

The Catholic Register

By David Agren, Catholic
News Service



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Monsignor Timothy P. Stein (1958-2018)

*Pastor of Saint Mary
Parish in Altoona and
Editor of Diocesan
Newspaper Passes*

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is mourning the passing of one of its priests. Monsignor Timothy P. Stein, Pastor of Saint Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish in Altoona, passed away on Friday, April 20 at the parish rectory following a recent illness. He was 60 years old.

In addition to his parish duties, Monsignor Stein served as Editor of the Diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Register* – a position he has held for the past 29 years. Besides covering stories and laying out each edition of the newspaper, Monsignor wrote a column titled “Another Perspective.” In his columns, he shared his personal reflections about matters of Church and the Catholic faith. He often wrote about his family experiences and his love of England and British royalty.

A native of Saint Bartholomew Parish in Wilmore, Monsignor Stein was ordained to the Diocesan Priesthood in 1984. He was appointed Pastor of Saint Mary Parish in 2004. Prior to



Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

that assignment, he was Pastor of Saint Monica Parish in Chest Springs.

He was appointed chaplain to His Holiness (Monsignor) in 2001.

In his early years as a priest, he served as Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart Parish in Altoona, Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Altoona, and Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Hollidaysburg.

He was appointed Editor of *The Catholic Register* in 1989. He served as Associate Editor for three years before being named Editor.

Monsignor Stein was a member of the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada, where he served on the board of directors from 1998-2001, and he also served as treasurer from 2000-01.

Monsignor Stein was the son of the late Charles and Josephine (Ferramini) Stein. He is survived by his sister, Elizabeth Kinley and her husband, Michael Kinley, of Frederick, Maryland, nieces Laura and Emily, and his aunt, Virginia Ferramini, of Altoona.

Bishop Mark Bartchak offers his condolences to the Stein family, the faith community of Saint Mary Parish, and the staff of *The Catholic Register*.



2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Making Christ A Home In Your Heart

Generosity Helps Local Couple Through Tough Times

By Pam Seasoltz

Director of Stewardship and Development

100% of your gift supports 14 ministries like Catholic Charities.

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Ben and Tonya stopped suddenly at the front door of Catholic Charities. They told themselves they were too proud to ask for help

but now admitted they needed it. The loss of job and an unexpected illness had put them deeper in debt. That morning their electricity was shut off and they knew the water would be next-how would they take care of their kids? No lights and no way to cook brought them to the 'crisis point of the poor' a scenario faced daily by thousands of people

in our Diocese.

Ben and Tonya both took a deep breath and slowly opened the door. An uplifting smile greeted them. "Hi, welcome to Catholic Charities. How can we help you today?"

Your support is vital to the health and well-being of our community. Hunger, homelessness, mental illness, loss of marriage or struggles within a family can happen to anyone any time. Says Pope Francis, "Take care of God's creation. But above all, take care of people in need."

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.



Saint Peregrine Triduum

(Patron of Cancer Sufferers)

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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:

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Address: _____

Intention: _____

FORMING CLERGY AND LAITY

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In The Alleghenies



CONFIRMATION CLASS: Members of the 2018 Altoona Saint Rose of Lima Confirmation Class, pictured (left to right) are: First row--Elyse Brzana, Kelly Campbell, Emily Brown, Sydney Berish, Erin Stockley, and Alicia Nicolini. Second row--Father Brian Saylor, pastor; Bernice Shoenfelt, director of Religious Education; Emma Irwin, Olivia Kline, Delilah Noel, and Father Carl Spishak, Senior Priest in Residence. Third row--John Frederick, Caleb Trexler, John Fiore, Michael McCall, and Matthew Neumeyer. Fourth row--Michael Folcarelli, Nathan Smith, Joshua Smith, Matthew Hartman, Jonah Brandt, and Salvatore Fiore. Absent from photo-- Dylann Condrin, Michael Schimminger, Elizabeth Yahner.

Conference

Philadelphia: The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is sponsoring a conference - *Humanae Vitae: The prophetic Voice of Blessed Paul VI, 50 Years Later.*

It will be held on October 13, 2018 at Neumann University, One Neumann Drive, Aston, PA 19014. More information call: Steve Bozza at 215-587-5661. E-mail: sbozza@arch-philadelphia.org.

Vocations

Ebensburg: The Serra Club of Cambria County will sponsor its annual Bishop's Night for Vocations dinner at 5:30 PM on Friday at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, 728 Ben Franklin Highway, Ebensburg. The event begins with a social hour and dinner follows at 6:30 PM. The event is sponsored by the Serra Club and the diocesan Vocation Office. The guest speaker is Sister Joseph Andrew, Vocation direc-

tor of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. Tickets can be obtained by calling: Marjorie Lechene at (814) 255-9797 or (814) 241-3736.

Colleges

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College's celebrated Medical Laboratory Technician National Medical Laboratory Week. The Mount Aloysius Medical Lab Tech program continues educating the area's next generation of lab professionals with impressive results.

Their latest group of grads earned a 100 percent pass rating on their national certification exam, and graduates routinely start their careers within weeks of earning their certification.

The Mount Aloysius College Medical Laboratory Technician program is led by Kathy Hoyne, M.S., MT (AMT), program director. "Our faculty has over 100 years of cumulative lab experience," said Ms. Hoyne. "We work closely with local hospitals and other medical facilities to place our students in quality clinical sites as they complete their 25-week rotations. Our students serve in area labs every day. Working under expert su-

pervision," added Ms. Hoyne, "they conduct actual diagnostic tests on real patients.

The Associate of Science Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology at Mount Aloysius combines a strong liberal arts and science curriculum with extensive clinical experience. The end result is the clinical competency of the College's graduates. The profession involves analyzing patient samples— primarily blood — using sophisticated laboratory equipment and technology.

The demand for Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians is expected to rise 18 percent from 2014 to 2024. For more information on the Medical Laboratory Technician program, or any of Mount Aloysius College's 70 academic programs, students The Mount Aloysius College Medical Laboratory Technician program is led by Kathy Hoyne, M.S., MT (AMT), program director. students in quality clinical sites as they complete their 25-week rotations.

Our students serve in area labs every day. added Ms. Hoyne, "they conduct actual di-



MINISTRY OF LECTOR: Two Diocesan seminarians were instituted into the Ministry of Lector -- the first formal step to the Priesthood -- at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe on Wednesday, April 11. Michael Pleva (below), a member of Holy Rosary Parish in Altoona, is a first year Theology student at Saint Vincent. Mark Groeger (above), also in his first year of Theology studies at Saint Vincent, is a member of Saint Leo Magnus Parish in Ridgway.



agnostic tests on real patients. The experience allows them to match classroom theory with real clinical experiences. Their licensure pass rates, clinical competency, and job placement success consistently reinforce

that their education is excellent. Certainly we are extremely grateful to our regional clinical partners." For more information contact the Mount Aloysius College Admissions Department at (814) 886-6383

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Point Of View

Amid The Fray

By Greg Erlandson

Doggone it, Kids Are Great



cause they suffer from separation anxiety.

Often referred to as “the kids,” pets now have their own greeting card lines. Check it out this coming Mother’s Day. My favorite: “You make me want to be a better cat.” Surely a sentiment no cat has ever felt.

So, let me, as a parent and perhaps-someday-grandparent, make the case for kids.

-- Ignore all the bogus statistics about how much children cost. Those astronomical numbers are meant to scare you sterile, but they have no connection to reality. The truth is: It works out, whether it’s braces, first car or college. It just takes patience, faith and a little ingenuity.

