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Amid The Fun, Summer Camps Deepen Relationships With Jesus Christ

Photo And Text By
Bruce A. Tomaselli

"I was reading a story a while ago that made me stop and think about our summer camps, Zacchaeus and Timothy," Francine Swope, the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Religious Education, and Sacramental Preparation, said.

She said, it is the essence of what we are trying to achieve with our young people through all of our programs in addition to our summer camps.

The article, she said, discussed how important it is for our young people to know the facts about Jesus so they will never doubt their faith. "Kids need to know Jesus. They need to know who He was, what He did, and what He means to us today.

A child's relationship with Jesus Christ is the number one predictor of their long-term commitment to their faith. If kids do not know in their hearts that Jesus is the Son of God, and know and accept the unconditional love He has for them, they will listen to the critics, bend to peer pressure, and they will doubt the core of their faith.

Camp Timothy, to be held June 17-21, is for high school students entering grades nine to 12, and newly graduated seniors. Camp Zacchaeus offers two week-long sessions; July 21-27; and July 29 - August 3. The camp is for boys and girls entering grades 4 to 9 as of September 2018. Both camps are held at Camp Sequanota in Jennerstown, PA.

They are sponsored by the



Students Play Four Square Ball at Camp Zacchaeus

Youth Ministry Office of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese.

The deadline for registering for Camp Timothy is May 21. The deadline for registering for Camp Zacchaeus is on June 25.

"Every child should have this opportunity to come to camp. To share experiences that will enrich their faith life, and help them understand their faith is something they can carry with them every day," Swope said.

Angel Fund Scholarships insure that every child who would like to attend one of the camps has the opportunity. Persons should contact Francine Swope at (814) 317-2646 for an Angel Fund Application. The deadline for applying for the schol-

arships is May 18 for Zacchaeus, and May 1 for Camp Timothy.

"Finances should not prevent any child from attending camp and enjoying these unique experiences," said Swope.

Brochures for both camps can be found on the diocesan web site www.dioceseaj.org. Just activate the Youth Ministry link.

The kids will enjoy the usual camping activities such as swimming, a challenge course for team building, hiking, canoeing, campfires, Mass and Devotions, etc.

They are particularly happy with the strong nature program that continues to develop each year. The campers learn about environmental changes, recycling, care of natural

resources, water issues, and many of the environmental issues we face today. Francine said the kids have really enjoyed "our nature component and it continues to grow," she said.

"This year, we will be offering a week of "Good News!" They will be learning more about our faith through the Bible. We want the kids to see the Bible as a tool for their lives. We want them to be able to relate it to their daily experiences and understand how it can help them make good choices and live a good life."

In addition to the regular camp activities the kids will learn about devotions such as Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross, and praying the Rosary. It was kind of

exciting, Swope said, to hear how the children just loved learning about and Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Believe or not some of these kids have never experienced these devotions," which was very surprising to her and the camp counselors.

"But the highlight each year," said Francine, "is being able to meet Bishop Mark in a camp atmosphere, and interacting with him. Bishop Mark socializes with them, eats lunch with them, and participates in their games. They really have fun meeting the Bishop in an informal way. Some kids never even get to see him until they are Confirmed."

"Along with all of the camp activities we are all there to share, learn, and celebrate our faith," she said. "The kids learn that their faith is much bigger than themselves. They begin to understand that their faith extends way beyond their own parish."

Camp Timothy offers the more mature students a deeper understanding of their faith, which helps them look toward their adult church life. Along with the usual camping activities, a white water rafting trip is planned. Francine wanted to add something special to their camp experience.

The camps bring students together from across the diocese and creates friendships that last into their adult years. "The long lasting effects of the time spent at camp is seen in the growing of their faith, and the friendships these young people build," Francine said.

Two Men Were Ordained Priests In 2017; Today Diocese Has Four Seminarians Following In Jesus' Footsteps



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Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

CONCELEBRATING: Minutes after being ordained to the priesthood, Father Jonathan Dickson (left) and Father Peter Crowe (right) joined Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and their brother priests in concelebrating Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, Saturday, May 27, 2017.



Photo By Tony DeGol

CHRISM MASS: The Diocese's four seminarians were present at Chrism Mass Monday, March 26. Pictured are (left to right) Michael Pleva, Brian Norris, Bishop Mark, Father Matthew Reese (vocations director), Mark Groeger and Justin Treon.

By Pam Seasoltz

Director of Stewardship and Development

When Jonathan Dickson and Peter Crowe heard the words, "come follow me," they knew they would need some help to get in step with the Lord.

As young men who already had college degrees and were working in the business world, their first response to the call to priesthood was a cautious one. But, after much prayer and the support of others, the two men embraced the journey and both were ordained in May 2017 -- the first priests ordained in our Diocese in six years.

The path to becoming a priest is a lengthy one -- many years of study and preparation -- learning to preach the Gospel, conducting weddings and baptisms, visiting the sick and homebound, shouldering the pain of those grieving, and a litany of other on-call duties, sometimes requiring a 24/7 presence.

The education to become an apostle of Christ is also a costly one. Seminary has tuition and expenses like any college and to help ease their burden, the diocese offers support to young men seeking to answer His call.

Your support will provide the spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral tools for these young men to learn and teach the greatest joys of following Jesus Christ.

Your gift can be mailed to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, P.O. Box 409, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; placed in your parish offertory; or made online at www.dioceseaj.org.

In The Alleghenies



FORENSICS: Twenty - six Northern Cambria Catholic School , Nicktown, students recently competed in the Prince Gallitzin Quadrant Forensics Competition. The students work diligently to prepare a piece in one of 7 categories: Prose, Drama, Duo - Drama, Persuasive, Informative, Impromptu or Poetry. Out of the 26 students participating, 18 moved on to the Diocesan Competition. Pictured (above) are (left to right) First row: Isabella Thompson, Shyana Burger, Hannah Stonebraker. Second row: Ayden Smorto, David Farabaugh, John Weiland, Allison Moriconi, Savannah Smorto, Ella Miller, Thomas Bernard, Brode Ryan, Kimberly Zedack (coach). Third row: David Weinzierl, Austin Kirsch, James Dumm, Katelynn Ludwig, Austin Amsdell, Anthony Lessard and Zachary Onkst. Eighteen students from Northern Cambria Catholic School recently competed in the Diocesan Forensics Competition. Out of these 18, 11 took places. Pictured (below) are (left to right) First row: Ella Miller - 1st Place Prose, David Farabaugh, 2nd Place Informative, Austin Amsdell - 6th Place Prose, Kimberly Zedack (coach). Second row: Savannah Smorto - 1st place Persuasive, Brode Ryan - 5th Place Poetry, Shyana Burger - 3rd place Impromptu. Third row: Zachary Onkst - 5th place Informative, Anthony Lessard - 6th place Poetry, John Weiland - 3rd Place Persuasive, David Weinzierl - 2nd place Poetry and Alison Moriconi - 1st Drama.



High Schools

Hall Of Fame

Ebensburg: Bishop Carroll Catholic High School's PAW Power held its seventh an-

nual Athletic Hall of Fame banquet on Saturday, April 7, at the Crystal Hall.

This year's inductees included: Lady Huskie basketball greats Ellen Fasnacht Sloan and Sarah Bradley Yeager; football standout James McCombie, and

longtime coach, teacher, and administrator, Donald J. Scotilla, posthumously.

"These newest members of the BC Athletic Hall of Fame are all truly deserving, and have represented Bishop Carroll with class and dignity while bring-

ing exceptional pride to Huskie hill", said PAW Power representative and Hall of Fame Chairperson, Rick Surkovich.

Surkovich also added, "Ellen's commitment to the basketball program set a standard for future players to emulate, and being a part of the very first District Championship team at BC makes her induction special. Sarah played an integral part in establishing the girl's basketball program on a state level. Her exceptional post - play propelled the team in many victories and championships. As a three - time All - State selection for football, James established himself as one of the best. His athletic excellence also shone on the colle-

giate level. Don laid the cornerstone for the athletic programs at Bishop Carroll. His early vision of excellence plays a huge role in our success today".

