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Diocesan Renewal Will Be Based On Parish Involvement in 'Arise'

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

"We are parished - based, but this is a diocesan movement," explained Carmelite Community of the Word Sister Linda LaMagna of "ARISE Together in Christ." This process of renewal is already in the planning stages and will begin in October in the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese.

From January through August in various locations, parish coordinators, as designated by their pastors, will be trained and faith groups developed.

Sister Linda is the diocesan coordinator for the new evangelization program.

ARISE is a three - year diocesan process. There are five seasons within the three years. The theme of Season One is "Encountering Christ Today."

"We are faith sharing communities that spread the Gospel out into our towns through everyday encounters. This is what this process is all about," explained Sister Linda.

"ARISE Together in Christ, is designed as a personal process of conversion and transformation that is used to create Church community," reiterated Milissa Else. Else is the director of Pastoral Service for Renew International, based in the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey. Renew International designed the spiritual renewal program. She presented the process to a gathering of the diocesan administrative staff at a meeting on January 16.

"This is not a Bible study or prayer group. The purpose of ARISE is spiritual renewal in every



MILISSA ELSE



SISTER LINDA LAMAGNA

Holy Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, you have given the world its true light, Jesus your Son - - the Son of God. You abandoned yourself completely to God's call and thus became a wellspring of the goodness which flows forth from him. Show us Jesus. Lead us to Him. Teach us to know Jesus and to love Him.

Help us to open the door to Christ's love by sharing our faith and living our faith with each other and with all who are searching for the way, the truth, and the hope and promise of eternal life.

As patroness of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, be with us on our journey to ARISE Together in Christ. Pray for us, Mother of the Church, Pray for us!

day life. Connecting faith with action and encountering God in each day in life situations," said Else.

"This program must be taken out into the church community. We need to reclaim our Catholic identity and address the erosion in Mass attendance. This process promotes healing to those Catholics that have fallen away from the Church. It's also a pastoral challenge to bring young adults back into the Church, and to address an inadequate understanding of the faith."

Parish leaders and interested persons have already attended one of four orientation sessions scheduled around the diocese. Sister Linda said your home parish doesn't have to utilize ARISE for you to participate. You may seek out a neighboring faith community, which will certainly welcome you.

Season two of the three year process, held during the Lenten Season, is "Change Our Hearts," which begins on Ash Wednesday. We are asked to open our hearts to discipleship, and to change our lives to conform to the model of The Living Christ. Season three, "In The Footsteps of Jesus;" bringing our faith to life through acts of mercy, charity, and social justice.

Season four, during Lent, is "New Heart, New Spirit;" a time of reconciliation with God, who is always eager to forgive and renew us. The final season reminds us that spreading the Gospel is not something we do, but who we are; We are the Good News."

Sister Linda is excited about ARISE and the opportunities it brings each of us to establish a renewed relationship with God. In that relationship we are everyday

disciples in the unplanned daily experiences of life, whether connecting with people at the super market, gas station, pharmacy, etc.

"Sometimes people only need a kind word; a reassurance to trust God's love because He is always with you," Sister Linda said. "There are times we all need to be reminded of that. It can be amazing how much a kind word can brighten a person's day."

Sister Linda has experienced the bond that develops in church communities, which overflows into the diocesan community at large. When sessions such as these end, it's not uncommon for persons to trade phone numbers and continue to gather on their own. They miss the personal bond that has developed.

"I believe ARISE will have a transforming power in our diocesan Church," Sister Linda said. "Each day of our lives there is something spiritually new to experience."

Sister Linda said she feels very privileged to be able to serve the Diocese as coordinator of ARISE Together in Christ. "It brings such an inner joy to see people rediscover Jesus again in their lives, and enter into a deepened relationship with him," she said

Milissa Else added, "We want to create a welcoming environment for young people and for those that have fallen away from regular Church attendance. It's relating faith to our lives."

More information can be obtained by calling Sister Linda at (814) 934 - 0699; or at Saint Joseph Parish in Bellwood at (814) 742 - 7894 (where she ministers) or by e-mail at srllamagna@gmail.com.

High Schools

Open House

Johnstown: An Open House for students in grades 7 - 12 will be held Tuesday, February 6, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., at Bishop McCort Catholic High School.

Higher Education

Theater Program Honored

Cresson: The Mount Aloysius College Theatre received a Certificate of Merit from The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) for its use of American Sign Language interpreters during their production of "Songs for a New World." That recognition was the first of three earned from the College's recent run of "Songs for a New World" given by the prestigious Kennedy Center. Three Mount Aloysius College thespians will compete for regional scholarships following their performances in the show, and two selected scenes from the musical will be featured in this year's Fringe Festival.

Mount Aloysius theatre director Nathan Magee noted that three student actors will compete for the coveted Irene Ryan Scholarship. These regional scholarships are made possible by the generosity of the late Irene Ryan who is best remembered for her portrayal of 'Granny Clampett' in "The Beverly Hillbillies" television series. Mount Aloysius students Courtney Moyer, of Ashville, Jordan Morrison, of Oxford, and Rachel Mackrell, of Olyphant, will each pick partners and perform at KCACTF competition at Indi-

ana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). In addition, the College was asked to stage and perform two scenes from "Songs for a New World" at the KCACTF Fringe Festival.

"It's a real honor to be asked to perform two of our scenes from this musical," said Director Magee. "We put much thought into the selection of this important play," he added. "Songs for a New World' is about people dealing with important decisions in their life," he added. "Their life's turning points, if you will. There is no discourse more important than that we have with ourselves, and the play is about people trying to be authentic and honest in these sometimes dire situations in which they find themselves — in the truest sense of that phrase. The play fits incredibly well with the College's 2017-2018 campus-theme of Authentic Discourse."

The invitation to perform two scenes from "Songs for a New World" at the Fringe Festival came about through nominations by regional respondents during the year. Scenes are chosen for specific theatrical elements which the respondents felt would broaden the scope of offerings at the Festival and which show ambitious performance styles and unusual aesthetics.

Mount Aloysius President Tom Foley applauded the well-earned accolades aimed at the College's theatrical efforts. "It is a great honor to have Professor Magee's work and that of our students recognized by The Kennedy Center," said Foley. "It reflects so well the enthusiasm and the quality of performance that Nathan stresses in the classroom and on the stage."

The 16 songs of "Songs for



MOUNT ACTORS PERFORM: Mount Aloysius College students sing out during a recent performance of the Kennedy Center acclaimed "Songs for a New World. From left they are: Nathan Smith, Lewis Run, Rebecca Ryan, Ithaca, N.Y., Veronica Scott, Hillsdale, Rachel Haywood, Quakertown, (at center), Kylee Snyder, New Parisand Hannah Holt, Falls Creek.

a New World," by Jason Robert Brown each tells a story. Each title is linked thematically with an overall theme of exploration and choice.

Toy Lending Library

Loretto: Saint Francis University's Toy Lending Library has announced its spring 2018 schedule. The library, located on the bottom floor of the DiSepio Institute for Rural Health & Wellness, will be open each Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Like a traditional library but with toys; all children ages one to eight can check out toys for free, take them home for

up to a month, then bring them back and pick a new toy.

This year the Toy Lending Library is bringing back its popular Family Game Nights. Families can enjoy a night of fun playing a variety of new and classic board games and puzzles while still taking the advantage of the Toy Lending Library. Game Nights are scheduled: Wednesdays 5:30 - 7:30 pm on February 14 and 28, March 14 and April 4 and 18.

Occupational Therapy Professor, Dr. Lorie Rowles, founded the Toy Lending Library in 2009. The program was designed to meet the needs of the community so that all children

have the opportunity to engage in play for development.

For more information email lrowles@francis.edu or call 814-472-2749.

Mock Trial Team

Cresson: The Mount Aloysius College Mock Trial Team had a successful weekend at the Johns Hopkins University Mock Trial Tournament on January 20 and 21, in Baltimore MD.

