the administration's inhumane policies -- canceling Temporary Protected Status for Haiti, El Salvador, Sudan and Nicaragua, ending DACA, barring people from majority-Muslim countries."

And it was "especially appalling" that the president "graphically enunciated the contempt he feels for people in struggling nations" during a week when the Catholic Church in the U.S. was marking National Migration Week, Atkinson said. The U.S. Catholic bishops instituted National Migration Week -- observed this year Jan. 7-14 -- to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, immigrants, refugees, and hu-

man trafficking victims.

"We call on the president to apologize to the people of all the nations he slandered and to the American people," Atkinson said. "We ask members of Congress and other leaders to denounce these slurs. They do not reflect who we are as Americans."

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in a statement said they found it appalling that Trump would use "vulgar and offensive" language to describe the countries, which include places where the women religious serve.

"We find the sentiment behind the comments even more troubling and agree with the spokesperson for the United Nations Human Rights Commission who in his condemnation noted that the language is consistent with the racist decision making and attitude that has been expressed by this administration over the past year," the Mercy Sisters said referring to comments from Rupert Colville, U.N. human rights spokesman.

"These are shocking and shameful comments from the president of the United States. There is no other word one can use but 'racist,'" Colville said to press in Geneva, adding that vulgarity wasn't the main offense in what the president said.

"It's about opening the door to humanity's worst side, about validating and encouraging racism and xenophobia that will potentially disrupt and destroy lives of many people," he said.

The Sisters of Mercy said they would continue to "welcome immigrants and refugees from these countries in our schools, churches, health care institutions and other ministries."

"We take offense to this description of these lands and of their thoughtful, loving and passionate people," their statement said. "No home of our brothers and sisters, not coincidentally here our brothers and sisters of color, should be dismissed in



CNS Photo/Shawn Thew, EPA

**PRESIDENT LISTENS:** President Donald Trump listens during a meeting on immigration with a bipartisan group of House and Senate members at the White House Jan. 9. U.N. officials said Jan. 12 that Trump's reported use Jan. 11 of an expletive to describe Haiti and other countries could "potentially damage and disrupt the lives of many people."

this manner by the leader of our country."

In his statement, the US-CCB's Rogers said: "All human beings are made in the image and likeness of God, and comments that denigrate nations and peoples violate that fundamental truth and cause real pain to our neighbors.

"It is regrettable that this

comes on the eve of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and could distract from the urgent bipartisan effort to help Dreamers and those with Temporary Protected Status," he said. "As a vigorous debate continues over the future of immigration, we must always be sure to avoid language that can dehumanize our brothers and sisters."



CNS Photo/Eduardo Munoz, Reuters

**RALLY:** A woman participates in an immigration rally for Haitians in 2017 in New York City.

# Pope Says Fear Becomes Sin When It Leads To Hostility Toward Migrants

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Being afraid and concerned about the impact of migration is not a sin, Pope Francis said, but it is a sin to let those fears lead to a refusal to help people in need.

"The sin is to allow these fears to determine our responses, to limit our choices, to compromise respect and generosity, to feed hostility and rejection,"

## Pope Meets Teachers

(Continued From Page 11.)

Pope Francis also urged the Catholic teachers to continue to be inspired by their Christian values, whether they teach in public or private Catholic schools, and to encourage their students to be open to others in a "culture of encounter."

The challenge is to work together to teach kids to be open to and interested in what is around them, he said.

They need to be "capable of caring and tenderness -- I am thinking of bullying here -- free from widespread fallacies" that claim the only way to be worth anything is "to be competitive, aggressive and tough toward others, especially toward those who are different, foreign or seen as being an obstacle in some way to one's personal success," he said.

"Unfortunately, this is the 'air' our children often breathe," he said. The remedy is to give them a "change of air," which is why it is important teachers build a new alliance with parents.

Help kids see others as brothers and sisters to be respected and as worthwhile in getting to know "with their past, their virtues and defects, assets and limits," he said.



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

**MASS FOR MIGRANTS:** Family members bring up the offertory gifts as Pope Francis celebrates Mass marking the World Day of Migrants and Refugees in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican January 14.

the pope said Jan. 14, celebrating Mass for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

While fear is a natural human reaction, he said, "the sin is to refuse to encounter the other, the different, the neighbor, when this is in fact a privileged opportunity to encounter the Lord."