Annual Gala

Ebensburg: On Saturday, April 28th, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School will host its 11th Annual Gala. The fun-filled night is a chance to celebrate the school and all who support it, as well as serving as a fundraiser. The night begins with a cocktail hour at 5:30 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30 PM, catered by Amici's of Ebensburg.

(Continued On Page 6.)

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Point Of View

I have no business singing high C.

The second a hymn starts, I can tell by the notes whether the song's range is in my comfort zone. Solidly alto, I am happiest singing F, G and A above middle C.

But B thins out, C stretches and D screeches. (I don't even attempt E -- leave that to the sopranos.)

Yet when I'm tempted to sit out a song, I remind myself: This is Mass, not the opera. When we worship, it's not a performance but a time for praise of God. We gather as the body of Christ: sopranos, altos, tenors and basses -- but also the tone-deaf and tuneless.

So I try not to stop singing, even when my voice isn't strong enough. We all have a sweet spot, but we don't get to stay there. We're singing the whole song together.

Same for our callings.

Life at home brings its own sweet spots. We each have daily tasks we don't mind and chores we detest. But we know we are working toward the whole -- the good of the household. So we scrub the crusty pans, file the taxes or drag the garbage cans down to the curb, not only because it needs to be done but because we love the people we serve.

Certain stages of parenting feel like sweet spots, too. I have friends who revel in the teen-



Faith At Home

By Laura Kelly Fanucci
**Sweet Spots
And Sacrifices**

age years and friends who wish for smaller, simpler days. Some parents adore babies while others enjoy having young adults launched.

But we don't get to pick and choose. All the years must be lived through (and loved through). All the day's tasks must get done, even if we want to play to our strengths. We have to pitch in together.

We're singing the whole song here.

And it's not just the business of raising children. Care-giving can be a calling that's unplanned or unwanted. Marriage is far from smooth sailing in every season.

Family life, friendships, professional work, parish life -- any vocation where we deal with humans (spoiler alert: all callings) requires us to move from our sweet spot into unfamiliar territory.

Adult children often feel unprepared to care for aging parents. Blended families navigate the delicate balance between biological parents and stepparents. But we sacrifice out of love for the ones we serve.

Which means we don't always get to stick to our sweet spot.

Too often vocation gets narrowed to just one thing: the magical point "where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet" (according to a well-known definition by Frederick Buechner).

Instead, most of us find that our lives, relationships and work are a muddy mix of duties and delights, limits and circumstances, gifts and responsibilities.

God calls to each person within the circumstances of his or her life, with the gifts each has been given for the good of the community, beyond the limits of our comforts or desires, for the service of others.

On any given day, I can face the tasks of my callings the same way I start a new hymn. I might want to stick to what feels smooth, but the greater good lies in the beauty of the whole.

As St. Paul wrote, "We should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love" (Eph 4:15-16).

Where we feel weak, others may be strong. At church and at home, we're singing the whole song together.



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
**There Is A Future
For Religious Life**

It will be a source of sadness to her many friends and co-workers, and those whose lives she has impacted in 40 years of ministry in the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, to know that Sister Mark Plescher is returning to the motherhouse of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Agnes in Fond du Lac WI.

It is also a source of some sadness to note that with her departure, there will be no Sisters of Saint Agnes serving locally. A long chapter in our history is coming to a close.

The Sisters of Saint Agnes came to Altoona in 1877 to staff Saint Mary School. They would also serve, briefly, at Saint Michael School in Hollidaysburg, and for a longer period at Saint Mary School in Nanty Glo. Many local vocations were received by the Congregation. More women entered the Sisters of Saint Agnes from Saint Mary Parish in Altoona than from any other parish in which the Sisters served across the United States.

The situation facing the Sisters of Saint Agnes and their local ministry is not uncommon. The Sisters of Mercy, once the most numerous of religious communities in the Diocese is now down to about half a dozen Sisters locally. The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Baden, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, can count only one or two Sisters in our local Church, where once they could be counted by the dozens.

The number of women entering any of these communities is not what it once was. Some of these communities will die out. They will be like a line addressed to Audrey Hepburn, as Sister Luke in the 1959 movie "The Nun's Story," who was reminded that a Sister's task is to "do good, and disappear." This is the same sentiment Jesus voiced when he said "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a single grain. But if it dies it produces much fruit."

There is a good harvest of vocations still to be gathered, but perhaps not in the manner we have been thinking of. Instead of praying for vocations to communities that have fulfilled their purpose, we should be praying for God to raise up new foundresses who will bring forth new communities of Sisters ready to respond to the needs of our times.

It's happened before. It can happen again. God will grant the increase, if we ask Him for it. Grains of wheat will fall to the ground and die. Those who have done good will disappear. But others will come forward to meet the needs of the Church today, with the same sense of dedication as those who went before them.

The third week of April is National Volunteer Week, organized in 1974 by Points of Light, an organization that celebrates the magic of families volunteering together (www.pointsoflight.org). This is a week to recognize, acknowledge and thank volunteers who give their time, talents and treasures to support faith-based, not-for-profits and educational organizations.

Parishes, parochial schools and ministries throughout the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown depend upon volunteers to survive and thrive. Volunteers within our diocese directly impact all our families and are much appreciated for sharing their gifts.

Volunteering allows us to look at things differently and provides a broader perspective for the volunteer. Helping others gives us purpose, challenges us to do something different, improves our health and promotes family togetherness while serving others.

How can our parishes, schools and ministries create a culture of volunteers? In what ways could we make volunteering more attractive? Could it be as simple as asking someone to help? Absolutely!

One of the biggest reasons that people do not volunteer is because they have never been personally asked.



Treasuring Volunteers

By Cindy O'Connor



On the other hand, what discourages volunteerism in our parishes, schools and ministries? Might it include territorialism or cliques or using religious terminology that others don't understand? Other challenges that can turn off prospective volunteers are events and activities that are disorganized, have confusing directions, limited training, limited orientation, or lack of support from the organization's leadership.

Volunteering should be a positive experience, if someone wants to volunteer that means they want to do something. Make your parish, school and ministry a place where all can be valued and appreciated for their

time, talents and treasures. Parishes, schools and ministries must be intentional in their efforts to create a culture of service and must focus on making the process to serve as simple as possible for all volunteers.

Within our diocese the current process of volunteering can be confusing. It is the goal of my office, Youth Protection Awareness and Mandated Reporting, to make this process easier without risking best practices for safe environments. In the next few months there will be updates to orientations, training processes and policies for volunteers and staff.

As we reflect on the many hands and hearts that support our faith journey, please pray for all our volunteers throughout the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and thank them for their service. Model stewardship for our children and young adults so they too can pay it forward in service and feel valued, appreciated and that they belong.

“Love, therefore, is the practical service that we offer to others. Love is not a word, it is a deed, a service; humble service, hidden and silent ...Love, charity is service, helping others, serving others. There are many people who go through life like this, in service to others.” – Pope Francis,

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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
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- * Legal Advocacy and Accompaniment
- * Medical Advocacy and Accompaniment
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Familyservicesinc.net

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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.

Following dinner, the Cornerstone and Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented to deserving individuals. A silent auction will run all evening and a live auction will be held around 9:00 p.m..

The Cornerstone Award is a chance to recognize individuals who have made personal contributions of time, talent and treasure to BCCHS over the years. This year, two couples are receiving the award. John (Bud) and Mary Strittmatter have been

long - time supporters of the school. They have many descendants that have attended BCCHS and attend many events. Greg and Mrs. Patti (Kupchella) Zeglen (both class of 1969), have sent their children to BC and now their grandchildren attend the school. Patti and Greg have given of themselves to support the school in many ways. Both families define what it means to be a Cornerstone of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented to individuals who have used their education at BCCHS as a base to make a positive impact on the world. This year's recipients are: Mrs. Carol (Larese) Millward (1966), Mr. William McLucas (1968), Mr. Joseph Krug (1969), and Mrs. Millie (Angert) Bodenschatz (1970).

Tickets for the event are \$50 and may be purchased by calling the school main office at (814) 472-7500, extension 101, until Monday, April 23rd. Donations are also being accepted for the live and silent auctions until that date.