(Continued On Page 3.)

Italian Fest

Queen Of Peace Parish

Center in Patton (upper level) 4-7 PM
Tuesday, Feb. 13

PRICES: Adults \$10/Children (5-12), \$5
Children under 5), FREE.

Menu includes: Wedding Soup,
Salad, Italian Bread, Lasagna
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(tiramisu)& Beverage. Wedding Soup
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LENTEN FISH DINNER

Queen Of Peace Parish Center in Patton (Upper Level) All Fridays of Lent (including **Good Friday**), beginning **Friday, February 16.**



MENU Includes:
Choice of baked, fried fish or salmon patties;
choice of baked potato or french fries. The dinner also includes: fresh baked rolls, cole slaw, stewed tomatoes, macaroni & cheese, haluski, dessert and beverage. Pierogies a la carte.

814-674-8983

Baked Goods Available for Sale

4-7 PM

Adults, \$10/Children (5-12), \$5/Children (under 5), FREE.

Takeout's available in the lower level of Parish Center

In The Alleghenies

The team is be back in the courtroom at the Regional Tournament of the American Mock Trial Association, this week.

Koss is a retired coal miner who fell in love with painting in 2010. Since then, this self-taught artist has created colorful displays with a unique, eclectic and brilliantly colorful point of view.

Local Artist

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College's Wolf - Kuhn Art Gallery features colorful paintings of nature, aquatics scenes and animals; often with a hint of humor peeking through. The exhibition titled, "The World I See" features paintings by Jeff Koss, of Ebensburg. Mr. Koss' exhibit will be on display, free of charge, until May 4.

Professor of English and Fine Art at Mount Aloysius College, Dr. Donald Talbot, enjoys the juxtaposition of Koss' colorful exhibit against the stark winter weather. "It's great to see all this color in the gallery in the middle of a cold winter," said Dr. Talbot.

Members of the Mount Aloysius College Art Alliance, artists Mr. Dave Huber and Ms. Mary Lessard both commented on Koss' authenticity.

Dave Huber, of Ebensburg, noted, "Jeff has a unique view of the world. His work is honest and many times humorous."

"The show is new, exciting and full of life," said Munster artist Mary Lessard. "It has a fresh approach. Jeff's work has that Early American style."

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CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES: Religious education students at Saint Bartholomew Parish, Wilmore, celebrated with Christmas activities on Sunday, December 17, 2017. They packed fruit baskets for distribution to the elderly and homebound, and presented their annual nativity play. Father Joseph Nale is pastor and Diana Frantz is director of religious education.



RETREAT: Faculty members of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg, held their annual retreat Monday, January 15 at Saint Francis Friary at Mount Assisi, Loretto. Carmelite of the Word Sister Linda LaMagna spoke on evangelization, with the faculty reflecting on its importance in the life of the Church and school.

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The Team scored victories against George Washington University, Stevenson University, and a tie with Penn State. The Tournament was won by University of Central Florida.

Mountie Sophomore Josh Devlin was named an Outstanding Witness at the tournament. Devlin, of Southend - on - Sea, England is also a key contribu-

tor to the College's men's soccer team.

Mock Trial coach, Attorney David Andrews, was impressed with Devlin's performance. "Josh was very deserving of the Award," said Attorney Andrews. "He was an expert witness on cellular tracking and he handled the cross examination brilliantly with an excellent ability for quick thinking on his feet."

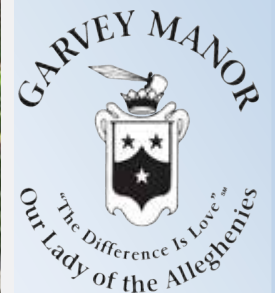
The Mount Aloysius' Mock Trial Team is only in their sec-

ond year of competition and they continue to compete successfully against "Division I" schools. The team is led by Attorney Andrews with Assistant Coach Rachel Cain, of Cresson, Pa.

Members who participated in the tournament include: John Branick, Tessa Boyles, Teresa Goc, Mandie Leithner, Gracie Arbitell, Katie Mirance, Mariya Kozhukh, Josh Devlin, Rachael Moreland and Jessica Bressler.

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Point Of View

Meg Jay, author of **The Defining Decade**, claims that “our 20s are the defining decade of adulthood. Eighty percent of life’s most defining moments take place by about age 35. ... Personality can change more during our 20s than at any other decade in life. ... When it comes to adult development, 30 is not the new 20.”

Pope Francis has called a synod on “Young people, faith and vocational discernment” to discuss how the church can help young people live their faith “through a series of choices that find expression in the states of life.” In short, the synod wants to help young people live out their vocation to holiness as lifelong adult Catholics by learning how to discern God’s will in daily life.

In the U.S., it is taking young people longer to get to that “adult” stage of life. Growing up with “helicopter parents,” the 2008 financial crisis and skyrocketing college debt means that for many young people, delaying adulthood is less a choice and more the hand they were dealt.

This requires a new pastoral approach to support this population.

Yet the Catholic Church in the U.S. has been slow to respond to the reality of emerging adulthood. The last parish touch point for most Catholics is confirmation around age 13, and for a small percentage, youth ministry programs through age 18. The next sacramental touch point is marriage, with little to no pastoral outreach for the de-



In Light Of Faith

By Jonathan Lewis
 The ‘Defining Decade’

fining decade in between.

Young adults in this crucial period of life are searching for belonging, identity and mission. Without mentors to teach them or a peer community to belong to, young adults often view the church as irrelevant and look outside of it for meaning.

When parents see that ministry does not exist for their kids, they advocate, but when young adults don’t find a relatable community, they walk away quietly. The rapid disaffiliation of young adult Catholics is a resounding clamor that something has to change.

One danger is that we default to what is most familiar or who is advocating the loudest. Too often writers and church leaders have made the mistake of calling the upcoming synod a “synod on youth,” when in reality, in our American vernacular, it is more accurately a “synod on young adults.”

This is not to say that ministry with youth is not important; it is essential. The danger is when the priorities of parish life build a child-centric culture instead of a culture of adult formation, mentorship and family life. The result is that when youth become young adults there is often no peer community to help them

grow and no older adult mentors to walk with them.

The reality of delayed adulthood requires that parishes realign priorities to invest in a lifelong ministry bridge from high school and college across the defining decade of young adulthood. It is no longer sufficient to walk young people to the threshold of adult faith, but to accompany them through it.

Young adults today are navigating a defining decade of life with great hopes, big questions and constant transitions.

What can parishes do?

First, listen to the needs and interests of young adults through one-on-one conversations or listening sessions.

Second, invite young adults to represent key leadership areas of parish life.

Third, build friendship into all touch points of parish life that continue beyond the celebration of the sacrament.

Fourth, mentor a young person or young couple. Everyone, no matter their age, can reach out and invest in mentoring someone else.

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Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
 Arise,
 Together In Christ

We have already heard much and read much about the “Arise” program or process for spiritual renewal which our Diocese is now undertaking. Much more will be written and said about this process in the days, weeks and months to come.

Inevitably, we will speak of this process simply as “Arise,” failing to mention that the full name of this endeavor is “Arise Together In Christ.” To forget those other words is a big, big mistake. If this process is worth doing, it is worth doing “together.” The whole point of “Arise” is to bring us together as parish families, part of a diocesan family, all of us working, praying and serving God together, united as brothers and sisters by Christ, and in Christ. This isn’t about just “me and Jesus.” This is about me and Jesus, and the person in the next pew, and the folks who live next door, and the people I see every year at the parish festival, and . . . well, you get the picture.

“Arise Together In Christ,” encourages the formation of small groups to come together for faith – sharing. One of our strengths going into this process is that small groups already exist in our parish communities. This will be an opportunity to bring those groups together for sharing on a deeper level than perhaps they have ever shared before, and to give them an experience they can share with “those folks” in the other parish small groups.

