

The Catholic Register



Official Publication Of
The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Volume 92, No. 28 Published Bi - Weekly (USPS 094 - 280)

www.dioceseaj.org May 28, 2018

Pathway In Life Is Our Vocation, Says Speaker At Annual Night For Vocations

Photos And Text By
Bruce A. Tomaselli

"Whenever there is life fervor, and the desire to bring Christ to others, vocations will come," Dominican Sister Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz, told a large crowd at the annual Bishop's Night for Vocations.

"When a young person understands what God has made them for they will become a person in that manner. God wants us to be a vocation. You know when you are called to a vocation," continued Sister Joseph Andrew, guest speaker. The event was held on Friday, May 11, at Ebensburg Bishop Carroll Catholic High school.

The Serra Club of Cambria County has promoted Catholicism, vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious in a variety of ways. This year's theme was "Listening, Discerning, and Living." Students incorporated that theme into a poetry, essay, and poster contest. They used that theme as the basis for their artwork and writing entries. They were honored with awards at the Night for Vocations.

The theme was taken from a message delivered by Pope Francis during the World Day of Prayer on Good Shepherd Sunday in April. He made it clear that "God comes silently," and without a listening heart. His voice can be "drowned

out" by our many worries and concerns.

The Serra Club awarded the first Holy Spirit Award, which will be presented each year to a senior in high school. Rachel Hall, a student at Johnstown Bishop McCort Catholic High School was the inaugural winner. She is a member of Saint John Gualbert Parish.

Each year the award will be presented to a young person whose expresses their faith both in actions

and in words and is a part of their everyday life. As she so eloquently said, "At first I felt that God was not listening to me, but then one day, right after my aunt died, who was my role model, I began to understand that anything in my life, whether good or bad, was happening for a reason.

"I heard God telling me that He has my life planned out for me, and I just need to listen to Him. I decided

(Continued on Page 6.)

Inspiring Women Lead Semko To Education Dream

By Tony DeGol

Even as she battled failing health, Johanna "Genie" Semko offered wise counsel.

"You need to make it happen," she urged her daughter, Jo-Ann, when the veteran educator expressed an interest in leading Catholic education in Altoona-Johnstown earlier this year.

Genie also reminded her daughter, "you know how to pray," so Jo-Ann turned to another remarkable lady, her beloved Blessed Mother.

She credits the strength of both women for inspiring her and helping to make her dream a reality.



JO-ANN SEMKO



GUEST SPEAKER: Dominican Sister Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz was the guest speaker at the annual Bishop's Night for Vocations. Pictured (left to right) are: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Sister Joseph Andrew, and Father Matthew Reese, diocesan director of Vocations.

On Friday, May 18, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak announced the appointment of Jo-Ann Semko as Director of the Education Office of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown effective Sunday, July 1, 2018. She succeeds Sister of Charity Donna Marie Leiden who is retiring from the post on Saturday, June 30.

Semko accepted the position in just enough time to share the news with her mother before her mom's recent passing.

"It's the goal that I've been working toward my entire life," Semko stated. "It is humbling. I look at myself as a servant-leader -- serving not only God but all of the students in our schools, their families, and our faculty."

Semko graduated from Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg and received a Bach-

elor's Degree in Elementary Education from Saint Francis University in Loretto and a Master's Degree with a concentration in Administration from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She has completed all course work in her pursuit of a Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership from Penn State University.

No stranger to what awaits her, Semko has served as Assistant Director of Education since 2014.

She came to the Diocese after nearly 35 years as an elementary teacher in the Central Cambria School District.

She was President of the Central Cambria Education Association, which is affiliated with the Pennsylvania State Education Association

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FORMING CLERGY AND LAITY

Adult Enrichment
Christian Initiation (RCIA)
Evangelization
Lay Ecclesial Ministry
Priests' Vocations
Ongoing Formation of Priests and Deacons

NURTURING OUR YOUTH

Campus Ministry
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**CARING FOR THE POOR
AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES**

Catholic Charities
Family Life
Fulton County Catholic Mission
Mandeville Diocese, Jamaica

**Catholic Campus Ministry Sustains
Whole Student**

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak distributes Rosaries to students returning to college at an outdoor Mass held at Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine in Loretto.

By Pam Seasoltz

Director of Stewardship and Development

**2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE**

Making Christ A Home In Your Heart

exists to serve the parishes and the people of our Diocese. The 14 ministries that benefit from your generosity rely on this annual campaign—as 100% of donations supports them directly. From sacramental preparation to our sister diocese in Jamaica, no single parish could accomplish all that is offered. ‘**Making Christ a Home in Your Heart**’ reminds all of us that at the center of our lives as Catholics is love. The Catholic Ministries Drive is a concrete way to live out your faith and to express your love to those in need of spiritual, physical, and emotional support.