READ ACROSS AMERICA: Amy Mearkle, director of marketing and advertising at Delgrosso's Amusement Park, in Tipton, read to classes at Saint Patrick School, Newry, during Read Across America Week. Pictured with Mearkle are (left to right) first graders Aubrey McLucas, Lydia Krug, Elena Baughman, Leah Musselman, and first grade teacher, Kelly Stehley.

permits.

This is free event for all ages.

There are activities for everyone, and games that will appeal to school - age children. Activities include: fishing (with Goldfish crackers), painting pet rocks, ice cream made with liquid nitrogen, plus many other games made with recycled bottles/plastic. Our purpose is to educate and celebrate our planet in a fun atmosphere.

Nursing Program Honored

Cresson: Five nursing students from the Mount Aloysius College School of Nursing took First Place in the 11th Annual Western Pennsylvania Student Nurse Association of Pennsylvania Student Nurse Challenge. The event was held Friday, March 23 at Penn State Kensington. The Citizens School of Nursing and Indiana University of Pennsylvania co-sponsored the event. The competition consisted of several rounds of questions based on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

Mount Aloysius College nursing students competed successfully against competing nursing students from Butler County Community College, Citizens School of Nursing,

Conemaugh School of Nursing, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing, UPMC St. Margaret School of Nursing, Westmoreland County Community College, and West Penn School of Nursing.

The Mount Aloysius College School of Nursing team included: David Allen, Altoona; Keith Bukowski, Ashville; Nicole Dgien, Muncy; Zach Pfeil, Cresson; and Kennedy Snyder, Lewisburg.

Mount Aloysius College has been educating nurses since 1965. The College's nursing NCLEX pass rate consistently exceeds both state and national averages. The most recent group of Mount Aloysius nursing graduates achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX. The Mount Aloysius five year NCLEX pass rate ranks it securely among the top 10 largest and most prestigious nursing programs in the Commonwealth.

The Mount Aloysius College School of Nursing is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and is fully approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing.

For additional information on the Mount Aloysius School of Nursing contact the College

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**Anticipated Elementary Teacher(s) Positions
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The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is anticipating several openings across all eight counties of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown for the 2018-19 school year. All candidates must submit a letter of interest, resume, the PA Standard Application OR Diocesan Teaching Application (<http://www.dioceseaj.org/education-office>), college transcripts, PA Certification, three letters of recommendation (two professional, one from pastor), current Act 151, Act 34, and Act 114 clearances, Act 168 Employment History Check, and completion of Diocesan Youth Protection Program.

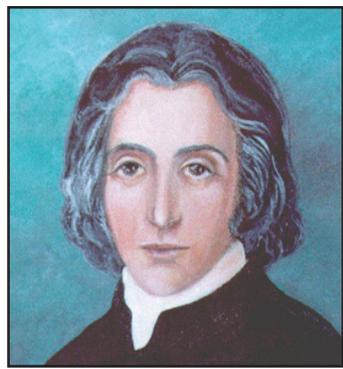
Send **complete** application packets to:

**Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
 Education Office
 933 S. Logan Boulevard
 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648**

Higher Education

Earth Day Carnival

Loretto: Saint Francis University will be hosting their annual Earth Day Carnival on Tuesday, April 24, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the JFK Student Center. Some portions may be outside on the patio if weather



A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840

Paraguayan Catholics Rejoice At Beatification Of One Of Their Own

By Santi Carneri
Catholic News Service

ASUNCION, Paraguay (CNS) -- In rural Paraguay in 2002, a newborn who spent 20 minutes without signs of life after

the umbilical cord was cut was declared dead after attempts to revive him failed. A nurse at the scene then prayed for the intercession of "Chiquitunga" and the baby came back to life. The miraculous healing of Angel Ramon in the department of San Pedro was attributed to the

intercession of the venerable Servant of God Maria Felicia of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in a March 7 decree announcing her beatification from the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

The eldest of seven children, Maria Felicia Guggiari Echeverria was born in Villarica, Paraguay, Jan. 12, 1925. Chiquitunga, as she was popularly known, will become the first Paraguayan woman to undergo beatification, a step toward sainthood.

Maria Felicia was a member of the Order of the Discalced Carmelites when she died in Asuncion April 28, 1959, after contracting hepatitis.

"Our joy is overflowing" at this anxiously awaited announcement, said Carmelite Father Cornelio Villalba.

"We thank God for this great gift," he said, noting that the church in Paraguay now has to "prepare for this great event."

More than 60,000 people are expected to attend the June 23 beatification Mass at the General Pablo Rojas Stadium in Asuncion, the Paraguayan capital.

"We have received as a gift and grace from Chiquitunga" the use of the stadium, Archbishop Edmundo Ponziano Valenzuela Mellid of Asuncion said at a news conference following the Vatican announcement.

Maria Felicia "led a life of missionary action and contemplation," the archbishop said.

From the age of 14, she devoted herself intensely to prayer and the apostolate, and became in-



CNS Photo/Courtesy Central Beatification Commission Of Paraguay

TO BE BEATIFIED: Servant of God Maria Felicia of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, known as "Chiquitunga," is seen in this undated portrait. The member of the Order of Discalced Carmelites will be beatified June 23 in her native Paraguay.

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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Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
Diocese Of Altoona - Johnstown
927 South Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg PA 16648**

involved in the Catholic Action of Paraguay. She worked with children, young workers, university students with problems, the poor, the sick and the elderly. Filled with admiration for the "spirituality of a young woman," the church in Paraguay wants Maria Felicia "to be the patron of Paraguayan youth because she is a model of holiness," Archbishop Valenzuela said.

The beatification process was started in December 1997, and Pope Benedict XVI declared Maria Felicia venerable in 2010. The last words of Chiquitunga, who took the Discalced Carmelite habit in 1955, were: "How happy I am! ... What a joy to meet my Jesus! ... Jesus, I love you, what a sweet encounter! Virgin Mary," Anibal Casco, communications officer for the Paraguayan bishops' conference, told Catholic News Service.

For the beatification Mass, Paraguayan artist Koki Ruiz will make an altarpiece with more than 20,000 rosaries donated by parishioners, Casco said.

When Pope Francis presided at Mass at Nu Guazu Park in Paraguay in 2015, he stood in front of a 72-foot-tall, 131-foot-wide corn altar built by Ruiz with 32,000 corncobs, 200,000 baby coconuts, 1,000 squashes, and 771 pounds of seeds and grains, he told *America* magazine at the time.

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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis
Leave Mass Praising God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The final words at Mass -- "Go in peace" -- are an invitation to Christians to proclaim God's blessings through their lives, not an opportunity to go outside and speak ill of others, Pope Francis said.

Through the Eucharist, Jesus "enters in our hearts and in our flesh so that we may express in our lives the sacrament we received in faith," the pope said during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square April 4.

"But if we leave the church gossiping, saying, 'Look at this one, look at that one,' with a loose tongue, the Mass has not entered into my heart. Why? Because I am not able to live the Christian witness," he said. "Every time I leave Mass, I must leave better than when I entered, with more life, with greater strength, with a greater desire to give Christian witness."

An estimated 20,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square dressed in bright ponchos and holding umbrellas to shield themselves from the cold rain.

After circling the square in his popemobile, the pope made his way to the stage, which was still adorned with flowers from the Easter celebrations.

Flowers, the pope said, are a symbol of the joy and happiness of Jesus' resurrection when "our justification blossomed, the holiness of the church blossomed."

Wishing the faithful in the square a happy Easter, Pope Francis also had a special greeting for his predecessor, retired Pope Benedict XVI.

"I would like all of us to wish a Happy Easter to the former bishop of Rome, the beloved Pope Benedict, who is watching us on television. To Pope Benedict, let us all wish him a Happy Easter and give him a big applause," he said.

In his main talk, the pope focused on the closing rites of Mass, finishing a series of audience talks on the liturgy.

As the Mass ends, he said, "the commitment of Christian witness" begins at home, at work and any time a Christian interacts with others; the idea is to "become Eucharistic men and women."

"What does this mean?" the pope asked. "It means letting Christ act through our works: that his thoughts become our thoughts, his feelings become our feelings, his choices become our choices."