-- Pets are cute, but children are fascinating. Mine are all bar-

reling toward full adulthood, and I find them even more interesting now than when they were learning how to throw a football or master a math problem or discussing Harry Potter. I want to hear their thoughts on life and love and what’s showing at the Cineplex, and of course share mine.

-- Kids help us to grow in love. They are designed to inspire our most protective feelings at birth, but that is just the beginning. Through them we learn how to sacrifice ourselves for others.

We learn to up our game -- giving them examples of discipline and forgiveness. We learn humility, for they expose our weaknesses and shortcomings as well. They teach us that love is not zero sum, but grows exponentially.

-- Children teach us about empathy. They say no parent is happier than his saddest child, and it’s true. To see a child suffer -- whether from a skinned knee, a breakup or a business failure -- is to share that suffering with them. And that is love, too. \hat{A}

-- And for all you actuaries out there, the truth is that kids live longer than dogs and cats. God willing, we get to walk through the rest of our lives with them, which is what makes families so amazing (and occasionally maddening).

Pets are nice, but what all of us grandparents-in-waiting want to say is that children are God’s wonderful gift. And it is a gift that keeps on giving.



In Light Of Faith

By Christopher White
Reaching Young People

In a study released last month surveying young people who have left the church, its authors posed two important questions about the individuals behind the data: “Do we know who they are -- the depth of their life stories -- do we know them by name?” and “Do we miss these individuals now that they are gone?”

The study, “Going, Going, Gone: The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics,” released by St. Mary’s Press of Minnesota, in collaboration with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, categorizes its respondents into three major groups: the injured, the drifters and the dissenters.

There’s much to be mined from the study, but one of the major takeaways is that the decision to leave the church is, almost always, a conscientious one, made over time, rather than an abrupt one, and that’s true in all three categories of those who have left.

In the lead-up to October’s synod on “Young people, faith and vocational discernment,” much of the discussion has been on the needs of young people within the church. That’s a very good and necessary conversation, but it should also be had alongside a discussion of what can be done to reach the young people who have already left the church -- the ones who we won’t find at Sunday Mass or at youth ministry programs.

One of the beautiful portions of the synod’s preparatory document is the section that discusses the need for “getting out” and finding areas outside of the confines of the church where the Gospel witness is made credible.

I recently had the experience of covering the New York Encounter, an annual three-day cultural festival organized by

the lay movement Communion and Liberation. While the program is chock full of cardinals, bishops, priests and other members of religious life, one of the many remarkable things about this event is just how normal it all is.

While the event -- which pulls in over 10,000 people -- is explicitly religious, there’s just as much emphasis on service -- as represented this year by special exhibits on Martin Luther King Jr. and Dorothy Day -- as there is on theology. The two, of course, are inextricably linked, but events like the New York Encounter present a different public image of the church.

Also on the official program were interreligious panel discussions; meditations on art, cinema and literature; and a lot of time for pure fellowship. In other words, it was a faith being lived out in the world -- embracing it -- rather than one distancing itself from the world.

As a journalist, I interviewed a number of folks from various theological and political persuasions, and in a time of deep tribalism in our country, this event managed to offer a rare glimpse of unity and an attractive alternative to the fragmentation that defines our present age.

In thinking about disaffiliation and the global conversation Pope Francis has invited the church to have on the future of young people in the church, I couldn’t help but thinking this was the type of public witness that should be offered more often.

It’s one that is invitational and intriguing -- and one that is open to newcomers, as well as those who have drifted away and may find cause for reconsideration.

In today's world, there is a growing awareness of the risks to children from maltreatment in our schools and organizations, including physical and sexual abuse exploitation, emotional abuse and violence of all types. The VIRTUS® programs focus primarily on eliminating the risk of sexual abuse. It is important for teachers, staff and parents to have their eye on these issues and work together.

Some key areas to pay attention to in this effort as it relates to schools are:

1. **Written policies:** Written policies and procedures must clearly set out the organization's commitment to safety-and the policies must be applied to EVERYONE involved with children. Staff, volunteers and parents should work together to create a policy that works for the organization. Publicize the policy as much as possible. Let everyone know what is acceptable and unacceptable in your program or organization and any consequences for failure to operate consistently with these policies.

Include examples of situations that are covered by the policy so that everyone is clear on how the policy is applied.

2. **Service providers, vendors and partners:** Make sure service providers, vendors and partners that provide services of any kind to the children either have safety programs in place that mirror yours, or know and agree to participate in and honor yours.

Keeping Children Safe

By Sharon Doty, J. D., M.H.R.



State reporting laws clearly identify those who are mandated to report suspected abuse. Create and manage your policies so that they comply with reporting laws and put children first.

With regard to school violence, work with the nearest law enforcement organization to establish the best possible procedures for dealing with violence of any kind on school grounds.

In both cases, include parents in the discussions about how to deal with these issues.

3. **Drills & plans:** Most schools have fire drills and other practices for unusual occurrences. Create a plan for dealing with a threat of violence on the premises and include it in your regular safety training.

4. **Communication:** Establish a "feedback" system so that everyone involved with the program or

organization can tell you they see what works and does not work, including any concerns that occur.

5. **Parental consent:** Make sure you have parental consent for children to participate in any program or service and set up a procedure for including children in the conversation. Ask them questions and listen carefully to their answers. They will tell you a great deal about what it takes to make them feel safe.

6. **Threat assessment and response:** Identify the risk level for each location or program-based on an assessment of whether they are high, medium, or low risk situations. Then, tailor procedures to make sure all precautions are in place to promote an environment safe from abuse.

Regardless of what we do, children may still be the victims of abuse and violence at times. This is a hard reality for us all. However, being part of creating and promoting a proactive plan to create a safe environment that prevents, to the best of our ability, violence and abuse of any kind is our best chance at making sure all our children are safe every day.

For inquiries on youth protection and safe environment efforts within the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown 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.

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

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

Clinton County

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

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

Franklin - - Fulton Counties

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

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

Centre County

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

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

Support For Survivors

Support for survivors of sexual abuse is always available throughout the Diocese of Altoona-Johnston. Survivors are encouraged to seek help for recovery through any of the sexual assault centers in their area. All of the sexual assault centers offer:

- * 24/7 Hotline Services
- * Crisis Intervention
- * Case Management
- * Individual Counseling
- * Legal Advocacy and Accompaniment
- * Medical Advocacy and Accompaniment
- * Prevention and Awareness Education Programs
- * Sexual Assault Response Team (emergency medical care, emotional support, and medical/ legal examination)
- * Professional Trainings
- * Information and Referrals to other community services

Bedford County

Your Safe Haven Inc.
(800) 555 - 5671
Yoursafehaven.org

Also offers: * Safe Shelter and/or Transitional Housing * Transportation * Additional Services for Domestic Violence Survivors

Blair County

Family Services, Inc.
(814) 944-3585
Familyservicesinc.net

Also offers: * Therapy/ Therapeutic Counseling * Transportation * Additional Services for Domestic Violence Survivors

Cambria-Somerset Counties Victim Services, Inc.

(814) 288-4691 and (800) 755-1983
Victimservicesinc.org

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.