The possible configuration of groups is limited only by our imagination. Try thinking of the groups that already exist in your parish: lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, altar servers, catechists, sacristans, choir members, money counting teams, fish fry workers, parish festival workers, ushers, Altar – Rosary Society, Holy Name Society, Ladies Guild, etc. We don’t need to re – invent the wheel as we set out on the journey to “Arise Together In Christ.” If we use wisely and well the resources that already exist in our parishes, we will be well on the way to a spiritual renewal that will hit these Allegheny Mountains like a force of nature!

On Monday, January 29, Monday of the Fourth Week in Ordinary Times, the Office of Readings in the Church’s Liturgy of the Hours presented us with a vision of what God’s Holy Church can and should be, as seen by Saint Hilary of Poitiers. Saint Hilary wrote:

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brother (and sisters) to dwell in unity! It is good and pleasant for brothers to dwell in unity, because when they do so their association creates the assembly of the Church. The term ‘brothers’ (and sisters) describes the bond of affection arising from their singleness of purpose.

“We read that when the apostles first preached, the chief instruction they gave lay in this saying: The hearts and minds of all believers were one. So it is fitting for the people of God to be brothers under one Father, to be united under one Spirit, to live in harmony under one roof, to be limbs of one body.”

This is the unity we hope for from “Arise Together In Christ.” The good will already manifested in the first set of introductory meetings shows that we are already well on the way to achieving that unity. We seek to build on that strength, and to remain united in purpose. Together, in Christ and with Christ, we pray only to see that unity grow ever stronger.

Creating a safe environment has many roles and rules.

The Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown Office for Youth Protection/Safe Environments embraces the principles of youth development, which includes the belief that children need to be physically and emotionally safe in order to learn and thrive. Everyone is considered a stakeholder and is encouraged to work together to create a culture so that everyone feels safe.

It is our intent to continue to increase communication efforts and provide information regarding our Youth Protection Policies and guidance on how to talk about child abuse and personal safety with your children and grandchildren.

Each month youth protection awareness topics will provide essential information regarding our commitment to the Safe Environment Implementation Initiative. The following glossary summary defines roles and details associated with our youth protection policies.

An Adult: a person age 18 or older.

A (Vulnerable) Adult: is defined for the purpose as any person over the age of eighteen (18), who, by reason of some mental infirmity has such diminished reasoning or cognitive capabilities that they may be considered the

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

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.



Explaining Roles Before Rules

By Cindy O'Connor



equivalent of a minor child.

Child, Children or Minor: all persons under the age of eighteen and/or an adult who is physically or cognitively impaired and unable to protect themselves. A minor should never be used as a chaperone.

Civil Authorities: refers to the local law enforcement agency, whether it be the city police department, the sheriff's department, the state police post or an area child protection agency. It is distinguished from religious authority.

Complainant: the person who has made an allegation against Church personnel.

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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

Diocese Personnel:

- All bishops and priests (active and retired), religious men and women on assignment in the Diocese, deacons and seminarians;

- All diocesan, school and parish employees. This would include any individual 14 years of age or older applying for or in a paid position as an employee responsible for the welfare of a child or having contact with children.

- All school volunteers; and

- All diocesan and parish volunteers who perform a service where they have direct access to children.

Diocesan Review Board: a local board that functions as a confidential consultative body to the bishop/eparch. The board is to offer advice to the bishop/eparch in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and in his determination of a cleric's suitability for ministry.

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

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(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

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 3.)

Koss paints the world around him, in addition to worlds from his imagination. His paintings treat a variety of themes like religion, hunting, coal mining, tender family moments and cats. Koss's comical side is reflected in Comb Over Brothers, Easter Island Snow Men, and The Longest Dog in the World.

The Koss exhibit, "The World I See" contains over 30 pieces. Gallery visitors are greeted with vibrant colors and a humorous take on the world. In the midst of the cold winter, Koss' paintings bring warmth and many smiles to the Gallery.

The Wolf - Kuhn Art Gallery of Mount Aloysius College is located on the first floor of the

iconic Main Building. To inquire about the Gallery's hours or about pieces for sale, contact Dr. Don Talbot at (814) 886 - 6470 or email Dr. Talbot at dtalbot@mtaloy.edu.

Observance Recognized

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College was recently acknowledged for their participation in celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The recognition came from Global Citizen, an organization that spearheaded the celebration of this year's 23rd Annual Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service.

The award was presented to Mount Aloysius College for giving back actively to their community instead of simply taking the day off on to mark Dr. King's national January 15 commemoration. Instead the College planned a weeklong series of constructive actions marking Dr. King's legacy. The week was filled with thought provoking learning moments that served the surrounding community in several ways and enhanced student life on the Cresson, Pa. campus. Events included service trips to the local library and the Portage Railroad Heritage site, as well as topical workshops and even a two-time Olympic track and field participant and medal winner speaking to a packed Alumni Hall.

Mount Aloysius College President Tom Foley noted that the school's commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King was inclusive and community oriented. "The College traditionally commemorates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with proactive service contributions to the community, and cultural events that reflect the

unique contributions of African-Americans to our national tapestry. Once again this year, the College's Mission Integration and Community Outreach Department, under the direction of Executive Director Christina Koren, created an exciting interactive week that reflected both Dr. King's message of positive activism and the Mercy ethos of the Mount Aloysius College. "Rather than a day - off," added President Foley, "we created a model week-on, offering students, faculty, and staff opportunities to learn more about King's pivotal role in American and global history. We are proud to have been recognized by Global Citizen for our commitment to King's legacy."

Prayer

Married Couples' Retreat

Portage: "A Married Couples Weekend Get - Away: The Mission of Marriage," will be held at Saint Joseph Convent, 1872 Munster Road, from Friday, February 9 at 5:30 p.m. to Sunday, February 11 at noon.

The presenter for the weekend will be Dr. John R. Wood, the author of **Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission: 5 Steps To Winning The War Within**, one of Dynamic Catholic's bestselling books, with over 200,000 copies distributed to date.

A suggested donation of \$75.00 is asked for the weekend, or \$35.00 per day to cover meals and costs.

Please register by Wednesday, February 7 by contacting Sister Jacinta sisterjacinta@gmail.com or (814) 886 - 4459.

The retreat is sponsored by the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.



CNS Photo/Larbi Louafi, Reuters

GRAVES OF MARTYRED MONKS: Cardinal Philippe Barbarin of Lyon, France, fourth from left, prays in 2007 in Medea, Algeria, during an interfaith service at the graves of the seven Trappist monks who were killed in 1996.

Martyrs' Causes Advance

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis has recognized the martyrdom of a bishop, seven Trappist monks and 11 other religious men and women killed by extremists in Algeria in the 1990s.

At a meeting Jan. 26 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, Pope Francis signed the decree for the causes of Bishop Pierre Lucien Claverie of Oran, Algeria, and 18 companions, paving the way for their beatification.

The 19 men and women died between 1993 and 1996, while Algeria was locked in a 10-year-long armed conflict between government forces and extremist Islamic rebel groups; the conflict left tens of thousands of people dead.

Bishop Claverie and his driver were killed by a remote-controlled bomb left by the bishop's residence, and the seven Trappist monks, who had been kidnapped from the monastery of Tibhirine, were 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.

Trappist Father Thomas Georgeon, postulator of the cause, told the Italian bishops' radio station Jan. 27 that a date for the beatification ceremony had not yet been set, but he hoped the Mass would be celebrated in Oran.

Pope Francis also recognized the martyrdom of Veronica Antal, a Romanian lay member of the Secular Franciscan Order and the Militia Immaculatae, which was founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe. She died in 1958 at the age of 22 after an assailant stabbed her dozens of times in a corn field for refusing his sexual advances.