Departing from his prepared remarks, Pope Francis said that by "mortifying our selfishness," Christians create a greater space for the Holy Spirit to act in their lives and "widen their souls" after receiving the Eucharist.

"Let your souls be widened! Not these narrow, closed, small, selfish souls. No! Great souls, big souls with great horizons," he said.



ONE MORE TIME: Pictured in 1950 are the Sisters of the Congregation of Saint Agnes at Saint Mary School, Altoona. The community began serving there in 1877. With the departure of Sister Mark Pleischer from Altoona, there will be no Sisters of Saint Agnes serving in the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese.

I often follow along in my missalette the words of the entire Mass, not because I am pious but because I am a chronic daydreamer. Looking at the words on the page and thinking about them can keep me focused ... for a while. But then something sends me off again.

For example, in Eucharistic Prayer 3, which is recited at most Sunday Masses most of the time, there is a passage that reads:

"Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim church on earth, with your servant N. our pope and N. our bishop, the order of bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own."

One time, when reading this, I wondered: Why is it in this order? Why do the laity trail at the end, an undifferentiated mass, a shuffling herd following all those splendid N's and bishops and clergy? And what about the religious -- men and women?

In fact, who comprises the pilgrim church on earth if not the laity? We vastly outnumber all those N's and B's and C's -- not just on earth, but in purgatory and heaven too.

Indeed, if the pope is the servant of the servants of God, and the bishops and priests are, by extension, also the servants of the servants of God, then who, of course, are the servants



Amid The Fray

By Greg Erlandson
A Daydreaming Believer

they are serving, if not the laity?

What got me thinking about this was a book on management by Ken Blanchard called **Lead Like Jesus**.

According to Blanchard, the traditional pyramid view of management is appropriate when it comes to establishing a vision for the company and setting a direction. And in such a model, the pope is at the top of the pyramid. The vicar of Christ sets the direction, the bishops take note, as do the priests, and finally the people.

(Reality is always messier. One of my favorite quotes is from the 18th-century Pope Benedict XIV: "The pope orders; the cardinals do not obey; and the laity do as they please.")

But when it comes to operations -- the actual implementation of vision -- Blanchard inverts the pyramid. The CEO is at the bottom, enabling the managers to manage, and the managers enable their staff to accomplish what needs to be done. Each level serves and supports the

one above it: a servant of the servants.

The Christian idea, established by Jesus, is that the leader is not waited upon, but serves.

Pope Francis has been scathing in his criticism of clericalism: Both clericalism that allows the ordained to seek special privileges and power and keeps them from "smelling like the sheep," and clericalism that has the laity seeking those same privileges and power in the guise of clericalized ministries and offices.

Instead, Pope Francis is telling us to get out into that field hospital and serve.

After all, isn't this why, at the end of the Mass, we are told to "go and announce the Gospel of the Lord"? We aren't supposed to be hiding away in the sanctuary, fussing with the candlesticks. We, the entire people Christ has gained as his own, are called to go out and share the good news.

That's my daydream anyway.

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
**Stephen Hawking
 And The Pope**

Q. Stephen Hawking died recently. As I understand it, Professor Hawking claimed to have proven that God does not exist. And yet the pope met with him and recognized his studies; why would the pope do that and celebrate an atheist? (central Virginia)

A. Professor Stephen Hawking, the renowned British theoretical physicist, died at age 76 on March 14, 2018, after a long battle with Lou Gehrig's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Though many commentators called him an avowed atheist, I would see him rather as an agnostic.

He once told ABC News, "One can't prove that God doesn't exist. But science makes God unnecessary. ... The laws of physics can explain the universe without the need for a creator." The origin of the universe, in Hawking's mind, lay billions of years ago in the Big Bang theory -- and since whatever may have occurred before that could not

be observed by science, it was irrelevant to him.

Over the years, Hawking met with four different popes, the last being Pope Francis in November 2016. In 1986, Hawking had been named by Pope John Paul II to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

That group, which includes scholars from several religions and none, exists to foster dialogue between science and faith, and its members are chosen primarily for their academic credentials.

In the past, the academy has discussed such topics as the potential perils of nuclear war; the focus of its 2016 gathering was ecology -- the impact of technology on the planet -- and Pope Francis spoke to them of the profound need for an "ecological conversion" in which people recognize their responsibility for caring for creation and its resources.

Hawking always respected the church's contribution to this dialogue, and upon his death,

the Vatican observatory said, "We value the enormous scientific contribution he has made to quantum cosmology and the courage he had in facing illness."

Though Hawking professed no belief in an afterlife (once telling the British journal *The Guardian*, "I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail"), the Vatican prayed at his death that the Lord would now "welcome him into his glory."

Q. Years ago, as I recall, special prayers were offered just before the end of Mass for the conversion of Russia. I believe that those prayers, to a certain extent, worked.

Why can't we say similar prayers now for the elimination of terrorism throughout the world? It couldn't hurt. I do say one myself before Mass starts for this intention, but we need several voices. (Eugene, Oregon)

A. In the 1880s, Pope Leo XIII asked that prayers be offered to St. Michael the Archangel at the end of Mass, asking for an end to violence. At the time, Pope Leo's principal concern was the rise of Masonic power in Catholic countries of Europe, where the liberty of the church was under attack by revolutionary forces.

In 1930, Pope Pius XI "re-directed" those Leonine prayers and asked that they be offered for the tranquility and freedom of the Catholic Church in Russia; the practice was discontinued in the 1960s.

Since then, church leaders have from time to time authored prayers against terrorism, most notably Pope Francis during a 2016 visit to Poland for World Youth Day.

Thus far, there has been no call for the universal use of such a prayer at every Mass, but I think it is excellent that you are praying personally for this same intention.

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
Much Is Required

Every Saturday, a local newspaper features excerpts from Sunday homilies, including occasional Catholic ones, in a section called "From the Pulpit."

Easter weekend featured a Unitarian minister's reflections. Unitarians profess a free search for truth and meaning and do not assert any creed. Needless to say, their theology can be very different than Catholic or mainline Protestant belief. Sometimes, it's useful to see a new perspective.

The writer acknowledged, "While I celebrate Easter, my understanding of it may not be the same as yours."

He proceeded to comment on Luke's story of the encounter on the road to Emmaus, which recalls two disciples on a journey who recognize the resurrected Christ as they break bread with him.

The minister described it thus: "The Emmaus story reminds us that sometimes we see aspects of loved ones who have died in utter strangers, and these sightings renew our love."

In other words, what to Catholics is a miraculous meeting with the risen Christ becomes to this homilist an encounter with an "utter stranger" who reminds us of the love we had for our dead friend.

While I love and admire my Unitarian friends, this minister's description made me so happy to embrace my Catholic faith. For us, that was no stranger on the road to Emmaus.

It reminded me of the famous story about the late Catholic writer Flannery O'Connor. Attending a fashionable New York soiree, O'Connor overheard her formerly Catholic host refer to the "symbolism" of the Eucharist.

"If it's just a symbol," the normally reticent O'Connor retorted, "the hell with it."

Indeed.

Nothing reinforces our belief in mystery so much as the celebration of Holy Week. The liturgies of the triduum are the most beautiful of our year. It's surprising that, although my parish church is largely full, we don't have to open gyms and social halls for the overflow crowds on Holy Thursday and Good Friday as we do on Christmas Eve.

The darkened church, the music, the stark, simple readings of the Passion, the stripping of the altar -- they lift us beyond the narrowness of our own lives to a place we rarely visit.

"A life is either all spiritual or not spiritual at all," said Thomas Merton. How often do our lives fall short of being all spiritual? But somehow, during the triduum, for a few moments we come close to that standard.

As Flannery O'Connor affirmed, the beliefs of our faith are not symbols, but we Catholics do use symbolism well. The candles, the fire, the water, the darkness -- does anyone do ritual better, especially if you go to a parish like mine that does it beautifully?

And with his wonderful Jesuit imagination, Pope Francis has reinvigorated for the whole world the ritual of the washing of the feet, reaching out to those on the margins, men and women, prisoners, the outcast.

The triduum is behind us, of course, and now we relish the Easter season. We live a lot of our lives in the emptiness of Holy Saturday, waiting and alone. But from now until Pentecost, we are called to bask in the greatest mystery, the Resurrection.