Thousands of migrants and refugees now living in Rome, but coming from more than 60 countries, joined Pope Francis and an international group of cardinals, bishops and priests for the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

Sixty of the migrants and refugees carried their homeland's national flags into the basilica before the Mass and hundreds wore the national dress of their countries, including many of the people who read the prayers of the faithful and brought up the gifts at the offertory during the multilingual Mass.

While care for migrants and refugees has been a priority for

Pope Francis, the World Day for Migrants and Refugees has been an annual celebration of the Catholic Church for more than 100 years. St. Pius X began the observance in 1914.

After reciting the Angelus in St. Peter's Square after the Mass, Pope Francis announced that "for pastoral reasons" the date of the annual celebration was being moved to the second Sunday of September. The next World Day of Migrants and Refugees, he said, would be marked Sept. 8, 2019.

According to the United Nations, an estimated 258 million people are living outside the country of their birth. The number includes 26 million refugees and asylum seekers, who were forced to flee their homelands because of war or persecution.

In his homily at the Mass, Pope Francis reflected on Jesus' response to the disciples who asked him where he lived. "Come and you will see," Jesus

tells them, inviting them into a relationship where they would welcome and get to know each other.

"His invitation 'Come and see!' is addressed today to all of us, to local communities and to new arrivals," the pope said. "It is an invitation to overcome our fears so as to encounter the other, to welcome, to know and to acknowledge him or her."

For the migrants and refugees, he said, that includes learning about and respecting the laws and customs of their host countries. "It even includes understanding their fears and apprehensions for the future," he added.

For people in the host countries, he said, it means welcoming newcomers, opening oneself "without prejudices to their rich diversity," understanding their hopes, fears and vulnerabilities and recognizing their potential.

"In the true encounter with the neighbor, are we capable of recognizing Jesus Christ who is asking to be welcomed, protected, promoted and integrated?"

Pope Francis asked.

"It is not easy to enter into another culture, to put oneself in the shoes of people so different from us, to understand their thoughts and their experiences," the pope said. That is one reason why "we often refuse to encounter the other and raise barriers to defend ourselves."

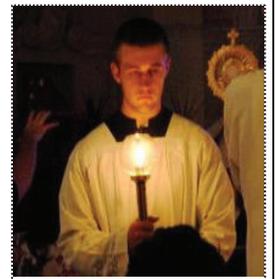
People in host countries may be afraid that newcomers "will disturb the established order (or) will 'steal' something they have long labored to build up," he said. And the newcomers have their own fears "of confrontation, judgment, discrimination, failure."

Both set of fears, the pope said, "are legitimate, based on doubts that are fully comprehensible from a human point of view."

Sin, he said, enters the equation only when people refuse to try to understand, to welcome and to see Jesus present in the other, especially "the poor, the rejected, the refugee, the asylum seeker."

## Eucharistic Festival of Praise

**A Night of Praise, Adoration, Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**



**Monday  
January 22, 2018  
7:00 to 8:00 pm**

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**Cathedral Prayer Group Music Ministry will lead the singing.**

# Now Showing

## Title Character Continues To Exert Trademark Charm, In 'Paddington 2'

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

**NEW YORK (CNS)** -- Unlikely as it seems, "Paddington 2" (Warner Bros.), an endearing blend of animation and live action, sends the much-loved bear of its title (voice of Ben Whishaw) to the slammer. More predictably, once imprisoned -- in a grim Victorian fortress of a jail -- he still manages to exert his trademark charm on all around him.

The warm goodness and

jaunty joking that pervade writer-director Paul King's follow-up to his 2015 original are only slightly marred by some ridiculous wordplay that may have a few parents frowning momentarily. And the smallest members of the family may be scared by a few action scenes. Otherwise, however, this is an appealing adventure for a broad range of moviegoers.

Once again based on the series of books by recently deceased author Michael Bond, to whom the film is dedicated, the proceedings initially find Pad-



CNS Photo/Warner Bros.

**PADDINGTON 2:** Animated characters Aunt Lucy, voiced by Imelda Staunton and Paddington, voiced by Ben Whishaw, appear in the movie "Paddington 2."

dington far from his roots in the Peruvian jungle, having settled into a cozy domestic life with the Browns, the very British human family that adopted him in the first screen outing.