Clearing the way for her canonization, the pope also recognized a miracle attributed to Blessed Nazaria Ignacia March Mesa, a Spanish religious.

He also recognized miracles attributed to three other religious women, paving the way for their beatification:

- - Venerable Elisabeth Eppinger, a French religious who founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Divine Redeemer; she died in 1867.

- - Venerable Clelia Merloni, the Italian founder of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who died in 1930.

- - Venerable Maria Gargani, the Italian founder of the Sisters Apostles of the Sacred Heart. She was also very active with Catholic Action.

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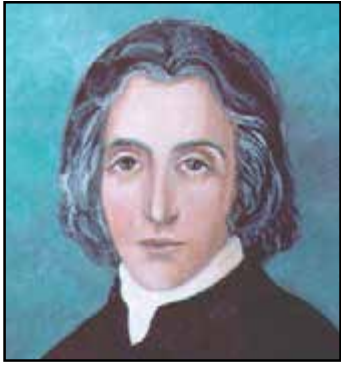
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A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840

Cousin Was Aware Of Prince's Reputation For Sanctity

With the publication last year of **A Russian Religious: A Catholic Story**, by Saint Athanasius Press, concrete proof of how another convert member of the noble Gallitzin family felt about Father Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin's reputation for holiness.

Originally written in 1865 by another - unidentified "Prince

Augustin Galitzin," the 43 - page long essay tells the story of the missionary journey of Mother Elizabeth Galitzine, a Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to the United States in 1840.

The account begins "on the 6th of May, 1840, in a little hut upon the slope of that chain of mountains which separates the northern from the southern states

of the American Union, died an old man who had spent his life in spreading the faith through those distant regions. A crowd of persons surrounded his bed in tears; for during half a century he had been the depository of public misfortunes, domestic troubles, and spiritual distress. Though known by the humble name of Father Smith, this priest was not a native of the land which received his last breath: he was a Russian by birth, and his name was Galitzin."

The author goes on to say "On the 1st of September in the same year, eight women landed at New York, clad all in black, and wearing no ornament but a cross on the breast. They came to educate new generations in the New World. The eldest of them was not, like her sisters, a Frenchwoman; the same blood flowed in her veins as in those of the missionary just dead, and her heart beat with the same love. She too was a Russian, and her name was Madame Elizabeth Galitzin."

Elizabeth Galitzine was born in Saint Petersburg, Russia, in 1795. Following her mother's conversion to Roman Catholicism, Elizabeth became a Catholic in 1815, and eleven years later joined the Religious of the Sacred Heart in 1826. She made her final profession of vows at Rome in 1828, and in 1834 returned to France as an assistant to the Mother Foundress, Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat. In 1839 she was appointed provincial for the houses in the United States of America, where she would support the work of an-

other canonized Sacred Heart Religious, Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne.

Most of Prince Augustin's essay consists of extracts from Madame Elizabeth's letters from the United States to her mother. In these, she makes it clear that the Prince - Priest was well - known and highly thought of, and that her connection with him has been an advantage to her.

In her very first letter home, written from New York City on September 1, 1840, Madame Elizabeth wrote "I was in hopes of finding our relative in America; but he is dead. He died universally regretted. Everybody looked upon him as a saint. I will make it a point to obtain his works and send them to you."

Madame Elizabeth next wrote to her mother on November 9, from Saint Louis.

"It is too true that our 'American uncle' is dead.' You may suppose how deeply I regret it. He was not a Bishop; only a simple missionary. He invariably refused all dignities and devoted himself for more than forty years to the missions, in which he displayed a zeal worthy of an apostle. He died at the age of seventy - two, like a saint as he had lived, having given himself to God since his seventeenth year. The whole country in which he preached the gospel

weeps for him as for a father. His memory is revered in America among Protestants as well as Catholics. I have been shown an article about him in the **Gazette**: it gives his whole history and it would be impossible to write a more touching eulogy of him. I have some of his works; they are excellent."

Again in New York City on May 15, 1841, Madame Elizabeth wrote "You have no idea how deeply our 'relative' is regretted here. He was universally loved and respected. People look upon me with favor because I bear the same name."

Madame Elizabeth returned to Rome in 1842 to report on the state of the American houses, and then returned to the United States in 1843, dying there later that year, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, having done much in a few short years to serve the educational mission of the Church in the New World.

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
Sharing 'Fake News' A Sin

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- People have a responsibility to check the source of what they share on social media to ensure it is not "fake news" designed to further prejudices or increase fear, Pope Francis said.

Fake news grabs people's attention "by appealing to stereotypes and common social prejudices, and exploiting instantaneous emotions like anxiety, contempt, anger and frustration," Pope Francis wrote in his message for World Communications Day 2018.

The message is a reflection on the theme, "The truth will set you free.' Fake news and journalism for peace." World Communications Day will be celebrated May 13 at the Vatican and in most dioceses. The papal message was released at the Vatican Jan. 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists.

Fake news is so effective, he said, because it mimics real news but uses "non-existent or distorted data" to deceive and manipulate.

The first to employ the fake-news tactic was the serpent in the Garden of Eden who convinced Eve she would not die by eating the fruit of the forbidden tree, he said. The Bible story shows that "there is no such thing as harmless disinformation; on the contrary, trusting in falsehood can have dire consequences."

Pope Francis praised educators who teach young people how to read and question the news and the information they see presented on social media. He encouraged efforts to develop regulations to counter fake news and he praised tech and media companies for trying to improve ways to verify "the personal identities concealed behind millions of digital profiles."

But, he insisted, individuals always will have the final responsibility for discerning what is real news and what is helpful to share on social media.

"We need to unmask what could be called the 'snake tactics' used by those who disguise themselves in order to strike at any time and place" like the serpent in the Garden of Eden did.

The snake's power grows as people limit their sources of information to one outlet, especially if that outlet is a social media platform whose algorithms are based on providing users with more information like they have just read, the pope said.

"Disinformation thus thrives on the absence of healthy confrontation with other sources of information that could effectively challenge prejudices and generate constructive dialogue," he wrote.

People who repost or retweet such false information, the pope said, become "unwilling accomplices in spreading biased and baseless ideas."

One way to know if something should be checked and not be shared, he said, is if it "discredits others, presenting them as enemies, to the point of demonizing them and fomenting conflict."

In the modern world, with the rapid and viral spread of news and information -- both real and fake -- lives and souls are at stake, he said, because the "father of lies" is the devil.

True discernment, the pope said, means examining information and keeping what promotes communion and goodness, while rejecting whatever "tends to isolate, divide, and oppose."

"We can recognize the truth of statements from their fruits: whether they provoke quarrels, foment division, encourage resignation; or, on the other hand, they promote informed and mature reflection leading to constructive dialogue and fruitful results," Pope Francis wrote.

(Continued On Page 9.)



ONE MORE TIME: A throng of over 20,000 people tried to gain access to Saint Mark Church, Altoona, for the March 27, 1911 Funeral Mass of Father Nicholas J. O'Reilly, founding pastor, who had served there since 1890.

In the wake of Donald Trump's election as president, much has been made of the voters he attracted, usually identified as white, male, small town and rural, working class.

While such statistical generalizations obscure the fact that many who did not fit that stereotype also voted for him, it did attract a great deal of attention to that "other America" that resides between the crowded coastal states and media centers.

Books like **Hillbilly Elegy** by J.D. Vance became must-reads, and pundits were making postelection resolutions to get out of their media bubbles and visit that "other America" that so shocked them on Election Day.

Looking at the electoral map of red (Republican) and blue (Democrat) states, one immediately sees the huge scarlet swath that included the South, Midwest and upper Midwest -- what is often dismissively referred to as flyover country. Those journalists wanting to see what makes this part of America tick clearly have a lot of ground to cover.

I grew up in California and now reside on the East Coast, but for many years I lived in Indiana, one of those red flyover states.