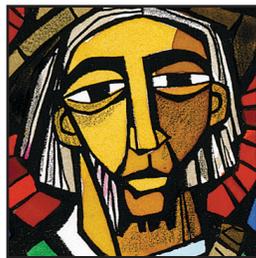
And to ask ourselves, How do I respond to the challenge of the enormity of what we profess?

Who is this living Jesus for me?

"Much will be required of the person entrusted with much," Luke 12:48 tells us.

We've been entrusted with so much: spiritually, theologically, sacramentally, ritually. During the upcoming weeks, let's support and challenge each other to radically live out the calling proposed by these great gifts and mysteries.

Saint
 Benedict Joseph
 Labre
 1748 - 1743
 Feast - April 16



Born in France the eldest of 15 children of a prosperous shopkeeper, Benedict tried unsuccessfully to join a religious order. He was rejected as too young, too delicate and too eccentric. After a pilgrimage on foot to Rome around 1770, he spent several years wandering among Western Europe's Catholic shrines, begging as he went. From 1774 on, he stayed in Rome, spending his days praying in churches and his nights in the ruins of the Colosseum. The Roman people esteemed this mendicant pilgrim, whose health finally failed, as a "new Saint Francis."

Pope Francis Urges All Christians To Be Open To What God Wants Them To Be

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said he is grateful to Pope Francis for "his powerful, straightforward words" in "Gaudete et Exsultate" ("Rejoice and Be Glad"), his apostolic exhortation on "the call to holiness in today's world."

"Pope Francis is very clear," said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston. "He is doing his duty as the vicar of Christ, by strongly urging each and every Christian to freely, and without any qualifications, acknowledge and be open to what God wants them to be -- that is 'to be holy, as he is holy' (1 Pet 1:15).

"The mission entrusted to each of us in the waters of baptism was simple -- by God's grace and power, we are called to become saints," the cardinal

added in a statement April 9, the day the Vatican released the document.

All Christians are called to be saints, not "plastic statues of saints," the pope wrote, but real people who make time for prayer and who show loving care for others in the simplest gestures.

"Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy," the pope said in his apostolic exhortation, which he signed March 19, the feast of St. Joseph.

Pope Francis is calling each Christian to "acknowledge and be open to what God wants them to be," Cardinal DiNardo said.

He said the words from the document that jumped out at him when he first read them were: "Do not be afraid of holiness."

"In a way, each one of us has a fear of striving for holiness -- a fear that we would be mocked, ignored, or even hated by others because we would stand out," Cardinal DiNardo said in his statement. "Yet that

is what the Lord has called each and every person to! Pope Francis calls us out: A Christian cannot think of his or her mission on earth without seeing it as a path of holiness, for 'this is the will of God, your sanctification.'"

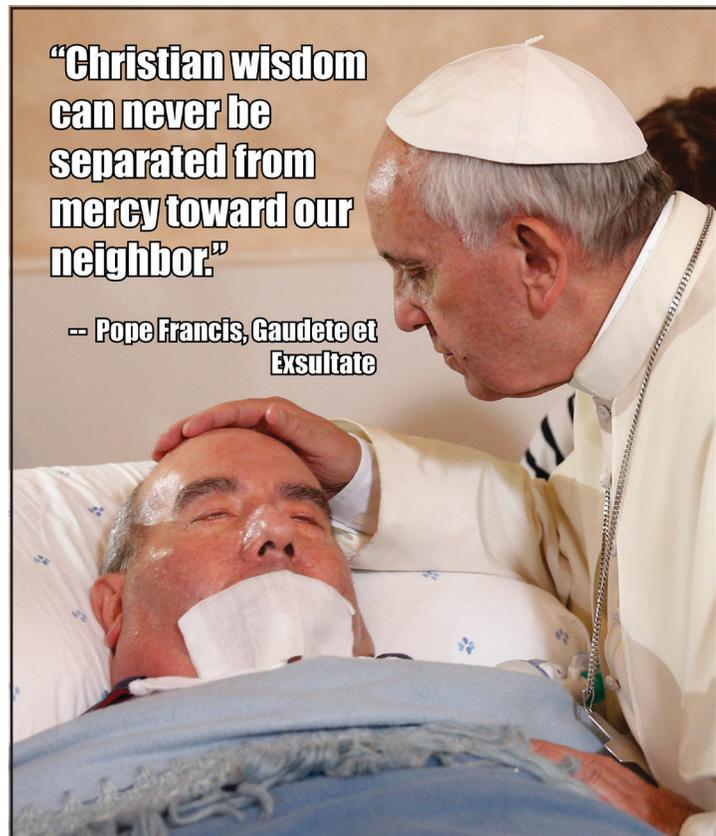
Pope Francis "describes how holiness comes through the daily struggles each of us face," the cardinal said. "In the ordinary course of each day, the pope reminds us, 'We need to recognize and combat our aggressive and selfish inclinations, and not let them take root.' Yet, he says, this 'battle is sweet, for it allows us to rejoice each time the Lord triumphs in our lives.'"

Cardinal DiNardo also pointed in particular to a paragraph that discusses "the continuing need we have for civility in all our interactions, especially in the media."

"'Christians too,' the Holy Father writes, 'can be caught up in networks of verbal violence through the internet and the various forums of digital communication,'" the cardinal said, quoting from the exhortation. "This can be true even in Catholic media. Even in our heated disagreements with one another,

"Christian wisdom can never be separated from mercy toward our neighbor."

-- Pope Francis, Gaudete et Exsultate



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

we always need to remember that it is God who judges, not man (James 4:12)."

The cardinal encouraged all Christians, in celebrating the joy of Easter and Christ's resurrection, to "rekindle their baptismal call" by reading "Gaudete et Exsultate," especially "the beautiful section on the beatitudes."

By exploring the Eight Beatitudes and "offering examples

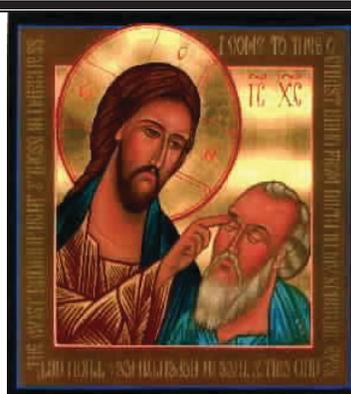
of how to live out our call to holiness in everyday life, the Holy Father has given us a wonderful tool for renewing our love for God and for each other," Cardinal DiNardo added.

Reaction to the pope's new document from around the U.S. included a reflection from New Jersey Bishop David M. O'Connell of Trenton.

"The pope cautions the reader that this document 'is not meant to be a treatise' or an academic, doctrinal text," the bishop said. "It is proposed and intended to be a personal, pastoral and practical invitation to each and every one of us in the church to draw closer to the Lord Jesus Christ in our everyday lives."

"This exhortation 'however, speaks in simple, accessible language in an attempt to redirect our attention to the everyday 'holiness' that we are called to live," he said.

Bishop O'Connell opens his reflection with a description of the mosaic of "Christ in Majesty" that adorns the apse behind and above the high altar of the Great Upper Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.



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Philippine Priest Serving In Greensburg Named Bishop By Pope

By Catholic News Service

GREENSBURG -- (CNS) -- Father Medil Sacay Aseo, 63, a priest from the Philippines who is serving in the Diocese of Greensburg's International Priests Program, has been appointed bishop of the Diocese of Tagum in the Philippines by Pope Francis.

Bishop-designate Aseo, who arrived in the Diocese of Greensburg in August 2017, has served as parochial vicar of St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, in Kittanning and St. Mary, Mother of God Parish, in Yatesboro since Sept. 20, 2017.

Greensburg Bishop Edward C. Malesic said he was excited for Bishop-designate Aseo and happy for the people of the Diocese of Tagum. "It is a great honor for the Diocese of Greensburg to have Pope Francis send a priest serving in Kittanning and Yatesboro back to his home diocese as a bishop," he said.

Bishop-designate Aseo,

who lives at St. Mary, Mother of God Parish, said he is indebted to the Diocese of Greensburg.