CONFIRMATION CLASS: Members of the 2018 Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Cresson, Confirmation class, are: Front row--Corrine Marie (Cecelia) McGarry, Kayla Marie (Joan) Repko, Zachary James (Michael) McConnell, and Andrew James (Joseph) Kuntz. Middle row--Anna Dorothy (Mater Amabilis) Prostejevsky, Kailyn Rae (Monica) Anderson, Kylie Jane (Kateri) Quinn, Jarrett Dale (Sebastian) Grove, Paul Theodore (Pier Giorgio) Mullen. Back row--Collin Michael (Sebastian) Reese, Dylan Connor (Florian) Broad, and Logan William (Michael) Gottshall. Father Leo Arnone is pastor, and Father Matthew Reese is temporary administrator. Mrs. Tracey Ingold is the director of Religious Education (D.R.E.); and Confirmation director. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak confirmed the class on April 12, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.



CONFIRMATION CLASS: Members of the Our Lady of Lourdes, Altoona, Confirmation class, pictured (left to right) are: Kristen Bettwy, Father James Dugan, pastor; and Rachel Meintel. The students received the sacrament during a Mass held at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

Pope Asks New Priests To Be Merciful

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Ordaining 16 men to the priesthood, Pope Francis urged them to be merciful with the people who approach them, especially in the confessional.

Marking the World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 22, the pope ordained 11 men for the Diocese of Rome, four for the Family of Disciples and one for the Sons of Divine Providence. The new priests ranged in age from 26 to 41 and came from Italy, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Madagascar, Myanmar and Vietnam.

As is his custom for ordinations, Pope Francis used the homily prescribed by the Italian Missal but paused when he reached the description of how, through each sacrament, the new priests would minister to

the people. "With the sacrament of penance, you will remit sins in the name of Christ and the church," he read from the text. "And here I'm going to stop to ask you, please, never tire of being merciful. Think of your sins, your wretchedness, which Jesus forgives. Be merciful."

After the Mass, Pope Francis went up to the window of his studio in the Apostolic Palace to lead the midday recitation of the "Regina Coeli" prayer with an estimated 30,000 people gathered below in St. Peter's Square.

He brought four of the new priests with him, inviting them to join him at the window to greet the crowd and give the people their blessing.

"We ask the Lord to send many good workers to labor in his field and also to increase vocations to consecrated life and to Christian marriage," the pope told the crowd.

(Continued From Page 16.)

the courage to always uphold the dignity of life."

Lawmakers are influenced by contact from their constituents, Failing reminded. The faithful may voice their support

directly to their state senators through the Catholic Advocacy Network at www.pacatholic.org. That link and other information can be found on the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown website at www.dioceseaj.org.



Malerich Makes State Finals In Geography Bee

Which mountain lies between the Allegheny Mountains and Blue Ridge Mountains in Pennsylvania? William Malerich, a sixth grade student at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in State College could tell you that.

He recently competed in the 2018 Pennsylvania National Geographic State Bee Championship against 100 other students. He missed only one question on the semifinal test, but it denied him a shot at the state title.

"Most of the semifinal questions had clues about cities, climates, or continents, but the most difficult questions for me were about current political

events because I am not permitted to watch political news," said the young student.

To get ready for the state competition, Malerich studied atlases, filled in outline maps, played online quiz games and completed a jigsaw puzzle with him mom.

"I had to learn a lot about our world from countries that I never knew existed, to important waterways, and the diverse climates of the many countries," Malerich said.

To earn the right to compete against statewide competition, Malerich first had to compete against his peers in the Our Lady of Victory Geography Bee, held during Catholic Schools Week.

"I had a great time at the Pennsylvania State National Geographic Bee," Malerich said. "My suggestion to future competitors is to study current International events and read the National Geographic Magazine."

William Malerich

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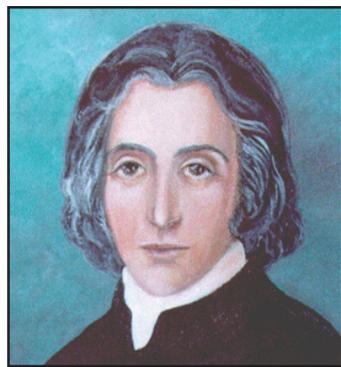
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A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840

Family Seeks Archbishop Sheen's Intervention

By Jessica Trygstad
Catholic News Service

ST. ANTHONY, Minn. (CNS) -- Even before Katherine and Jeff Dobbs were married, they had a name picked out for a future son: Fulton Francis.

Fulton, for Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, known for his mid-20th century broadcast evangelism, and Francis, for Pope Benedict XVI declared venerable in 2012.

honeymoon in 2017.

Little could they have known the significance of their baby's namesakes less than a year later.

Fulton Francis Dobbs was born Christmas Eve with an immunodeficiency that remains undiagnosed. They have been praying for Fulton's healing through the intercession of Archbishop Sheen, whom Pope Benedict XVI declared venerable in 2012.

The next step in the sainthood process is beatification,

which requires one miracle that is verified as having occurred through that person's intercession.

"Your faith needs to get you through the 'whys,' not the 'why me?'" but the why us?" Burrill, 61, told The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

From the start, Fulton did not eat well and his oxygen levels dropped, so Katherine, 32, and Jeff, 30, had him baptized at the hospital.

Katherine admitted that at first she was even afraid to cry, fearing her tears could kill Fulton because of the germs they contained.

"So, just to think about even more than just one hour at a time was so anxiety-provoking," she said. "I read all these books on childbirth and nothing has been able to basically be applied to this situation in life. I feel like the Lord is saying, 'My ways are not your ways,' and ... not to plan the next moment because it's impossible to plan the next moment. Katherine's love of St. Therese of Lisieux inspired her and Jeff to read Archbishop Sheen's book, "St. Therese: A Treasured Love Story," which includes text from talks he gave in 1973 about the French nun. During the last weeks of her pregnancy Katherine researched Archbishop Sheen and listened to his talks "Life is Worth Living" from his 1950s television show.

Katherine connected with Bonnie Engstrom, who, during a presentation at St. Charles Borromeo March 23, shared the



Jeff And Katherine Dobbs with Fulton

account of the alleged miraculous healing of her newborn son, James Fulton, in 2010 through Archbishop Sheen's intercession.

James was stillborn during a home birth. He was rushed to a local hospital, where doctors and nurses worked to revive him. As the doctors began putting their hands up to call his time of death, "after 61 minutes of not having a heartbeat, James' heart started to beat again, and it never stopped again," Bonnie said.

The boy survived and is a healthy 7-year-old child today despite medical tests early in life that revealed various serious complications. But they all disappeared and Engstrom credits the intercession of Archbishop Sheen for her son's recovery.

Doctors subsequently determined the boy's recovery was a medical miracle. The alleged miracle was submitted to Vatican's Congregation for Saints Causes through the Diocese of Peoria, which is coordinating the archbishop's canonization submission. Katherine attended Bonnie's presentation. She and her family continue to trust in the power of prayer.

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
Is Dad In Heaven?

ROME (CNS) -- After circling a massive, crumbling public housing complex on the outskirts of Rome, Pope Francis had an emotional encounter with the neighborhood's children.

Question-and-answer sessions with youngsters are a standard part of Pope Francis' parish visits. And, at St. Paul of the Cross parish April 15, there were the usual questions like, "How did you feel when you were elected pope?"

But then it was Emanuele's turn. The young boy smiled at the pope as he approached the microphone. But then froze. "I can't do it," Emanuele said.

Msgr. Leonardo Sapienza, a papal aide, encouraged the boy, but he kept saying, "I can't."

"Come, come to me, Emanuele," the pope said. "Come and whisper it in my ear."