I've enjoyed the riotous ethnic and racial diversity of the



Amid The Fray

By Greg Erlandson
Understanding
'The Other America'

Washington area, and the church here reflects this diversity. My parish has a weekly Mass for Nigerian Catholics, throbbing with different rhythms, vivid colors and no concern that it all gets wrapped up in an hour. Nearby, a parish serving a large Hispanic community is standing room only every Sunday.

The needs of these communities are great, and the church is keenly aware of them. It has sought to help immigrant families and to protect their rights. The bishops know personally young Dreamers brought to this country and growing up in their parishes, and they know also the church's strong biblical commitment to the poor and the stranger.

Yet I felt privileged to have experienced my Midwestern parish as well. There were high levels of engagement and stewardship, a simple, heartfelt appreciation of community, a sincerity and generosity that helped

me appreciate the values and the spirit of the heartland.

Before the 2016 election, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, a Catholic social research organization, summarized its research about "town and country Catholics." It contrasted folks living in coastal states or major urban areas with folks in noncoastal states and rural areas.

CARA reported that Catholics living in rural and small town, noncoastal communities had higher rates of religious practice, higher rates of parish involvement, higher rates of financial support of their parish, higher rates of youth engagement as well.

"There may be fewer in the pews in rural America, but they are more connected to their faith and parish life than those anywhere else in the country," the report concluded.

(Continued On Page 15.)



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle Our Responsibility As Grandma And Grandpa

Q. Our daughter has moved back to our area after a divorce, along with her two children -- now ages 8 and 10. The children are baptized; the older one has made her first Communion and the younger one will do so next month. My daughter is the product of Catholic grade school, high school and college, but she does not attend church with them except for Christmas and Easter.

Is it my husband's and my responsibility to get these children to Mass each Sunday? (We have taken them at times, but now they are coming up with any excuse not to go. We took our own four children to Mass every Sunday.) (City of origin withheld)

A. I do not think that you are under any strict moral obligation to get your grandchildren to Mass each Sunday. It was your daughter who chose to have her children baptized.

Presumably, in the baptismal preparation class, she was

reminded that she was accepting the responsibility of raising her children as regularly practicing Catholics. (And hopefully, during the first Communion preparation, that point was made once more.) If your daughter has chosen to default on this agreement, the burden is on her conscience, not yours.

At the same time, though, you and your husband are grateful for your Catholic faith and practice, consider it the preferred way of Christ and feel that it offers the clearest path to salvation. Because of that, you naturally desire to pass it on to your grandchildren.

Perhaps, when the opportunity presents itself, you and your husband could convey to your daughter how much your religion means to you and why you would like your grandchildren to share in that same benefit. Your daughter might even have thought (as some people erroneously do) that the fact of her divorce itself has made her ineligible to participate in the

sacraments.

On occasion, without overpowering them, you might also let the little children know of the satisfaction and peace you feel from your faith. And would it be possible that there is another young family in your neighborhood, whose children your grandchildren like and enjoy, who might be willing to bring your grandchildren with them to Mass?

In answer to your question, then, I believe that you are presented not with an obligation but with an opportunity.

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

The Pope Teaches

'Fake News'

(Continued From Page 8.)

Journalists, he said, have a special responsibility in the modern world amid the media "feeding frenzies and the mad rush for a scoop."

Pope Francis asked media professions to promote "a journalism of peace," which does not mean ignoring problems or being saccharine. It means "a journalism that is truthful and opposed to falsehoods, rhetorical slogans and sensational headlines."

A journalism of peace is at the service of all people, "especially those -- and they are the majority in our world -- who have no voice," he said. It is "a journalism committed to pointing out alternatives to the escalation of shouting matches and verbal violence."

Pope Francis ended his message with his own adaptation of the "Prayer of St. Francis" for both those who report the news and those who read or watch it.

"Where there is shouting, let us practice listening," the prayer said. "Where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity."

"Where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust," it continued. "Where there is hostility, let us bring respect; where there is falsehood, let us bring truth."



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola The Debt We Owe

In Omaha, Nebraska, where I live, we have a feature writer in the local paper who covers the stories of refugees in our city. Her most recent article featured the trials of a family from Congo who spent years in a Tanzanian refugee camp hoping for a better life.

After extreme vetting, they were accepted to live in Omaha. But resettlement wasn't done well by their agency. Orientation was limited. After a year in the country, a visitor found a family member pounding on a can because no one had introduced them to a can opener. Sometimes, a flush toilet is mystifying to a refugee.

With my Sunday morning coffee, I saw the headline: "Fragile System of Survival." I began to read, but then set the article aside for later. Sometimes, it's too painful to digest the news before breakfast.

So, I began to get ready for my day. My bathroom is large and comfortable. Big mirror; two double sinks. Nothing opulent, but roomy with the usual "stuff" we often take for granted: silk flowers, plenty of clean towels, a bag of makeup, all the cleaning supplies I need, a toilet I know how to operate.

Suddenly, thinking of those refugees, I looked at myself in the mirror and asked, "Why are you so lucky?"

And just as suddenly, the face that looked back at me was the face of my great-grandfather. I have a huge portrait of him that's been bequeathed to me by family members who had no place to put it. I've always identified with him, his short, stocky frame, his dark West of Ireland eyes, the way he lifts his left eyebrow in the picture just like I do.

My great-grandfather, appearing in my mirror, answered my question. I'm lucky because in the mid-19th century, he had the courage to get on a famine boat after his parents succumbed to hunger, according to family oral history. He had the physical strength and perhaps good luck to survive the "coffin ships" that left many dead.

He had the drive, energy and intelligence, despite being illiterate and filthy when he arrived, to claim Nebraska farmland and make a success of it in a bewildering and hostile climate far from Ireland's green and gentler climes.

My great-grandfather buried more children than he raised. He overcame a political climate that denigrated the Irish whose country had become unlivable and wretched. According to an old hired hand who knew him, whom I interviewed when I was young, he could nevertheless spin cheerful yarns as he belled up to the bar in the tiny town near his farm.

He helped build a church with other Irish settlers, and transplanted trees from the Platte River banks to frame the church grounds. He saw three children, including my grandfather, reach success in adulthood, and his portrait indicates a prosperous man.

Lately, we've been subjected to startling and hate-filled language emanating from the highest level of our government. We've heard certain countries, mostly with brown and black residents, disparaged. It's suggested we need immigrants who are well-educated and white, not the huddled masses of yore.

The statistics tell us that immigrants and refugees produce more than we give them. They strive and succeed; they pay taxes and become citizens. Along with the descendants of enslaved peoples and Native Americans, they are the bedrock of our nation.

We who are so lucky owe a debt. Thank you, great-grandfather, Thomas Costello. May we whose ancestors persevered through unthinkable trials do our best to welcome those who struggle now.

Saint Agatha Third Century Feast - February 5



As with other early Christian martyrs, Agatha's story is legendary not factual. The Sicilian-born virgin supposedly was martyred during the persecution of Emperor Decius, who ruled 249-51. She was sent to a brothel to force her to repudiate a vow of chastity, but she remained steadfast and her breasts were cut off. Healed when St. Peter appeared to her in prison, she died a few days later from further torture. Her saintly cult spread, and she was added to the Roman Canon of the Mass about 600.



CNS Photo/Reuters

ICON: The Marian icon, “Salus Populi Romani” (health of the Roman People) is seen as Pope Francis celebrates Mass at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome Sunday, January 28. The icon recently underwent a major restoration.

In Times Of Trouble, Turn To Mary, Says Pope At Saint Mary Major

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- A relationship with Mary, the mother of God, is not “optional” for Christians, Pope Francis said, because Jesus points to her as a source of protection and guidance.

Wherever people have opened their doors to Mary, “the devil doesn’t come in; wherever the Mother Mary is, turmoil will not prevail, fear will not win. Who among us doesn’t need this? Who among us is not sometimes in distress or worried?” he asked in a morning homily Jan. 28.