"I was shocked to receive the news," he said. "I thought I would be here five years, but this is God's call for me. I did not have ambitions to be a bishop. God's grace is sufficient for me in my future role, and I will trust in him."

Bishop-designate Aseo's ordination date has not been set. The Diocese of Greensburg will host a celebration for him before he returns to the Philippines. That date has not been set.

Bishop-designate Aseo was born June 28, 1954, in Maniki, Kapalong, which is in the Diocese of Tagum on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

He graduated from St. Francis Xavier Regional Major Seminary of Mindanao in 1979 and was ordained a priest April 4, 1979, in his home parish in Maniki.

Bishop-designate Aseo has served as a parish priest and pastor, spiritual director counseling priests, procurator of Queen of Apostles College Seminary in Tagum, and chaplain to Filipino seafarers at Stella Maris in Liv-



**Bishop-Designate
Father Medil Sacay Aseo**

erpool, England.

He was assistant administrator of St. Michael Archangel Parish, La Filipina, in Tagum City, with the permission of his bishop, he entered the International Priests Program in the Diocese of Greensburg.

Bishop-designate Aseo is one of 15 international priests providing ministry and pastoral leadership in the Diocese of Greensburg. The international priests serve in the diocese for five years before returning to their home diocese.

"The entire Diocese of Greensburg pledges our prayers for Bishop-elect Aseo and the people of the Diocese of Tagum," Bishop Malesic said.

Pope Francis said he felt the need to prolong their mission.

"We must truly recognize that God's mercy has no limits," the pope said, "and with your ministry, you are a concrete sign that the church cannot, should not and does not want to create any barrier or difficulty that impedes access to the Father's forgiveness."

To be effective heralds of mercy, the pope continued, priests must recognize the merciful love they first received from God in their own lives.

Departing from his prepared remarks, Pope Francis said he often reflects on St. Paul's words to the community of Ephesus in which he praises God for "having treated me with mercy."

Maryland Family Lauds CRS Rice Bowl Program

By Julie Asher
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- For a while now, not much has gone right for Mary Ogeltree, her husband, Derek, and their 16-year-old son, Darian, as they have faced financial problems due to job loss and various health crises over the past few years.

But the family living in suburban Washington sees a glimmer of hope in help from the food pantry at St. Hugh's Parish in Greenbelt, Maryland, which receives a grant from funds it helps collect for Catholic Relief Services' annual Lenten Rice Bowl program.

In 2017, nearly 14,000 Catholic parishes and schools across the U.S. participated in CRS Rice Bowl. People can still give to the program via a link to the CRS program, <https://bit.ly/2H8e73K>.

"At first, it's embarrassing to say we needed help," Mary Ogeltree told Catholic News Service in a phone interview after a recent hospital stay. She had fallen and broken her hip, femur and left knee; she also has long suffered from lupus and Crohn's disease. The family, residents of Greenbelt for about 17 years, has been grateful to get food to make their daily meals.

The Ogeltree family went to the Greenbelt parish's food pantry after Mary, desperate for some assistance with at least family meals, remembered help St. Hugh's gave them one Christmas a while back. She learned the parish distributes food to families in need year-round.

When she and Derek went to St. Hugh's pantry and saw what was in the bags they prepare for people in need, "I started crying," she told CNS. "There were things my son would eat!" Beyond the food, which includes a variety of staples and even snacks for kids, she was grateful for something else from parish

volunteers: unconditional help, said.

In its first 40 years, more than \$250 million has been given through CRS Rice Bowl to support programs that prevent hunger and poverty around the world. Of that, \$62.5 million went to programs in the U.S. through local dioceses and \$187.5 million went to CRS programs overseas.

Folks at St. Hugh's told her: "We're here because you are in need, you have children -- and if we have it available, we're happy to help." That sentiment, Mary said, was "heartfelt and eye-opening for me to see they were caring about us, caring for family."

The Ogeltrees visit the food pantry about once a month. "(We) make it work," Mary said, "so as not to take away from someone who needs it worse than we do."

Mary Ann Tretler, St. Hugh's Rice Bowl coordinator, said that this year about a hundred children in the parish's religious education program participated in the Rice Bowl effort.

CRS, which is the U.S. bishops overseas relief and development fund, provides a cardboard "rice bowl," or it can be homemade, to be used to collect alms.

The parish's Ladies of the Charity run the food pantry. It receives many donations of food, but it is "particularly helpful to have the grant to purchase items," she said, especially during the summer months.

Currently the pantry helps about 20 families a week. Every Friday families can pick up grocery-size bags with food for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The kids write messages on their rice bowls to describe what they gave up to donate to the effort. They also watch a series of CRS videos about the Rice Bowl program, Tretler said, "so the kids understand how incredibly blessed we are here, when you see how much a small amount of money can provide (to others)."

Sinners Need Mercy Not Inquisitors

By Junno Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Priests must give hope to men and women seeking forgiveness, encouraging them in their struggle away from the slippery slope of sin, Pope Francis said.

Being merciful in the confessional helps penitents return to God without fear, even if they repeatedly stumble or slip on a path that "is filled with stones and banana peels," the pope told 550 priests he designated as "missionaries of mercy."

"In short, mercy restores dignity," the pope said April 10. "The penitent does not indulge in self-pity for the sin committed, and the priest does not blame him for the evil from which he repented. Rather, he encourages him to look to the future with new eyes, leading him to 'springs of water.'"

The missionaries of mercy, religious-order and diocesan priests from around the world, were among more than 1,000 who received a special papal mandate to preach and teach about God's mercy during the 2015-16 Holy Year of Mercy.

After listening to "many testimonies of conversion,"



COMPETITION: (Left) Saint Patrick School, Newry, had six students compete in the Forensics competition in Ebensburg. All students placed in the top four of their categories and continued on to competition at Bishop McCort Catholic High School. The students and coaches on the team are (left to right) First row: Dalton Davis, Madison Bunk, Lauren Bunk. Second row: Coach Steve Wilson, Nick Reed, Abbie Mosser, Peter Shivas and Coach Stephanie McChessney. (Right) Three students from Newry, medaled at the Forensics Competition held at Bishop McCort Catholic High School, Johnstown. Pictured are (left to right) Lauren Bunk and Dalton Davis who placed 6th in the Duo Drama Competition and Peter Shivas who placed 5th in the Persuasive Category.

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Special Olympics

Loretto: Saint Francis University will host Special Olympics Pennsylvania's (SOPA) Central Spring Sectional on Sunday, April 29, on its campus

located at 117 Evergreen Drive. The Central Sectional Spring Games will include about 290 athletes and 120 coaches from 15 counties in Central Pennsylvania. Athletes will compete in basketball, track and field, golf, swimming and tennis.

The event is a joint effort between the University and SOPA, and is managed by students under the guidance of staff advisors. More than 125 Saint Francis University students will volunteer at the event, many of them members of various Red Flash Division I teams.

"Special Olympics provides athletes the opportunity to compete and have fun doing the sport they love," said event director Jessica Caruso, a senior

majoring in occupational therapy. "Seeing the joy on the athletes' faces throughout the day, whether they win or lose, makes all the work involved seem miniscule in comparison to the happiness this day brings for everyone. Having this partnership with Special Olympics is truly a privilege for the University."

"Volunteering at the Special Olympics event for the past three years has been life changing. Being able to help out and plan the event is so rewarding, especially when you get to see all the athletes compete and see how happy they are to be in this event. Special Olympics has been one of my favorite activities to work, and I recommend everyone volunteer once before you leave SFU," said Sophia Esposito, a senior majoring in finance and marketing and member of the women's volleyball team.

"Special Olympics is such a great experience, especially getting to see how such a little event can have such a wonderful impact on the athletes," said Vanessa Wissinger, a sophomore physician assistant major who is on the management team.

"This community partnership is mutually beneficial for our students and SOPA," said Lisa Georgiana, Director of the Center for Service & Learning and co - advisor to the event.

"For more than 20 years, we have been planning and hosting the event in a context of reciprocity and collaboration. We are also grateful to Central Cambria High School who is sharing their venue for the track and field events, and Ebensburg Tennis Center who has generously donated court time."

Counties represented by Special Olympics Pennsylvania delegations include: Adams, Area M (Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry and Northern York Counties), Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Lycoming, Mifflin/Juniata, Somerset, Tioga and York.