Msgr. Sapienza helped the boy up to the platform where the pope was seated. Emanuele was sobbing by that point, and Pope Francis enveloped him in a big embrace, patting his head and speaking softly to him.

With their heads touching, the pope and the boy spoke privately to each other before Emanuele returned to his seat.

"If only we could all cry like Emanuele when we have a ache in our hearts like he has," the pope told the children. "He was crying for his father and had the courage to do it in front of us because in his heart there is love for his father."

Pope Francis said he had asked Emanuele if he could share the boy's question and the boy agreed. "A little while ago my father passed away. He was a nonbeliever, but he had all four of his children baptized. He was a good man. Is dad in heaven?"

"How beautiful to hear a son say of his father, 'He was good,'" the pope told the children. "And what a beautiful witness of a son who inherited the strength of his father, who had the courage to cry in front of all of us. If that man was able to make his children like that, then it's true, he was a good man. He was a good man."

"That man did not have the gift of faith, he wasn't a believer, but he had his children baptized. He had a good heart," Pope Francis said.

"God is the one who says who goes to heaven," the pope explained.

The next step in answering Emanuele's question, he said, would be to think about what God is like and, especially, what kind of heart God has. "What do you think? A father's heart. God has a dad's heart. And with a dad who was not a believer, but who baptized his children and gave them that bravura, do you think God would be able to leave him far from himself?"

"Does God abandon his children?" the pope asked. "Does God abandon his children when they are good?"

The children shouted, "No." "There, Emanuele, that is the answer," the pope told the boy. "God surely was proud of your father, because it is easier as a believer to baptize your children than to baptize them when you are not a believer. Surely this pleased God very much."

Pope Francis encouraged Emanuele to "talk to your dad; pray to your dad."

Earlier, a young girl named Carlotta also asked the pope a delicate question: "When we are baptized, we become children of God. People who



ONE MORE TIME: In 1992, directors of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) held their first statewide meeting in the Seton Suite of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss common concerns about implementing the Rite in their dioceses.

aren't baptized, are they not children of God?"

"What does your heart tell you?" the pope asked Carlotta. She said, they are, too.

"Right, and I'll explain," the pope told her. "We are all children of God. Everyone. Everyone."

The nonbaptized, members of other religions, those who

worship idols, "even the mafiosi," who terrorize the neighborhood around the parish, are children of God, though "they prefer to behave like children of the devil," he said.

"God created everyone, loves everyone and put in everyone's heart a conscience so they would recognize what is good and distinguish it from what is

bad," the pope said.

The difference, he said, is that "when you were baptized, the Holy Spirit entered into that conscience and reinforced your belonging to God and, in that sense, you became more of a daughter of God because you're a child of God like everyone, but with the strength of the Holy Spirit."

ence and religious belief must be consistent, but they are different disciplines. Anglican Archbishop James Ussher, primate of all-Ireland in the 17th century, once calculated from Old Testament chronologies that the world began on Oct. 23, 4004 B.C. This is probably not right.

The ages and generations in the Bible accounts are likely symbolic, not literal. On the other hand, Lemaitre wisely warned Pope Pius XII against opining in public that the Big Bang proved the truth of Catholic faith. Physics can't observe and test the action of God.

Neither can science make God unnecessary, as Hawking once claimed it does. We would all do well to observe the limitations of our disciplines in making claims about what we can prove. Hawking was playing a game that did not allow us to speak about God, and there's nothing wrong with that. But there are important questions that lie outside the physical sciences, and despite his enormous contributions, he didn't provide much help in answering those.

Intellect And Virtue

By John Garvey
In The Beginning

Stephen Hawking died last month. He was a brilliant and influential physicist responsible for, among other things, the conclusion that black holes emit energy that we now call "Hawking radiation."

This is not supposed to happen, because the gravity of black holes is so strong that it doesn't even allow light to escape. (That's why they're black.) And it creates some problems for quantum mechanics that we still have not solved.

In his later years, Hawking attracted a lot of attention for his speculations about how the universe began. Though an avowed atheist, he was for 32 years a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. On many points of cosmology, he agreed with more faithful members of the academy.

He believed, for example, as most physicists now do, that the universe began in a stupendous Big Bang about 14 billion years ago. The Big Bang theory was first proposed by a Catholic priest, George Lemaitre, elected to the Pontifical Academy 50 years before Hawking. Physics doesn't, and probably can't, tell us what caused the Big Bang. This is the point on which Hawking and the church part company.

Like many scientists, Hawking was a positivist, interested in explaining everything by relying on sensory experience and reason. According to the rules of this game, we are not allowed to appeal to forces or actors outside this closed system.

Hawking proposed to answer this question from within his closed system as well. Sci-

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
**End Of Life Issues,
 Mother Angelica For
 Sainthood**

Is feeding tube required?/ Mother Angelica for sainthood?
 By Father Kenneth Doyle
 Catholic News Service

Q. I attended a presentation by a Catholic deacon on end-of-life issues and medical ethics. If I understood correctly, he emphasized that when a person has had a stroke, even if he is not expected to live long, it is still necessary to provide oxygen, nutrition and hydration. For nutrition, he said a feeding tube should be inserted.

To me, that seems an extraordinary means; it is invasive, can cause infection and needs to be changed regularly. As for me, if death were fairly imminent, I would not want a feeding tube if I were unable to swallow pureed food.

So my question is: Must a person, if Catholic, allow a feeding tube? (Now that my husband and I are past the age of 75, we are beginning to think about these things.) (Port St. Lucie, Florida)

A. The answer to your question, "Must a Catholic allow a feeding tube?" is, "Not always." In most situations -- in the view of Catholic theology -- medically assisted nutrition and hydration constitutes an ordinary means of treatment and

would morally be required for those who cannot take food orally (even for patients in a "persistent vegetative state.")

That presumption, however, can be overridden by the circumstances in a particular case. This exception to the general rule is well-expressed in a document authored by the Catholic bishops of New York state entitled "Now and at the Hour of Our Death," which states:

"When death is imminent (within days) or in rare instances when a gastric feeding tube may cause intractable side effects such as severe agitation, physical discomfort, aspiration into the lungs or severe infection, any foreseeable benefits of maintaining the tube are likely outweighed in light of the attending burdens."

Q. Has the church ever considered Mother Angelica for sainthood? I recently read a book on her life, and she was an amazing woman. She not only started the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), but she had a radio station as well. I am sure that her strong faith, humor and common sense have touched many people. (Thornville, Ohio)

A. Mother Angelica, a member of the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, died

in Alabama on Easter Sunday 2016 at age 92. In 1981, with \$200 in capital, she had founded the Eternal Word Television Network, which today reaches more than 200 million homes in 145 countries and transmits 24 hours a day in several different languages with a variety of religious programming, including interviews, historical pieces and devotional services.

Three days after her death, Pope Francis spoke to members of the EWTN staff in Rome and, pointing to the sky, said of Mother Angelica, "She is in heaven." A formal process of canonization, though, has yet to begin and normally does not start until five years after death -- although exceptions have been made recently for St. Teresa of Kolkata and for St. John Paul II.

In 2009, Pope Benedict XVI conferred on Mother Angelica the highest papal honor for laypeople and clergy, the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross. Upon her death in 2016, tributes came from many Catholic leaders, including Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, then-president of the U.S. bishops' conference, who said that Mother Angelica "reflected the Gospel mission to go forth and make disciples of all nations" and that, "like the best evangelists, she used the communications tools of her time to make this happen."