The pope celebrated Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary Major

on the feast of the formal installation of the basilica’s Marian icon, “Salus Populi Romani” (health of the Roman people). The icon had been extensively restored in time for the day’s celebration.

Pope Francis is particularly devoted to the icon, which has had a place in the hearts of Rome citizens since the 16th century when their prayers to be saved from the plague seemed to be answered after the image was carried through the city streets in a procession.

In his homily, the pope recalled how Christians have always turned to Mary in times of trouble and difficulty.

“How many times the heart is a stormy sea, where waves of problems swell and the winds



CNS Photo/Reuters

POPE PRAYS: Pope Francis prays in front of the Marian icon, “Salus Populi Romani” (health of the Roman People) after celebrating Mass at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in in Rome Sunday, January 28.

Wherever people have opened their doors to Mary, “the devil doesn’t come in; wherever the Mother Mary is, turmoil will not prevail, fear will not win. Who among us doesn’t need this? Who among us is not sometimes in distress or worried?” the Pope asked in a morning homily Sunday, January 28 at Rome’s Basilica of Saint Mary Major.

of worry do not stop blowing? Mary is the ark, safe in the middle of a flood,” he said.

“It won’t be ideas or technology that gives us comfort and hope, but the face of the mother Mary -- her hands caress our life, her mantle shelters us,” he said.

Mary “is not optional,” he

said. From his cross, Jesus gave her to his disciples because “he knows we need refuge and protection in the midst of so many dangers.”

“It is very dangerous for the faith to love without the mother, without protection, letting ourselves be carried along by life like leaves in the wind.”

Christians, too, become united as brothers and sisters since they are children of God the father, and Mary, the mother, he said.

“You can’t be neutral or detached from the mother, otherwise we lose our identity as children and as people” of God, he said.



CNS Photo/Reuters

POPE AND CLERGY HONOR MARY: Pope Francis and clergy pray in front of the Marian icon, “Salus Populi Romani” (health of the Roman People) at the conclusion of Mass at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in in Rome Sunday, January 28.



Mary “is not optional,” Pope Francis said. From his cross, Jesus gave her to his disciples because “he knows we need refuge and protection in the midst of so many dangers.”

“It is very dangerous for the faith to love without the mother, without protection, letting ourselves be carried along by life like leaves in the wind.”

CNS Photo/Reuters

PASTORAL STAFF: Pope Francis carries his pastoral staff as he celebrates Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome Jan. 28.

Grass - Roots Efforts Allows Catholics To 'Adopt' A Local Priest

By Dan Meloy
Catholic News Service

DEARBORN, Mich. (CNS) -- Parishioners need their priests. But priests need their parishioners.

That's the spirit behind Parishioners for Priests, a grass-roots movement that encourages Catholics to give local priests the one thing they need most: prayers.

The movement began on Palm Sunday 2017 and since has grown to 559 followers on Facebook.

Each day, one of the active priests of the Archdiocese of Detroit is selected as the "priest of the day," and the followers

of the page take time to say a prayer for that priest.

The simple but effective way to pray from priests was started by Mindy DeWitt, a parishioner at the Church of the Divine Child in Dearborn.

"I felt priests really need to be prayed for," DeWitt told **The Michigan Catholic**, the archdiocesan newspaper. "I saw a Vatican document 'Eucharistic Adoration for the Sanctification of Priests and Spiritual Maternity,' on the (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops) website. It was about having Holy Hours for praying for priests and spiritually adopting a priest.

"I read the document, emailed it to Father John Kopson (associate pastor of Divine



CNS Photo/Dan Meloy, **The Michigan Catholic**

PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS: Mindy DeWitt, a parishioner of Divine Child Parish in Dearborn MI, poses January 4 with some of the cards and posters she created for "Parishioners for Priests," a grass-roots movement that seeks to assign every priest in the Archdiocese of Detroit a dedicated anonymous prayer warrior.

Child), and asked if he wanted to talk about it."

Those discussions spurred DeWitt to action.

In addition to praying for the "priest of the day," those interested can spiritually adopt a priest for whom they'll be responsible for praying. DeWitt uses an app on her iPad that randomly selects the name of a priest in the Detroit Archdiocese who hasn't been adopted yet.

The parishioner then receives a confirmation email and a card with the name of the archdiocesan priest on it, instructing the person to pray daily for the priest's sanctification.

To date, 105 priests have been adopted, but more than 200 active priests in the archdiocese await adoption.

Parishioners can't select which priest they are going to adopt, and the adoptions are done anonymously -- a system DeWitt thinks works well.

"I think it's better anonymous; the priest doesn't feel an obligation to do anything in return," DeWitt said. "I have a P.O. Box address. One time a priest adopted sent a thank-you card to the P.O. Box, so I sent the card to the person who had adopted them. Then I sent a letter

to the priest saying the message was passed along."

When a person adopts a priest, they have the option to send him a "spiritual bouquet," a postcard the parishioner can fill out detailing what they are doing for the priest.

"There are different levels of participation," DeWitt said. "We have a prayer card for people who don't have a lot of time, but can say a prayer for all the priests or the priest of the day. We just encourage everyone to pray what they can."

Each of the cards, and the spiritual bouquet, include a quote from St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests: "When people wish to destroy religion, they begin by attacking the priest because where there is no priest, there is no sacrifice."

"Without our priests, we don't have a church; it's that

simple," DeWitt said. "We hear all the time, 'Pray for priests.' But sometimes that's too general or impersonal. When people have a specific priest, or a priest for a day, that makes it more personal, something people can better comprehend who they are praying for."

DeWitt hopes that soon enough, every priest in the archdiocese will be adopted, and every parish will have some sort of Holy Hour dedicated to praying for priests.

"Judging by the comments I receive on Facebook and through email, people really appreciate their priests and want to have a public place to say that," DeWitt said. "At Divine Child, we have a monthly Holy Hour to pray for priests, and I'm hoping more parishes will start having more dedicated times to do so."

"Without our priests, we don't have a church; it's that simple," Mindy DeWitt said. "We hear all the time, 'Pray for priests.' But sometimes that's too general or impersonal. When people have a specific priest, or a priest for a day, that makes it more personal, something people can better comprehend who they are praying for."

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U.S. Bishops Name Three Young Adults As Delegates To Pre - Synod Meeting

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A religious brother, a campus ministry director and a youth minister who is a wife and new mother have been named to represent the United States as young adult delegates at a pre-synod gathering in Rome in March.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced Jan. 25 that the delegates are: LaSallian Christian Brother Javier Hansen, a religion teacher at Cathedral High School in El

Paso, Texas; Nick Lopez, director of campus ministry for the University of Dallas; and Katie Prejean-McGrady, a wife, new mother, youth minister, and a popular speaker from the Diocese of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Last October, Pope Francis invited Christian and non-Christian young people from around the world to a meeting in preparation for this October's Synod of Bishops, which will have as its theme: "Young people, faith and vocational discernment."

"Through this journey, the church wants to listen to the voices, the sensibilities, the faith as well as the doubts and criticisms of young people. We must listen to young people," Pope Francis said in announcing the pre-synod gathering, set for March 19-25.

"We are delighted that Brother Javier, Nick and Katie have accepted the invitation to represent the youth and young adults of the United States at this important gathering in Rome," Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, and Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia said in a joint statement.

Cardinal Tobin is chairman of the bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, and Archbishop Chaput is chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

"We hope that all Catholics will join us in praying for them and for all the young delegates from around the world, participating in the pre-synod conference," the prelates said. "Their coming together is a wonderful opportunity for the church, to hear the perspective of young people pertaining to the key themes which will be discussed in the 2018 Synod of Bishops."

For Brother Javier, this will be the first time he has traveled to Rome.