Led by dad Hugh Bonneville and mom Sally Hawkins, the Brown household is rounded out by daughter Judy (Madeleine Harris), an aspiring journalist, son Jonathan (Samuel Joslin), who fears his love of steam trains is not cool, and housekeeper Mrs. Bird (Julia Walters). With their affection to bolster him, Paddington leads a

**Lessons about family loyalty and the importance of looking for the good in everyone are served up along with heavy doses of cartoonish but very enjoyable comedy. The result is a treat as soothing as a good cup of tea on a foggy day in London town.**

contented existence munching on marmalade sandwiches and helping his neighbors in small but thoughtful ways.

His happy routine is rudely interrupted, however, when he is accused and convicted of stealing an antique book. Far from purloining the volume, Paddington had earlier taken a job in order to save up enough money to purchase it as a gift for his cherished Aunt Lucy (voice of Imelda Staunton).

None-too-subtle clues point to neighborhood fixture Phoenix

Buchanan (Hugh Grant), an egotistical actor who has recently been reduced to making dog-food commercials, as the real culprit. While Paddington makes friends with his fellow inmates, including the jail's initially ferocious hardened criminal of a cook, Knuckles McGinty (Brendan Gleeson), the Browns work to clear his name.

Lessons about family loyalty and the importance of looking for the good in everyone are served up along with heavy doses of cartoonish but very enjoyable comedy. The result is a treat as soothing as a good cup of tea on a foggy day in London town.

The film contains perilous situations and brief childish anatomical humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

## Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

**January 28** -- In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, two students, along with Father Jozef Kovacik, Pastor of Saint Matthew Parish and School in Tyrone, and Roy Holtz, a Bishop Carroll Catholic High School alum, will reflect on the theme: "Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."

**February 4** -- In honor of the World Day for Consecrated Life, Benedictine Father Alfred Patterson, Pastor of Saint Nicholas Parish in Nicktown, and Carmelite of the Word Sister Nancy Spence will talk about their service to the Church.

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**Broadcast Live from**  
**the Cathedral of**  
**the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona**  
**10:00 a.m. WFBG Radio, 1290 AM**

**Sunday Mass Telecast**  
**Live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral**  
**Downtown Johnstown**  
**11 a.m. - Noon WATM - TV ABC Channel 23**

**Proclaim!**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**A half - hour of local Church news and features**

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## May They Rest In Peace



**Sister Stephana Garvey  
O.P.**

Dominican Sister Stephana Garvey, 91, died Thursday, December 28, 2017, at Saint Dominic Villa, Sinsinawa WI.

Sister Stephana was born September 29, 1926, in La Crosse WI, the daughter of Francis and Elizabeth (Kane) Garvey. Her parents; a sister, Mary Tafelski; and four brothers, Tom Garvey, Bernard Garvey, the Rev. Francis Garvey, and Larry Garvey, preceded her in death. She is survived by a sister, Margaret "Peggy" Nedzi; a brother Kay Garvey; and her Dominican Sisters with whom she shared 70 years of religious life.

Sister Stephana made her first religious profession as a Sinsinawa Dominican August 5, 1947, and her final profession August 5, 1950. She taught for 38 years and served as religious education coordinator for seven years. Sister Stephana volunteered with young children in a hospital and early childhood education centers for 19 years. She served in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Florida. Kay Garvey; and her Dominican Sisters with whom she shared 70 years of religious life.

Locally, Sister Stephana served as a teacher at Lock Haven Catholic School 1983 - 1986.

The Funeral Mass for Sister Stephana Garvey O.P. was celebrated at the Dominican Motherhouse, Sinsinawa, Thursday,

January 4. Committal was made in the Motherhouse Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Sinsinawa Dominicans, 585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI, 53824-9701 or online at [www.sinsinawa.org/donate](http://www.sinsinawa.org/donate).



**Sister Aimee Gillen  
C.S.J.**

Sister Aimee Gillen, 82, died Friday, December 29, 2017, in the 64th year of her religious life as a Sister of Saint Joseph of Baden.

The daughter of the late Raymond and Marie (McNellis) Gillen, Sister Aimee entered the Congregation from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Altoona.

Throughout a 47 - year ministry in education, Sister Aimee taught at 13 schools in the Dioceses of Altoona - Johnstown and Pittsburgh, including Sacred Heart School in Altoona (1971-78), where she also served as principal.

Sister Aimee most recently served as telecommunications manager at the Motherhouse, where she learned a new set of skills - managing the switchboard and overseeing "land lines" and cell phones for sisters and staff.