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

In deference to his father, this German was ordained a diocesan priest first, then entered the Jesuits in 1900. He led parish missions in Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands, and was wounded as a chaplain in World War I. After the war, he worked in Munich with the poor and unemployed, directed a men's sodality, and spoke out against the rise of Adolf Hitler. The Nazis arrested him three times, imprisoning him at Sachsenhausen and in an abbey. He was freed in May 1945, but had a heart attack while saying Mass Nov. 1.



Blessed
 Rupert Mayer
 1876-1945

Catholic News Service



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
The Consequences Of Loneliness

I woke up one morning to the news that the British had created a ministry of loneliness. I have to admit, I chuckled. It seemed a particularly English thing to do.

With all the problems in the world -- global warming nearing a catastrophic tipping point, North Korea threatening the U.S. mainland, the Middle East in another implacable dispute -- my first reaction was, "You're kidding, right?"

But, no, it's no joke. And it appears that loneliness is a serious problem, even a public health issue.

The New York Times quotes Vivek Murthy, the former United States surgeon general, as saying that loneliness and social isolation "are associated with a reduction in life span similar to that caused by smoking 15 cigarettes a day." It's apparently worse than being obese.

We might jump to the conclusion that the elderly and those living alone are the ones who suffer most, but research shows that social isolation can extend to anyone who feels disconnected. High schoolers often feel that lonely angst, and so can people in an unhappy, noncommunicative marriage. You may be surrounded all day by fellow workers in cubicles, but you can still experience loneliness.

The culprits may be our increasing reliance on social media, scanning our screens rather than getting together for a night of socializing with the neighbors. Increasing urbanization means we may not even know our neighbors. Family doesn't live down the block anymore; we're lucky if our kids stay in the same state.

When I first met my husband's family, I was struck by the social cohesion of their Italian neighborhood. In a large East Coast city, both of his parents were from large recent immigrant families who all still lived in the neighborhood.

Everybody knew the baker who sold the crusty Italian bread on the corner. Everybody knew what part of Italy the hairdresser's family came from.

No doubt people can still feel lonely in an environment where you are within walking or close driving distance of 80 relatives, but it's hard not to find someone in that crew to connect with emotionally. It's the kind of environment you might flee when you're an independent 20-year-old but view with lonely nostalgia when you're 50. It's hard to replace.

The Midwestern small town where I grew up had no tenements, but it too had its social cohesion, its Saturday nights downtown, its altar societies, bridge clubs and Knights of Columbus. If you weren't somebody's cousin, you were his or her cousin's cousin.

We need to challenge ourselves to be connected. Invite the neighbors over. Put down the remote and the phone and laugh with someone.

Our parish has a visitation program, and I've signed up to visit someone who, despite her youthfulness, has physical challenges that keep her institutionalized.

I also have a very perky 100-year-old friend, formerly from my Midwestern hometown, who encourages me to visit her in her nearby apartment.

I'm not doing these ladies a favor by visiting them. They're doing me a favor, keeping me in social communion with what Martin Luther King Jr. once described so beautifully as "the beloved community," a community of justice, love and connection that keeps us happy and healthy.

Prayer.com App Will Link Faith Communities, Share Prayer

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Convinced that faith communities would want to share prayer requests, announcements and service opportunities without going to multiple platforms and without being awash in advertising, a group of friends created an app just for that.

With \$2 million in seed money, Pray.com was beta tested with 100 churches in 2016. Today, 6,000 faith communities and thousands of other groups use the app to host their members' need for prayer and offers of support, as well as to recruit volunteers for local service projects and to collect donations, said two of the co-founders.

The faith-social app Pray 2.0 is designed specifically not to "gamify" the experience of the parishes, mosques, synagogues, churches and temples that use it, Matthew Potter, one

of the app's co-founders, told Catholic News Service April 23.

What big social media does is gamified to get more eyes on more ads," he said. People become obsessed, consciously or not, with attracting followers and likes, which in turn gives the advertising a wider market.

The communities that set up one of the closed groups on Pray.com and the community members who join those groups pay nothing. Pray.com does not accept advertising but earns money by taking a small percentage of the donations it facilitates for the groups.

Potter and co-founder Michael Lynn were at the Vatican in late April where Pray.com was used as the community platform of choice for Humanity 2.0, a gathering of financiers, philanthropists, artists, tech experts, physicians, politicians and religious leaders who came together to discuss ways to work together to make a positive impact on the world.

As a first step, they decid-

ed to raise \$100,000 to give to Pope Francis. The donations and pledges are being made through the app.

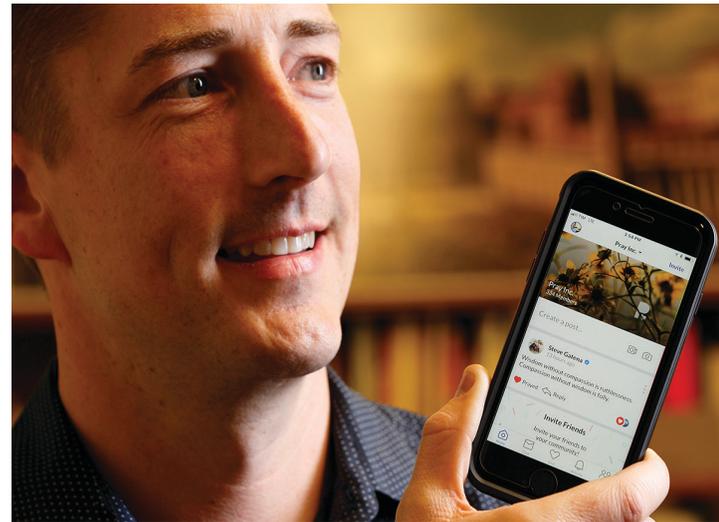
But participants, who were not part of a community before the April 19 event at the Vatican, also used the app to pray for safe travel, to comment positively on each other's presentations and to share news once they were back home.

"When you think about Facebook and Instagram, you think about your social identity online, which is great. It's brought everyone together with their social identity -- friends and family," Potter said. LinkedIn is a social media site for an individual's professional or work identity. "When you think about the three core things that make up human beings, it's your friends and family, what you do and what you believe."

Pray.com is designed for that third part, he said. "It is a place where people engage in prayer and prayer requests, create community, support one another and support their local community, which can be their church, their temple or mosque."

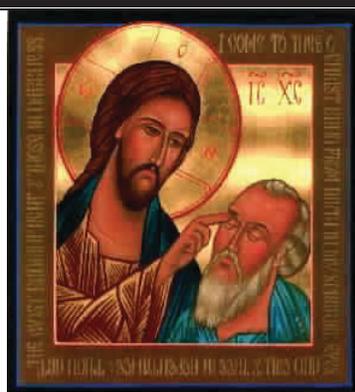


PRAYER APP: Matthew Potter and Michael Lynn, co-founders of the newly developed app, Pray.com, display the website for the new app during an interview in Rome. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



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Saint Francis University Lists Commencement Speakers



Andrew G. Rush



Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo

Doctor Carolyn Y. Woo, former president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and Andrew G. Rush, M.P.T.'00, M.B.A. '11, chief executive officer for Somerset Health Services Inc., will be the guest speakers at Commencement Ceremonies to be held on May 13, at Saint Francis University in Loretto.

Rush will speak at the 10 AM graduate ceremony and Dr. Woo will address undergraduate students at the 2 PM event.