Olympic - style award ceremonies for individual and team events will be ongoing throughout the day.

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year - round training and competition in 21 Olympic - type sports to nearly 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. For more information about how you can help Reveal the Champion Inside thousands of Special Olympics athletes, visit our web site at www.specialolympicspa.org.

Military Friendly

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College has been designated a

2018 Military Friendly® School by Victory Media. The designation reflects the College's commitment to helping US service personnel and veterans find a clear path to academic and career success. Military Friendly accolades are earned from the publisher of G.I. Jobs and Victory Media after reviewing survey results which measure a college's commitment to supporting service personnel and veterans.

Mount Aloysius interim president John Mills noted that the commitment of the College's faculty and a strong administrative team remains focused on the special needs of United States veterans and service personnel. That focus has earned the College its eighth designation as Military Friendly. "Veterans tell us that Mount Aloysius offers them significant advantages like one-on-one faculty support, and expert assistance from both our Financial Aid and our Registrar's Office," said Dr. Mills. "This total team effort results in offering veterans, service personnel and their families dedicated hands-on support as they make the transition to college. Everyone associated with Mount Aloysius is grateful for their service to our nation."

Veteran students and service personnel who are eligible for military benefits are helped by financial aid experts and commi-

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SOUTH FORK: Most Holy Trinity Parish, South Fork, celebrated Confirmation Thursday, April 5. Pictured are (left to right) Joshua Jones, Benjamin Wechtenhiser, Forrest Wolfhope, Kara Jarvie, James Murphy and Adam Cecere. Father Joseph Nale is pastor, and Betty Rosmus the director of religious education.

ted faculty at Mount Aloysius. The College waives application fees and tuition deposits for all applying military members and veterans. Mount Aloysius also has an active Military Service Members Club on campus, and recently announced that it is recruiting its first Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) to start this fall. Army ROTC at Mount Aloysius College is a satellite of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Army ROTC program. Becoming a Military Friendly® Institution involves intentionally setting standards, promoting them, and raising the bar over time. It provides long-term, positive reinforcement for America's educational facilities to invest in programs that improve the lives of US veterans. The Military Friendly® Schools designation is awarded to the top colleges and universities in the country that are doing the most to embrace military students, and to dedicate resources to ensure their success both in the classroom and after graduation. The methodology used for making the Military Friendly® Schools list has changed the student-veteran landscape to one that is much more transparent, and has played a significant role over the past eight years in capturing and advancing best prac-

tics to support military students across the country.

Mount Aloysius College was recently named one of 100 Best Value College's in the US. They are also a College of Distinction, A Pennsylvania College of Distinction and three separate academic areas of Mount Aloysius—Business, Education and Nursing—have also earned College of Distinction status. Mount Aloysius was named one of four colleges deemed “an engine of opportunity” in a White House Report. Their Nursing Division is ranked sixth in Pennsylvania for NCLEX pass rates among nursing programs that test more than 85 students annually. The College's American Sign Language/English Interpreter program is one of only 13 accredited baccalaureate programs in the nation.

For additional information regarding ROTC at Mount Aloysius College contact Captain Daniel Beckers at (800)-357-7682 or email army-rotc@iup.edu. For more information about Mount Aloysius College, visit www.mtaloy.edu, contact the Admissions Office at (814)886-6383, or email them at admission@mtaloy.edu.

Prayer

Secular Carmelites

Loretto: The Our Lady of Loretto Community of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites meets the fourth Sunday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the Monastery of Saint Therese of Lisieux, 2101 Manor Drive.

The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelite (OCDS) are members of the Carmelite family, Catholics, from all walks of life, over 18, striving to live the way of perfection in a contemplative life of prayer through sacrificial offering for the salvation of souls. The origins of the order date back to the prophet Elijah and to a 16th century reform by Saint Teresa of Avila that brought stricter provisions to the order. Discalced means “barefoot” implying humility and detachment.

Being “in the world but not of the world,” the Secular Discalced Carmelites foster a life of prayer, attend monthly meetings, receive the sacraments frequently, pray morning and evening prayer, and embrace a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

For more information, call Nickola Wallace OCDS, (president) at (814) 364 - 1494 (h) or (717) 462 - 5138 (c) (please

leave message) or email at nickola14@verizon.net.

Carmelite Novena

Loretto: This year's fourth novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Therese, the Little Flower, offered by the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, will open Sunday, April 22 and conclude Monday, April 30.

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

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is given every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. and every First Friday of the Month, followed by veneration of the relic of Saint Therese.

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 re-

quested to send their petitions to Mother Prioress, Discalced Carmelite Monastery. P.O. Box 57, Loretto PA 15940.

Mission

Johnstown: Saint Benedict Parish in Geistown will hold a Mission Mass & Mary at 7:00 PM nightly from April 22-24th at the church on 2310 Bedford Street.

Thomas Smith, author, speaker and retreat director, will facilitate the event. In the three-night mission, Thomas will begin by sharing how we can embrace our Baptismal mission to share faith with others, using his own conversion to the Catholic Faith as a guide.

He will reflect on the Mass as the source of our strength, and end the three days with an exploration of the role of Mary as a model disciple, intercessor and protector.

Saint Peregrine Triduum

(Patron of Cancer Sufferers)

At The Church of

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
1127 McKinley Avenue, Johnstown, PA

May 2, 3 & 4

Confessions:

6:30 PM Each Evening

Mass:

7:00 - PM Each Evening

May 2 - Healing Mass with Fr. Bill Kiel

May 3 - Mass with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak

May 4 - Closing Mass With Anointing Of The Sick



Saint Peregrine is a powerful intercessor with God for all those who are seeking good health. Saint Peregrine (1260-1345) was a Servite Friar canonized in 1726. His feast is May 4.

Please remember my intentions at the Shrine:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Intention: _____

Now Showing

Silence Not Grand, Great Nor Golden In 'A Quiet Place'

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- The compact, stylish horror film "A Quiet Place" (Paramount) might be a parable about resisting tyranny.

Taken strictly on its surface, it's a story about how strong, trusting family ties can overcome any obstacle -- especially if the members of the clan in question are as technically adept as TV's MacGyver.

The movie presents an apocalyptic world overrun by invading aliens that look like a slimy combination of toothy dinosaurs and insects -- and that growl like lions. They can be killed by gunfire, sure, but they're very fast on their feet, too, and have incredibly acute hearing.

This means that the only way for humans to avoid them and stay alive is to be very, very quiet. No speaking (the film has only 90 lines of spoken dialogue, mostly whispered) and no sound loud enough for the critters to detect. When they do hear a human, they swoop right in for a quick slashing kill.

The story focuses on one rural family, the Abbotts, who have adapted to live in the manner of survivalists and scroungers on their small farm, with an abandoned village store nearby where they pick up occasional supplies and -- key to this plot -- batteries. Technology is always their friend, and since daughter Regan (Millicent Simmonds) is deaf, they all use sign language.

John Krasinski, who also directed and co-wrote the screenplay with Bryan Woods and Scott Beck, plays Lee, Re-



CNS Photo/Paramount

A QUIET PLACE: Emily Blunt and Millicent Simmonds star in a scene from the movie "A Quiet Place." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

gan's father. Together with wife Evelyn (Emily Blunt), Lee has managed to preserve his family. At least, that is, until the youngest of his three children is killed by an alien because of a beeping toy. Besides grieving this loss, the Abbotts also have to deal with Evelyn's pregnancy.

How might a woman give birth silently in a bathtub, with an alien in the house, and how might a newborn infant be kept quiet in a non-abusive way? The movie illustrates both.

Son Marcus (Noah Jupe) must learn to fight back his fears and believe in his father's ability to fix all problems. And Regan, who uses her father's never-effective hearing aids, blames herself for her younger sibling's death.

Marcus and Regan escape from all manner of close calls, and both parents show themselves capable of intense physical and emotional sacrifice, the price of keeping the family intact.

Aliens with super-hearing and a girl with no hearing make for an unusual showdown. But "A Quiet Place" presumes its audience's intelligence and avoids distasteful cliches.