Sister Aimee is survived by a sister, Cecelia Ann Haines of Altoona, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews, the Associates, and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Baden.

The Funeral Mass for Sister Aimee Gillen C.S.J. was celebrated Tuesday, January 2 in the chapel of Saint Joseph Convent, Baden. Committal was made in the Sisters' Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.

Memorials may be sent to the Sisters of Saint Joseph Memorial Fund, Saint Joseph Convent, Development Office, 1020 State St., Baden, PA 15005.

### **Robert J. Gibbons**

Robert J. Gibbons, age 91, husband of Margaret M. Helwig Gibbons and the late Carolyn (Passenger) Gibbons, of Royersford, died Friday, December 29, 2017 in Phoenixville Hospital. He was the father of Father John M. Gibbons, administrator of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Philipsburg.

He was born December 7, 1926 in Albany, NY, the son of the late William and Elizabeth Gibbons. He was a graduate of The Milne School, Albany. A veteran, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Bob was the founder of Gibbons-Fastag in Royersford and six other locations. Now, several members of the family carry on his legacy in this business. An

avid golfer, Mr. Gibbons was a member of several golf clubs in the Norristown and Royersford area. He passed this love of golf onto his sons. Also, he was a member of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Church in Limerick, where he served as an altar server at daily mass, was an usher, and helped in the funeral ministry. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, working on word puzzles, playing gin rummy, and putting together jigsaw puzzles.

In addition to his wife of 18

**"The Christian meaning of death is revealed in the light of the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ in whom resides our only hope. The Christian who dies in Christ Jesus is 'away from the body and at home with the Lord' (2 Cor 5:8)."**

**-- Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1681**

years, Mr. Gibbons is survived by six sons, James R. (Patricia McMinn) Gibbons of Limerick, Father John M. Gibbons of Philipsburg, William C. (Melene) Gibbons of Jacksonville, NC, Richard D. (Nancy) Gibbons of Lexington, SC, David A. (Paulette) Gibbons of Royersford, Michael J. (Beth) Gibbons of Malvern; Step - Daughter, Amy J. (Vincent) Melli of Phoenixville; Twelve Grandchildren, One Great - Granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by a brother, William Gibbons.

The Funeral Mass for Robert J. Gibbons was celebrated Thursday, January 4 at Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Schwenksville, Committal was at the Valley Forge Memorial Gardens, King of Prussia. A Memorial Mass was celebrated Wednesday, January 10 at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Philipsburg.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Alzheimers Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60601.

**Congratulations Students, Parents, Faculty & Staff!**

## **Catholic Schools Week 2018**

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# Catholic Schools Week 2018



January 12, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I recently had the opportunity to talk with Jude, a fifth grade student at Saint Peter School in Somerset. With great confidence and enthusiasm, he told me how much he loves his Catholic school environment and how grateful he is to learn about his faith and celebrate it daily.

Besides excelling in the classroom and other academic endeavors, Jude is also engaged in Scouting, and he is an Altar Server. He spoke proudly about his family and the many ways in which he helps around the family farm. He mentioned that he even loves to make boxed mashed potatoes!

Jude is just one example of the outstanding youth who attend Catholic schools in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, and his student experience certainly highlights the theme of Catholic Schools Week 2018: “Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.”

Catholic education is a complete education – one in which students learn and thrive in the classroom while coming to further know Jesus Christ as the center of their lives. Our Catholic school students also put their faith into action by gladly serving others. This foundation inspires and enables young adults to reach great heights as they further their education, enter the workforce, raise families, and contribute to their Church and community.

As we welcome Catholic Schools Week 2018, I see so many shining examples of learning, serving, leading, and succeeding. I see them in our students and alumni. I see them in our dedicated teachers, administrators, and staff. I see them in our clergy who greatly assist in the mission of Catholic education. I also see them in our devoted parents who recognize the value of investing in their children’s future.

Indeed, Catholic Schools Week is a time of great pride and joy here in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. Please be assured of my prayers and continued support of Catholic education. I am especially grateful for students like Jude who embody the value of a complete, Catholic education. I am confident he and others will continue to “Learn.



“Serve. Lead. Succeed.” That’s something worth celebrating – maybe over a bowl of Jude’s delicious mashed potatoes!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak  
Bishop of Altoona - Johnstown

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