Dr. Woo has been featured in Foreign Policy, representing CRS as one of the "500 Most Powerful" people on the planet and one of only 33 in the category of "a force for good."

She has received many hon-

ors for her work. Woo has been named Distinguished President's Fellow for Global Development at Purdue University. Dr. Woo served as president of the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business.

Dr. Woo served as president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services from January 2012 to 2016.

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishop of the United States to serve survivors of World War II in Europe. Since then, it has become one of the world's largest and most respected international relief and development agencies, each year reaching more than 130 million people in

nearly 100 countries.

In June 2015, Pope Francis issued his highly anticipated encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, bringing the world's attention to the importance of caring.

Rush is a former Major League Baseball player who earned both his master's degree in physical therapy and MBA in Health Care Administration from Saint Francis University. He played with the Boston Red Sox and San Diego Padres.

For the past five years, Rush has served Somerset Hospital as the Vice President of Physician Practices. Prior to starting his career at Somerset Hospital, Rush served as director of Nova Care Rehabilitation in Pittsburgh.

He also serves as a member of the Allied Health Advisory Council for the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, the Exercise Physiology Advisory Board at Saint Francis University, and is a member of the Somerset Area Little League Board of directors.

The theme for both ceremonies is a reflection on one of the institutions Goals of Franciscan Education: "Reverence for All Life and for the Goodness of All Humanity."

This year there are 402 undergraduates and 332 graduates.



Second Priest Murdered

By David Agren
Catholic News Service

MEXICO CITY (CNS) -- Yet another Mexican Catholic priest has been murdered in his parish -- the second such lethal attack against clergy in the country in less than a week.

Father Juan Miguel Contreras Garcia was shot dead in the St. Pius of Pietrelcina parish in the Guadalajara suburb of Tlajomulco de Zuniga. An April 20 statement from the Jalisco state prosecutor's office said Father Contreras was confronted and shot in the sacristy. Two assailants subsequently fled in a compact car. No motive for the

attack was offered.

The attack on Father Contreras followed the April 18 murder of Father Ruben Alcantara Diaz in the northern Mexico City suburb of Cuautitlan Izcalli. Father Alcantara was attacked April 18, just prior to the 7 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Carmen Parish, the Diocese of Izcalli said in a short statement.

The Mexican bishops' conference issued a call for action on the violence consuming the country and impacting the church.

"We are making an urgent call to construct a culture of peace and reconciliation," newspaper Reforma reported. His whereabouts remains un-

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Catholic Realizes Childhood Dream Of Filmmaking With Christian Film Company

By Laura Ieraci
Catholic News Service

Homer Glenn, III. CNS--When Katie Reidy decided it was time to follow her childhood dream and pursue a career in film, she never had Christian filmmaking in mind.

But somehow, said Reidy, no matter where she has sent

her resume these past seven years, "I still end up at a Catholic film company, which is a great thing!"

Reidy was working at a crisis pregnancy center and attending Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish in Homer Glen, when she decided to pull up stakes in 2011, move to Los Angeles, and try her hand in the film industry.

Her desire to pursue film was "so strong" she reached out to a long-lost friend working in Los Angeles.

"He gave me a couple of recommendations for film workshops. I applied to one," she said. "I thought to myself, 'If I am meant to work in film, then a job will pop up and I will know it's what I'm supposed to do.'"

Before completing her pro-

gram, she was on a film shoot in Mexico for her first feature film, called "Little Boy" (2015), by Metanoia Films, the Catholic film company that produced "Bella" (2006).

After this project, she continued to receive steady work as a freelancer, but admitted she turned down several projects that would have landed her with "very reputable companies or filmmakers."

"The story or parts of the script were completely out of line with my values and everything I have stood for in life that I had to say no," she told Horizons, newspaper of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma, Ohio. The eparchy covers almost a dozen states, including Illinois.

"The value of working on Catholic or Christian-themed films is that you know the intentions of the filmmakers will be morally sound, you won't harm your audience in any way, and you can tell incredible stories that need to be told, that secular filmmakers wouldn't touch," she said.

Soon after moving back to the Chicago area in 2017, Reidy found work as the director of operations for ODB films, founded by Eric Groth, a Catholic, who is a producer on "Paul, Apostle of Christ," released in theaters March 23.

"Working on 'Paul, Apostle of Christ' has truly been a gift,"

she said.

Reidy was the U.S. production coordinator on the project, since its inception last spring.

"The film set (in Malta) was energetic," said Reidy. "Morale was high, people were in good spirits and extremely hard-working."

"I had cast and crew coming up to me and saying that they never been on a set like this, where it seemed like there was no hierarchy, no favoritism, and they were being greeted by the producers and executives. Actors expressed that they felt free to act, they didn't feel like they were going to be micro-managed. There was a freedom and respect that they had never experienced before," she said.

The film also impacted Reidy's faith life, opening her up more to the Bible.

"I can't believe how little I knew about Paul," she said. "I listen to his readings in church all the time, of course, but I'm

not sure I really understood who he was or why he wrote the letters. My interest in him has grown exponentially, which in turn, is helping me to understand the Early Church and my faith on a deeper level," she said.

"Paul, Apostle of Christ" is the biggest film Reidy has worked on to date, but what makes her proudest is that it tells the story of "one of the most influential people in the church in a beautiful and respectful way that I think would make St. Paul proud ... that I believe can reach people who don't know Paul, who don't have faith, or who don't know Christ yet," she said.

"If we can awaken someone's faith or move someone to know Christ through this film, then there is no greater gift we could ask for," she said.

"The challenge is making sure you create a good story first and let the message come through that good story."

Pope Insists All Life Deserves Defense

By Cindy Wooden
The Catholic New Service

VATICAN CITY CNS--When Pope Francis insisted that the lives of the unborn and of the poor are "equally sacred," he was not trying to shift the focus of Catholics from fighting abortion to fighting poverty, he was trying to show they are part of the same battle, said Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

The life of the unborn must be "promoted and defended with great determination and given an effective priority," the archbishop told Catholic News Service April 17.

"At the same time," he said, "we must keep in mind that the dignity of every human being is equal and inviolable at every stage throughout his or her life."

In "Rejoice and Be Glad," his apostolic exhortation on holiness, Pope Francis wrote that living a Christian life involves the defense of both the unborn

and the poor, and he criticized what he termed the "harmful ideological error" of thinking one's own cause is the only important one.

"Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred," Pope Francis wrote. "Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection."

What Pope Francis is telling Catholics, he said, is "to be pro-life always, in every situation and everywhere, not only in one moment, in one country or one aspect. We must rediscover the prophetic call to defend life in its concrete situations, not as an abstraction, by defending human beings from the very beginning of life to its end."

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Widows And Widowers Thankful For Faith And Church, Diocese Honors Deceased Spouses At Special Mass

Photos And Text By
Tony DeGol

Mary Lessard is an artist and knows a pretty picture when she sees one.

The image that delighted her recently was not an oil painting or a watercolor, but rather a scene in which men and women who are experiencing loss came together in prayer, remembrance, fellowship, and support.

Lessard was one of more than a hundred widows and widowers who attended a Mass in memory of their beloved spouses and the luncheon that followed.

The gathering, sponsored by the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, was held on Wednesday, April 11 at Immaculate Conception Parish in New Germany.

It was originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, but a spring snow storm that day forced the postponement.

On this April day, the snow was gone and the temperature was milder. Warmer still were the feelings and memories shared.

"I looked around and saw such faith and such happiness in being here," stated Lessard, a parishioner at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto. "It's a blessing to have our faith, a blessing to have our Church – the wider church – all gathered together as a family today."