"I believe I offer the perspective of many young religious in this country and those who are currently discerning

religious life," he said in a statement. "I not only will represent the people of my generation but also the young people I interact with every day in the classroom."

Born in Northern California and raised on a ranch, he is a Brother of the Christian Schools in the LaSallian District of San Francisco-New Orleans.

Lopez, who is a guest columnist for the Catholic News Service column "In Light of Faith," focusing on millennials, sees it as an opportunity to represent the needs of his fellow Hispanic and Latino Americans.

"In particular, I hope to be able to offer some successes and viewpoints from my life as a minister, including interfaith relations, integrating popular culture effectively in ministry and the Latino/Hispanic American experience," he said in a statement.

Lopez told Catholic News Service he feels "blessed to be a part of this opportunity" and emphasized what an honor it is.

"The young people of the church is where my heart has always been for as long as I can remember -- which is odd as I'm only 27," he added. "My appreciation for this invitation is not about me being one of the delegates chosen, but that the invitations themselves undeniably show the Holy Father's and the bishops' sincere desire to hear and learn from young people. That is why this invitation is so special."

Prejean-McGrady called it "easily one of the greatest honors of my life." She said she was "remarkably humbled" and "still a little bit stunned" but praying "daily that I will serve well!"

"While there," she said, "I am greatly looking forward to the chance to learn through dialogue and discussion, how other countries uniquely lead young people into an authentic and personal encounter with Jesus Christ, and to bring this infor-

mation home to share with our bishops, priests, and lay men and women working in ministry."

She told CNS she has begun preparing by reading the preparatory document "and gathering the thoughts of youth and young adults in my community about how the church can serve them in their pursuit of a relationship with Jesus."

Added Prejean-McGrady: "I want this gathering to be a chance to not only hear about how other countries are creating opportunities for encountering Christ, but also share how I've seen this happen in the United States."

In addition to the in-person meeting of delegates, the Vatican will be inviting young people from around the world to participate in the pre-synod gathering digitally via social media. This will allow more youth and young adult voices can contribute to the dialogue. Details on how young people can engage the process in this manner will be available in the coming months.

The commitment that Brother Javier, Lopez and Prejean-McGrady have to Christ and the Catholic Church "is incredible and I am very happy that they will be representing our country," said Paul Jarzembowski, who is assistant director for youth and young adult ministries in the USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

"I am grateful that the three young adults chosen also work with other young people: in the classroom, through parish and diocesan ministries, on the college campus and through their own formation as young adults," Jarzembowski told CNS.

"Not only will they be able to share their own stories and insights, but they will be able to pass on what they are hearing from other young people they encounter," he added.

Explaining Roles Before Rules

(Continued From Page 5.)

Direct Contact: is defined in the PA Child Protective Services Law as "the care, supervision, guidance or control of children or routine interaction with children."

Immediate Vicinity: is defined to mean an area in which an individual is physically present with a child and can see, hear, direct and assess the activities of the child.

National Review Board: A board instituted by the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People whose purpose is to collaborate with the USCCB in preventing the sexual abuse of minors in the U.S. by persons in service to the Church.

Safe Environment: term used to refer to a wide assortment of practices that contribute to preventing child abuse of any kind.

Safe Environment Coordinator: The person appointed by the pastor, principal or administrator to oversee compliance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and the Diocese's Safe Environments Policy.

Victim/Survivor: a person who has abuse of any kind in their background and has or is working to overcome the negative effects of that abuse.

Volunteer: Adults applying for or holding an unpaid position as a volunteer with a child care service, a school or a program, activity or service responsible for the child's welfare or having direct volunteer contact with children will need clearances

Volunteer Routine Interaction: Regular and repeated contact with children that is integral to a person's volunteer responsibilities.

Vulnerable Person: Any person (children included) whose ability to perform the normal activities of daily living or to provide for his/her own care or protection is impaired due to a mental, emotional, physical or development disability or dysfunction, or brain damage or the infirmities of aging. This includes all residents or patients of a care facility.

For inquiries 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.

Now Showing

'12 Strong' A Rousing Tale Of Victory

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- True military adventures don't come any more rousing than "12 Strong" (Warner Bros.), the story of a tiny Special Forces unit that won a significant early victory against both the Taliban and al-Qaida in the weeks after 9/11.

Based on Doug Stanton's book **Horse Soldiers**, it's the story of Operational Detachment Alpha 595 of the Green Berets, which embedded with Northern Alliance militias, led by Afghan warlords, to drive both Taliban and al-Qaida fighters from a swath of mountainous northern Afghanistan.

The mission was classified, and not disclosed to the public until years later. The Americans were sent in to call in bombing runs -- in this film, only the mighty B-52 bombers appear -- on Taliban positions.

What made it unique was the American military sometimes fighting as horse-mounted cavalry, something not done since before World War I. It was the only way to navigate the rugged terrain with the necessary speed and nimbleness.

Director Nicolai Fuglsig, working from a script by Ted Tally and Peter Craig, avoids what could have become jingoistic moments and barely refers to Islam.

This is not portrayed as a religious war. America was attacked, these soldiers went about their business to prepare a military response, and they're well aware that Afghanistan has been "the graveyard of empires" for centuries.

Their occasional differences with the warlords are shown as mostly having to do with warfighting strategies, not religious beliefs. They're given just three weeks to accomplish the mission.



CNS Photo/Warner Bros.

12 STRONG: Michael Shannon and Chris Hemsworth, facing camera, star in a scene from the movie "12 Strong." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian

There are moral examples shown as well.

Green Beret Capt. Mitch Nelson (Chris Hemsworth) keeps repeating, "The only way home is winning." And, learning that Nelson, who leads just 11 men, is the only one in the unit who has not faced combat before, Afghan Gen. Abdul Rahid Dostum (Navid Negahban) reminds him that the only way to win is to lose all fear of dying.

Only a couple of the Green Berets have had much experi-

ence riding horses, but after some initially awkward moments, they adapt well. The Taliban fighters are mechanized with old equipment, but are shown as generally inept in combat.

The story keeps a tight focus on Nelson, Chief Warrant Officer Hal Spencer (Michael Shannon) and Sgt. Sam Diller (Michael Pena).

All the elements of a classic war film are here, including supportive spouses back home in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, combat planning from caves, casual banter under the most stressful circumstances, the Americans treating Afghan children with candy, the occasional horseback charge, and a particularly ugly scene in which a Taliban war-

lord executes a teacher, in front of three young girls, for the "crime" of educating them.

This is emotional manipulation, of course, but in this story, the demarcation between good guys and bad guys is very clear. So also is American valor. The film doesn't demand that audiences cheer, but instead finds understated ways to let viewers realize that these events actually occurred.

The film contains intense, lengthy and realistic combat violence and gore. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Sunday Mass
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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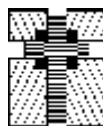
Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

February 11 - - Father D. Timothy Grimme, pastor of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish in Altoona, offers ideas for a more spiritual Lenten season.

February 18 - - Robert Long, a Hollidaysburg native and former Music Director at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, discusses the inspiration behind his latest recording.

May They Rest In Peace



Nancy J. Arnone

Nancy J. Arnone 83, of Moxham, died, surrounded by her loving family on Monday January 15, at Memorial Medical Center, Johnstown. She was the mother of Father Leo Arnone, a priest of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown currently serving as a chaplain with the United States Navy,

She was born November 7, 1934 in Johnstown, daughter of the late Leo and Evelyn (Wolfe) Kane, and was preceded in death by a sister, Patricia Green.