The film contains gun and

Aliens with super-hearing and a girl with no hearing make for an unusual showdown. But "A Quiet Place" presumes its audience's intelligence and avoids distasteful cliches.

physical violence with fleeting gore, the death of a youngster and a scene of childbirth. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

April 22 - - On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, a representative from the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus will share her inspirational vocation journey.

April 29 - - As part of his Student Spotlight series, Bishop Mark will welcome two sets of twins from the Behe family -- Luke, Logan, Lauren, and Leah -- who are students at Saint Benedict School in Carrolltown.

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

The Hockey World Mourns Victims Of Violent Collision That Claimed Members Of Junior Hockey Team

By Catholic News Service

HUMBOLDT -- (Crying, hugging and shaking their heads in grief, the people of Humboldt gathered at the local hockey arena April 8 for an interfaith service to mourn 15 people who died after the bus carrying the town's junior hockey team collided with a truck.

"I don't want to be here, but it's good that we are," said the Rev. Sean Brandow, the Humboldt Broncos team chaplain and pastor of Humboldt Bible Church.

Rev. Brandow had gone to the accident site shortly after the collision.

"I walked up on a scene I never want to see again, to sounds I never want to hear again," he said. "To hear groaning and panic and fear and confusion and pain. ... All I saw (that night) was darkness, and I had nothing. Nothing.

"I'm a pastor. I'm supposed to have something.

"I've received thousands of texts and even Scripture," he said. "But I needed to hear from God."

The 15 dead included 10 hockey players between the ages of 16 and 21, the team coach, radio broadcaster, bus driver and other team personnel. The accident occurred early in the evening April 6 when a bus taking the team to a playoff hockey game collided with a transport truck on a highway near the town of Tisdale, Saskatchewan. Fourteen others on the bus were injured.

Police are investigating and have not provided any details about the cause of the collision. The bus was traveling north on a highway and passing through an intersection, which had stop signs for traffic traveling east and west. No charges have been filed.

Condolences poured into Humboldt from around the

world, including messages from Pope Francis, Queen Elizabeth and U.S. President Donald Trump. The Vatican secretary of state sent blessings on behalf of the pope.

"Informed of the injury and tragic loss of life caused by the road traffic accident in the province of Saskatchewan involving young hockey players, His Holiness Pope Francis sends his condolences to those who have lost love ones, and commends the souls of the deceased to the mercy of almighty God. To all in the community at this difficult time, Pope Francis sends his blessing."

Saskatoon Bishop Mark Hagemoen, whose diocese includes Humboldt, read the pope's message during an afternoon service at Holy Family Cathedral in Saskatoon.

"We don't know why tragedy and disaster come, but we do know the one who holds us throughout that tragedy, and we celebrate today that the one who holds us is one of mercy," Bishop Hagemoen said during the service on Divine Mercy Sunday.

Bishop Hagemoen attended the evening prayer service at the Elgar Petersen Arena and Uniplex in Humboldt and offered a final blessing.

"Lord God, you are the light that illumines the darkness," he prayed. "Continue to lead us into your light."

Earlier, he sent a message of condolences and prayers to those affected by the tragedy.

"God continues to respond to us, and now he responds to the people of Humboldt and other parts of Western Canada who are profoundly affected by this terrible tragedy," he said. "I am very thankful that, at this terrible time, the people of God here show Christ-like compassion and care through such a community of support."

The interfaith service was live-streamed and watched across the province, including at St. Augustine Catholic Church just up the street from the Father



TRAGEDY: The community of Humboldt, Canada and the world mourn the loss of 15 players and team officials at a service held at the local arena. Ten hockey players between the ages of 16 and 21 lost their lives in the accident between their team bus and a tractor trailer. Pope Francis, Queen Elizabeth, and President Donald Trump sent their condolences. Messages poured in from around the world.

Father Joseph Salihu, pastor of St. Augustine, participated in the vigil. He said as soon as news of the accident spread across town, "all the ministers came as one ... we drove straight to the Uniplex to be with the families."

"We just stayed with the people and waited," he said. "We were there all together, and that is what gave us the idea to organize this vigil.

"Coming together tonight is a powerful sign that these families are not alone in their anguish. We need to remember that, after the funerals, these people will still need our presence."

A Go-Fund-Me page was set up to collect donations for families. Organizers hoped to raise \$10,000 but, in less than 48 hours, donations exceeded \$4



million.

The prayer service was attended by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe, as well as Hockey Night in Canada personalities Don Cherry and Ron Maclean. Large photos of the team brought tears. Grief and crisis counselors, including grief dogs, roamed the arena.

The Rev. Matteo Carboni, St. Andrew's Anglican minister and vice chair of the Humboldt Ministerial Association, led the service.

"We remember the words of Jesus, who told us: 'You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy,'" Rev. Carboni said. "We need each other to make this promise a reality."

Bishop Bryan Bayda of the

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon proclaimed Psalm 23, better known as "The Lord is My Shepherd."

There was a moment of silence at 7:32 p.m., the time when the puck would have dropped on the Broncos' playoff game in Nipawin.

The Rev. Brenda Curtis of Westminster United Church led a closing prayer: "Humboldt family and friends, a quilt of love has been placed around our shoulders and our community as our brothers and sisters around the world have held us in their care."

While the largest vigil was held in Humboldt, prayer services for the victims and families were held across the province.

Bishop Reminds Confirmandi: Be Open To The Gifts Of The Spirit

Photo And Text By
Tony DeGol

Courtney Golden is ready to be a soldier for Christ, and her uncle is eager to assist her along the way.

"I'm really excited to become a full member of the Church," Courtney stated moments before her Confirmation on Thursday, April 5 at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral.

A member of Immaculate Conception Parish in New Germany, Courtney already plans to become a lector and help out at events such as the parish fish fry dinners.

"She is just going to do so much for the Church and the community," predicted Tim Golden who was proudly filling in as sponsor for his niece. "I'm going to help her figure out her path in the Catholic Church."

Courtney was one of 55 young people receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation that evening – the first of 15 Confirmation Liturgies Bishop Mark L. Bartchak is celebrating during this Easter season.

He will confirm about 850 youth this year at both Cathedrals and other parishes throughout the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

"Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, you will receive special gifts of the Holy Spirit," the Bishop reminded the confirmandi during his homily. "They are awesome gifts. They are powerful gifts."

Bishop Mark explained a little about the seven gifts: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord.

"Which of these gifts do you need right now in these circumstances of your life?" asked the Bishop.

He mentioned that he has been talking with youth around the Diocese about timely issues in society including the opioid crisis, gun violence, and teens' views on the Catholic faith.

"I was reminded more than anything in those conversations you don't want to be ignored and you don't want to be given answers that are less than the truth," Bishop Mark commented. "I know you want to be trusted, and you want to be respected, and you want to be able to trust those who are supposed to care for you."

The Bishop assured the young men and women that he trusts and respects them.

"Even more, you have the love and care of the Lord Jesus who sends his Holy Spirit upon you this night in this Sacrament of Confirmation, and the Holy Spirit will never ever take back the gifts that you will receive this evening," he added. "So no



CONFIRMATION SEASON: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak confirms a young man during the first of 15 Confirmation Masses this Easter season on Thursday, April 5 at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown. The Bishop will confirm about 850 youth this year. For a schedule of Confirmation Masses, please visit the Diocesan website at www.dioceseaj.org.

matter where you are or what issues or challenges that you encounter in your life, never forget these gifts and don't be afraid to put them into action."

The youth took the Bishop's message to heart.

"I'm not afraid to let people know I'm Catholic and share my faith with other people," noted Evan Becquet.

The Immaculate Conception, New Germany, parishioner chose Michael as his Confirmation name because Michael is the patron saint of soldiers. Evan said he hopes to be an eye doctor and possibly serve in the United

"So no matter where you are or what issues or challenges that you encounter in your life, never forget these gifts and don't be afraid to put them into action."

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak

States Army.

"It's exciting," said Ericka Frombach of Saint Michael Parish in St. Michael about her Confirmation. "It's a big chapter in my life."

Added fellow Saint Michael parishioner Quinn Spangler: "It's a big milestone to be finally accepted and be a soldier of Christ."

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