Lessard's husband, Lucien, passed away in April of last year.

Phil Arnone's loss is even more recent. His wife, Nancy, passed in January.

"I'd rather not be here as a widower," confessed Arnone, a member of Saint Patrick Parish in Johnstown. "I still wish I had my wife with me."

The Arnones were married for 63 years. One of their nine children is a priest – Father Leo Arnone, Pastor of Saint Aloysius

and Saint Francis Xavier Parishes in Cresson. He is currently serving as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy in Africa. Another son accompanied Arnone to the Mass.

"It's a new road for me, but knowing I have people here like this and programs like this, I can take steps forward and not have to worry about whether I'm going to be alone or not," Arnone commented. "That's the biggest thing about being a widower and being alone. When I see all these people here with me, I can tell right off the bat that I'm not alone."

All widows and widowers who attended the Liturgy received a votive candle, which was lit during Mass, and a paper butterfly, which was placed on an illuminated tree.

A butterfly is an appropriate symbol for the bereaved because it represents endurance, change, hope, and new beginnings, which individuals experience in their lives," said Donna Cook, manager of the Family Life Office.

Benedictine Father Leon Hont, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, was the celebrant and homilist.

He told the story of a girl who became impatient with a butterfly struggling to get out of a cocoon, so she cut open the cocoon. As a result, the caterpillars in the cocoon did not turn into butterflies.

Her father explained to the girl that caterpillars struggle and fight to develop their wings to fly away, and cutting open the cocoon short-circuits the transformation.

"You see this body, it's like a cocoon," reminded Father Hont. "Our sadness, our sorrows, our pains, and our sufferings, as well as our joys, happiness, and love is how we develop these wings that will take us to eternal life. I know all of you have lost a spouse and you spent many years together. You have to remember it is their time to extend their wings and go home."

After the homily, the names of all the deceased spouses were

recited. The names of the widows and widowers were also mentioned.

Father Hont encouraged those present to share their time and talent with the Church. He suggested that they pray for an increase in vocations, become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, visit the homebound, or teach religious education.

"Also, why don't you call someone you know who has been recently widowed and invite them to lunch, invite them to take a walk, invite them to go for ice cream," he suggested. "Your life isn't over yet, is it? You're still in service to the Church."

This was the fifth year for the gathering, Cook noted, and the attendance has grown each year.

"It is helpful and supportive to be with others who have experienced a similar loss," she added.

Cecilia Neiderer, a member of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Johnstown, agreed.

"I'm very proud to be here and thankful that our diocese – our Church – has taken the time to remember me as a widow and my fellow widows and widowers," she said.

Neiderer's husband, John, passed away in 2009.

"He's at peace, and I'll see him again," she assured.

Marjorie Gallardy's husband, Clyde, passed four years ago, and she looks forward to the Mass and luncheon each year.

"When I come here and I witness the other participants, we're all in the same boat," the Immaculate Conception parishioner said. "We like the community atmosphere of getting together and we all know how each other feels and if we want to shed a tear, we don't have to feel embarrassed. I think praying together and offering up our sorrows and our grief – and some of us are still grieving – I think it's important that the Diocese – the Church – remembers us and our loved ones."



REMEMBERING CHERISHED SPOUSES: Phil Arnone, a member of Saint Patrick Parish in Johnstown, listens as Veronica Wilson, a member of Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg, reads the name of Arnone's late wife, Nancy, and the names of other deceased spouses during a Mass of Remembrance on Wednesday, April 11 at Immaculate Conception Parish in New Germany. Sponsored by the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, more than 100 widows and widowers attended the Liturgy and the luncheon that followed.



BUTTERFLIES: Widows and widowers who attended the Mass of Remembrance received a votive candle, which was lit during the Liturgy, and a paper butterfly containing an inspirational message.

Now Showing

'7 Days In Entebbe' Ineffective Thriller, Simplistic Account

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- All the tension of a daring military raid has somehow been drained from "7 Days in Entebbe" (Focus).

Based on the 1976 Israeli commando mission that rescued more than 100 hostages from Entebbe Airport in Uganda, the film is the fourth dramatization of that fateful week. It attempts to give a sympathetic gloss to two German leftists who planned the hijacking of an Air France flight -- Wilfried Böse (Daniel Bruhl) and Brigitte Kuhlmann (Rosamund Pike).

With a better script and bigger budget, director Jose Padhila and screenwriter Gregory Burke could have made an effective thriller. But neither is in evidence here, nor is there a

vital historical or moral context. The result is a simplistic account of mostly bad Palestinians and Ugandan soldiers vs. universally good Israelis, and airplane passengers who might as well be nameless, faceless cattle.

The history: In late June 1976, a small group of Germans affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine hijacked an Air France jet, with 246 passengers, headed to Paris from Tel Aviv via Athens. They forced the pilot to switch course to Entebbe and separated out the Jewish passengers at a decrepit unused terminal.

They demanded a \$5 million ransom and the release of more than 50 Palestinian militants, most of whom were held in Israeli prisons. After buying some time with a promise of negotiations and after half the hostages had been set free, on July 3 and 4, the Israeli government, at huge risk, sent an armed unit to



7 DAYS IN ENTEBBE: Daniel Bruhl and Rosamund Pike play two German leftists who planned a hi-jacking of an Air France flight. Jensen calls it "A simplistic account of bad Palestinians and Ugandan soldiers vs. universally good Israelis, and airplane passengers who might as well be nameless, faceless cattle." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- and (PG-13) --parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

rescue the remainder.

Leading the raid was Yonatan Netanyahu (Angel Bonanni), the older brother of current Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The story of how the Israelis flew in massive transport planes at an altitude of no more than 100 feet, to avoid radar, and surprised and overran the hijackers and Ugandan forces is the stuff of legend -- and was considered to be an effective retaliation for the murder of the Jewish state's athletes at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich.

"7 Days," however, focuses on Böse and Kuhlmann, both sensitive types who flinch at the optics of Germans holding Jews at gunpoint, and on the internal struggle at the top levels of the Israeli government, where Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (Lior Ashkenazi) and defense minister Shimon Peres (Eddie Marsan) discuss, at great length, whether

swift military action should take the place of negotiations.

Occasionally, Idi Amin (Nonso Anozie) in all his air of strutting medaled menace, shows up to alternately greet or threaten the hostages.

Padhila uses rehearsals and a performance by a dance troupe as a sort of framing device to give the goings-on some urgency and rhythm. But this only distracts from the imagery of military planning.

Parallel discussions about the morality of holding Jews hostage to achieve political ends and whether it is ever right for governments to negotiate

with terrorists make up the bulk of the dialogue. Since viewers of faith already know the answer to the first question, this leaves only what turns out to be a superficial look at the Israeli political rivalries of the time.

The film contains occasional gun and physical violence, fleeting gore and a single use of rough language. 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.

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

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Coming Up On Proclaim

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

May 6 -- Father George Gulash, Pastor of Resurrection Parish in Johnstown, offers a priest's perspective regarding the upcoming Diocesan renewal initiative ARISE Together in Christ.

May 13 -- On this Mother's Day, Kara Lawler, a mother of two from Saint Michael Parish in Holidaysburg, discusses a new book she co-authored about motherhood and her recent appearance on

May
They Rest
In Peace



Johnstown with her longest tenures at Annunciation in Pittsburgh (1959-63), Greensburg Catholic High School in Greensburg (1963-68), and Bishop Carroll High School in Ebensburg, PA (1968-1974).