Surviving is her husband of 63 years, Philip C. Arnone; children, Charles married to Teresa, Philip Jr. married to Deborah McCarthy - Arnone, Kathleen married to Gerald Moon, Vince married to Michele, Nicholas married to Gina, David married to Cindy, Father Leo Arnone, John Arnone and Samuel married to Ellen; 18 grandchildren, 10 great - grandchildren, and 1 great - great - grandchild; sisters, Mary Claire and Jo Anne; brother, Michael Kane; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Arnone was a devoted lifetime member of Saint Patrick Parish where she participated in

Christian Mothers, and the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. United with her husband, she was particularly devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Arnone Family wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude to Bishop Bartchak, the priests of the Diocese, the Sisters of the Sacred Heart and John Paul II Manor, CVMH Palliative Care staff and so many friends for your gracious support. on behalf of Nancy Arnone.

The Funeral Mass for Nancy J. Arnone was celebrated Friday, January 19 at Saint Patrick Church, Moxham, with Father Leo Arnone, son, and Father Walter Moll, pastor, as concelebrants. Committal was at Saint Anthony Cemetery, Geistown. Memorial contributions may be directed to Saint Patrick's building fund, 609 Park Avenue, Johnstown PA 15902, in her memory.

Deacon Steve A. Luke

Deacon Steve A. Luke, 62, of Mark Hanna Road, Ashville, died Monday, January 22, at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital, Pittsburgh.

He was born July 18, 1955 in Altoona, the son of the late William and Anna (Baker) Luke, and was preceded in death by brother, William "Bill" Slone Sr., brother - in - law, Maury "Butch" Delozier, and nephews, Scott Slone and Michael Miller.



Surviving is his wife of 41 years, the former Helen Gailey, whom he married August 21, 1976 at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, Ashville, children, Kevin (Anna) and Pamela Luke all of Mark Hanna, three grandchildren: Alexis, Anthony and Claire and one to be born in March.

He was the brother of: Randy (Karen), Beverly Delozier, Ben (Diane), John (Mary), Ed (Deb), and Bryan (Rosalie).

Steve worked at the Juniata Shops for 28 years and retired in 2017.

He was ordained to the permanent diaconate June 7, 2003, and ministered at Saint Joseph Church, Coupon, Saint Monica Church, Chest Springs, and Saint Augustine Church, Dysart.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak was the principal celebrant of the Funeral Mass for Deacon Steve A. Luke, celebrated Friday, January 26 at Saint Augustine Church, Dysart. Committal was in Saint Thomas Aquinas Cemetery, Ashville.

Memorial donations may be made to Saint Augustine Church, Saint Monica Church, or the Disalced Carmelite Monastery, Loretto, in Deacon Steve's memory.

In Light Of Faith

(Continued From Page 4.)

Last, offer small groups as young adult or intergenerational formation.

The church has some of its own defining decades ahead of it. We would do well to turn our attention to young adults in their own defining moments.

Retired Indianapolis Archbishop Dies At 79

By Catholic News Service

ST. MEINRAD, Ind. (CNS) -- Retired Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein of Indianapolis, a Benedictine priest for 53 years, died Jan. 25 at age 79.

His death was reported by St. Meinrad Archabbey, where he had lived in retirement since 2011.

Archbishop Buechlein headed the Archdiocese of Indianapolis from July 14, 1992, until his retirement Sept. 21, 2011.

During his 19 years as archdiocese's spiritual and pastoral leader, Archbishop Buechlein was especially interested in promoting Catholic education, young adult ministry and vocations to priesthood and the religious life.

Under his leadership, enrollment in the archdiocese's Catholic schools increased 30 percent to more than 25,000 students, reversing a 25-year decline. Innovative partnerships with the Lilly Endowment, campaigns to help fund new education initiatives, and the support of the business community led to improved student performance, which the U.S. Department of Education recognized by awarding 26 archdiocesan schools with Blue Ribbon awards for excellence.

He suffered a mild stroke in March 2011 and was admitted to St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. On Aug. 1, 2011, he submitted his resignation to Pope Benedict XVI and two months later he moved to the infirmary at the monastery at St. Meinrad.

As his health permitted, Archbishop Buechlein wrote a book, "Surprised by Grace: Memories and Reflections After 25 Years of Episcopal Ministry," which was published in 2013.

The archbishop was born in Jasper, Indiana, April 20, 1938, to Carl and Rose (Blessinger) Buechlein and given the name Marcus George.

He joined the Benedictines at St. Meinrad in August 1958 and professed simple vows a year later, taking the name Daniel. He made his solemn vows in 1962 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1964.

After ordination, the young priest spent two years in Rome, where he obtained a licentiate in sacred theology from the International Benedictine University of Sant' Anselmo.

St. John Paul II appointed then-Father Buechlein as the third bishop of the Diocese of Memphis, Tennessee, in 1987. Five years later he was named archbishop of Indianapolis.

Surviving are his brother, Charles, and nieces and nephews.

Amid The Fray

'The Other America'

(Continued From Page 8.)

The heartland is ailing, however. It is losing jobs. Its young people are migrating to larger urban areas. Many of the afflictions of the city fester also in the country.

America's small towns have been battered by the decline in families, with divorce and cohabitation increasingly common. It is beset by problems like opioid addiction. One pastor told me his church was experiencing almost a funeral a week

due to drug overdoses.

Catholics have deep roots in these communities, and the church is uniquely positioned not only to serve the needs of its faithful people there but also to give voice to their suffering, as it does for the immigrant, the refugee, the city dweller.

The 2016 election may have caught political observers by surprise, but the church understands its call is to serve all the marginalized and the hurting, whatever their zip code.

Do You Have a "Catholic" Living Will and Healthcare POA?

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ECUMENICAL GATHERING: Clergy from a variety of Christian faith traditions came together Sunday, January 21 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, for the annual Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Reverend Robert Buczak, Reverend Ryan Viands, Reverend Timothy Knauss, Reverend Carol Custead, Reverend Joy Kaufman, Reverend Judith Simonson, Reverend Scott Custead. Second row: Father Ronald Osinski, Bishop Michael Rhyne, Reverend Ed Harshberger, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop Gregory Of Nyssa, Monsignor Michael Becker, Reverend Paula Schmitt and Reverend Hans Peter - Helmers.

Christians Urged To Unite In Prayer, Actions That Give Praise To God's Providence

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

Bishop Gregory of Nyssa was the homilist for the first of two Ecumenical Prayer Services for Christian Unity. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak hosted the first prayer service on Sunday, January 21 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.

Bishop Gregory is of the American Carpatho - Russian Orthodox Diocese.

The second service was held at 2 PM on Sunday, January 28 at Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Johnstown. Each celebrated the annual week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme for this year's events was "Your right hand O Lord, glorious in power."

Bishop Gregory said that it's significant that "we can gather each year as Brothers and Sisters in Christ." He then turned to the words of Exodus: 15; 6- 7.

"Your right hand, O Lord, magnificent in power,

"Your right hand O Lord, has shattered the enemy.

"In your great majesty you overthrew your adversaries'

"You loosed your wrath to consume them like strubble."

According to Bishop Gregory "The right hand of God" in the Bible and in common speech is a metaphor for the omnipotence of God. In the Bible, to be at the right side "is to be identified as being in the special place of honor His right hand." His right hand parted the Red Sea and saved the Israelites and they were then able to worship freely.

Bishop Gregory said the right hand is an Old Testament metaphor for providence. It is the right hand

of God that brought the Hebrew people out of slavery and it still leads us today.

He said we are all united in a Sacred Covenant with God. "This is an integral part of God's plan for our Salvation and Glorification of His Name."

"God expected us to be joined as very social groups characterized as a people of justice, compassion and mercy," said Bishop Gregory. "Reconciliation often commands repentance, reparation and healing.

"When Christians discover their unity in Jesus Christ they par-

ticipate in Christ's glorification in the presence of the Father."

Bishop Gregory reminded that the "Bible is a source of consultation and liberation. It calls us to reconciliation.

"In our fallen world too often we lack the passion that enhances human dignity.

"God is an awesome God," said Bishop Gregory. "God acts in all situations and all times to take care of us.

"Our theme calls us to thank God for His gifts and all of his works."

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