Sister Helen Marie's passion for history took root in early ministries as a social studies teacher and extended into 30 years of service as archivist for the Congregation.

Sister Helen Marie, along with volunteers, regularly orchestrated a clearinghouse and caravan of clothes, food and toys for families living in rural pockets of poverty in Western Pennsylvania.

Sister Helen Marie is survived by a sister, Judith Richeal of Woodbury, N.J.; nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews, the Associates, and the Sisters of St. Joseph. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, April 17 at 4:00 p.m. Burial followed in the Sisters' Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.

Donations in the name of Sister Helen Marie may be sent to the Sisters of St. Joseph Memorial Fund, Development Office, 1020 State St., Baden, PA, 15005.



Sister Helen Marie Smith
C.S.J.

Sister Helen Marie Shrift, CSJ, 83, died Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at Villa St. Joseph in her 66th year as a Sister of St. Joseph of Baden. The daughter of the late Cletus and Frances K. McDunn Shrift, Sister Helen Marie entered the Congregation from St. John Parish in Summerhill, PA.

For 22 years, she taught in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg and Altoona-

Mother Killed On Southwest Flight Believed Firmly In Catholic Education

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Tributes from business leaders and politicians alike described Jennifer Riordan -- the 43-year-old passenger who died April 17 from injuries suffered on Southwest Flight 1380 when its engine exploded -- as a devoted mother, community leader, mentor and volunteer.

Riordan, a Wells Fargo executive from New Mexico, was a "thoughtful leader who has long been a part of the fabric of our community," said Tim Keller, the mayor of Albuquerque. Susana Martinez, governor of New Mexico, described her as "an incredible woman who put her family and community first."

But statements about Riordan that were closer to home for the parishioner of Our Lady of the Annunciation Catholic Church in Albuquerque and mother of two children at Annunciation School were issued by her family, who called her their "bedrock," and her children's school, which described Riordan as an "integral member of our school community."

Riordan, who grew up in Vermont, attended Christ the King Elementary School in Burlington and graduated from Vermont's Colchester High School in 1992. She married



Jennifer Riordan

her high school sweetheart, Michael Riordan, in 1996 at Christ the King Church, according to the Burlington Free Press daily newspaper.

The couple had spent nearly two decades living in Albuquerque. Michael is a former chief operating officer for the city of Albuquerque and Jennifer was a vice president for community relations with Wells Fargo bank.

Riordan was pronounced dead at a hospital from blunt trauma to her head, neck and torso, a spokesman for the Philadelphia Department of Health.

As news of the tragedy spread, the assistant principal at Annunciation School where

the two Riordan children attend, sent an email to parents confirming Riordan's death and simply adding: "At this point, the family needs all the prayers we can offer."

Annunciation School posted a statement on its Facebook page saying the school was "devastated to lose an integral member of our school community," noting that Riordan often volunteered at the school and also served on its consultative council.

"She was seen on campus almost daily supporting her beautiful children. She provided encouragement to everyone with whom she came in contact. Her positive motivating spirit will be missed," the statement added before concluding with the promise that the school community would "keep Jennifer and her family in prayer."

A statement issued by the Riordan family said: "Jennifer's vibrancy, passion and love infused our community and reached across our country. Her impact on everything and everyone she touched can never be fully measured."

It also called her "the bedrock of our family. She and Mike wrote a love story unlike any other. Her beauty and love is evident through her children," and the statement asked that in her memory people remember to "always be kind, loving, caring and sharing."

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Celebration Of Mass

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Rosary March 3:00 PM

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Fr. John L. Miller

Pastor of Saint Joseph and
St. Stephen Parishes in Oil City, PA

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PA House Approves Down Syndrome Protection Act

By Tony DeGol

Johnny Zanke is an altar server and plays the piano. He works at McDonald's and helps out with chores around the house.

Cassandra Nickerson loves movies, music, and reading. She knows sign language and has a passion for other languages. In fact, "Anytime she has the chance to say 'bonjour,' she will," joked Cassandra's mother.

Johnny and Cassandra are very social and enjoy meeting others. They share other common bonds: both have Down syndrome, and both are the pride and joy of their families.

"He's just a super kid - he's an angel," said Johnny's mother, Louise Zanke. "I think if I would have missed the opportunity to have him, I would have missed a blessing."

Down syndrome is a congenital disorder arising from a chromosome defect. The condition causes some developmental delays and physical limitations.

Earlier this month, by a vote of 139-56, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed a bill that would prohibit the abortion of a child based solely on a Down syndrome diagnosis.

The measure was authored by House Speaker Mike Turzai of Allegheny County and Representative Judy Ward of Blair County.

"I believe in the dignity of every human being," stressed

Turzai. "None of us are born perfect, and we all have something beautiful to contribute."

Ward believes the future has never been brighter for babies born with the condition.

"Medical and social advances have changed what it means to live with this condition," she stated. "Down syndrome means that opportunities exist in every area of school, community and even professional life. We've learned too much to accept that Down syndrome citizens should be considered anything less than full members of the community. They deserve respect and the protection of our laws."

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak discussed the legislation during one of his recent segments on *Proclaim! TV*.

"During this Easter season, we celebrate a new life in Christ - the gift of eternal life, but we are also responsible for the gift of human life that God has given to every single person," said the Bishop. "This is an opportunity for us to take note of that, and hopefully the right thing will be done in our Legislature."

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown joins the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs arm of the Catholic Church in Pennsylvania, in support of the bill.

"The Catholic Conference has always taken a strong stance on protecting all life from conception to natural death," remarked Eric Failing, PCC Director of



BROTHERLY LOVE: Johnny Zanke (right) enjoys a light moment with his brother, Zachary. Their mother, Louise, says the two share a close and loving relationship. Johnny has Down syndrome, but enjoys a full life that includes being an altar server at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Windber.

Social Concerns. "It is imperative that our respect for human dignity extends to all of our brothers and sisters including, and especially, those with Down syndrome or other disabilities."

Obviously, this legislation hits close to home for the Zanke and Nickerson families and other families throughout Altoona-Johnstown.

"People with Down syndrome are people," reminded Carrie Nickerson, Cassandra's mother. "They're human beings. This is not about which conditions are worthy of defending. Because a human person exists, we should never abort."

Nickerson, a Cresson resident and member of Saint Demetrius Parish in Gallitzin, admits that Cassandra, 43, has faced

challenges.

"It has been a mix," she commented. "There have been joys and anxieties. It's been life."

And she would not trade the experience for anything.

"It has been humbling, and I'm grateful for it because I wouldn't be who I am if it wasn't for her," Nickerson added. "She's a big person in my life."

Zanke, a member of Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Windber, also recognizes the power of the journey. Not long after Johnny, 45, was born, she realized his potential.

She recalled seeing an episode of the television show *Captain Kangaroo*, which featured a woman teaching sign language to a gorilla.

"I thought if that woman could teach that gorilla sign language, then I can do whatever I want with Johnny," she decided. "He could be as normal as he could possibly be. I didn't set boundaries for him. He turned out to be a wonderful kid."

After a decisive victory in the House, the legislation will be considered in the Senate.

"We pray that it will get another vote of overwhelming support there before heading to the governor," Failing said. "We hope all Catholics will join us in praying that the Holy Spirit opens the minds and hearts of our elected leaders and gives them

(Continued On Page 6.)

PERIODICAL RATE MAIL

The Catholic Register

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