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

Nurturing Our Youth

Campus Ministry, Educating Youth, Sacramental Preparation, Youth Ministry

100% of your gift supports 14 ministries like **Catholic Campus Ministry**.

Jesus likes going to college. There, he gives students the background and the confidence necessary to share and live the Gospel.

A story of Faith, Hope & Charity.

Catholic Campus Ministry marks the crossroad of church and higher education. Promoting and sustaining the well-being of the whole Catholic person with academics to serve God is happening at Penn State Altoona, Penn State University Park, Juniata College, Lock Haven University, and Pitt at Johnstown.

Campus Ministry offers students involvement in daily mass,

music ministry, worship and volunteer service groups, and special projects like tending to the poor at home and abroad. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is especially important as they are seeking and accepting spirituality while experiencing significant life changes (vocations, lifestyle, and relationships).

Campus Ministry is an extra credit class to keep students active in their faith. It is also a lifelong scholarship that will go with them wherever their degree and the Lord takes them.

Your support will provide the activities necessary for Campus Ministry to bring the Gospel to life for college students in our area. Your dollars truly make an impact—allowing students to engage with Jesus through this welcoming and supportive ministry.

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In The Alleghenies



CCW ELECTION: Sister Marilyn Welch was elected Administrator General of the Carmelite Community of the Word. Pictured (left to right) are: Sister Linda LaMagna, council; Sister Martha Barbuta, general council; Bishop Mark L. Bartchak; Sister Marilyn; Sister Karen Duddy, vicar general; and Sister Jane Miller, council. The elections were held in April.

Music

Hollidaysburg: Registration is now open for the Academy of Sacred Music's 2018 Choral Institute to be held on Monday, June 18 through Wednesday, June 20, followed by a public performance on Thursday.

Robert Long, Academy founder and Hollidaysburg native returns to lead the institute. Participants will learn skills in the art of choral singing. Techniques including breathing, posture, pronunciation, phrasing, and dynamics will be studied.

All sessions will take place at St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church, 344 Baynton Avenue, Lakemont, Altoona.

Registration for the Choral Institute is \$25. Scholarships are available for participants in need. The public is invited to attend the Choral Institute Concert at 7:00 PM on Thursday, June 21 at Saint John The Evangelist Church in Altoona.

To register or request additional details, please e-mail Chris Ringkamp at academyofsacredmusic@gmail.com.

Colleges

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College will host two summer art shows displaying a variety of art forms including painting, sculpture, photography, jewelry and fabric art. The "Kiel Family Art" exhibit opened recently and will run until September 16th in the Wolf-Kuhn Gallery

located in the iconic Main Building on Mount Aloysius' campus. "The Art of Wellness" show will open on May 17th through June 16th and be displayed in Bottle Works, 411 3rd Avenue, Johnstown, Pa.

The Kiel Family Art gallery is a collection of paintings, drawings, pottery, glass, and fabric art from members of the extended Kiel family. The exhibit will focus, however, on the art of Sister Regina, a Sister of Mercy for 51 years. Sister Regina, who died on December 13, 2016, was an artist and art teacher for about 50 years. Her artwork includes sculpture, painting, and jewelry. Some of her art will be shown in photographs.

Family members have established a fund at Mount Aloysius College: "Sister Regina Kiel En-

dowed Fund for the Arts." Proceeds from this fund support the community engagement efforts with a new art course called, "Community Engagement through the Expressive Arts."

Featured in the Art of Wellness Exhibit will be artwork produced by clients at Peer Empowerment Network's Drop In Center, Opening Minds through Art Dementia/Alzheimer's artists from Laurel View Village (Davidsville), Richland Woods (Johnstown), Art for Healing artists from the John P. Murtha Neuroscience and Pain Institute (Johnstown), and the artwork of Emily Lasinsky.

For more information about Mount Aloysius College's art exhibits contact Dr. Donald Talbot, professor of English and Fine Arts at Mount Aloysius College at dtalbot@mtaloy.edu

Loreto: Saint Francis University President Franciscan Father Malachi Van Tassell, Ph.D., has appointed Dr. Karan Hinman Powell to serve as interim vice president for academic affairs effective June 4. She will assume the duties when Dr. Warren Powell, the current provost, steps down at the end of the month.



DR. KARAN HINMAN POWELL

Fr. Van Tassell thanked Dr. Powell for his nearly twelve years of service as provost (and previously vice-president of academic affairs) at Saint Francis University stating, "I am delighted that Dr. Powell has accepted my invitation to remain with us as Professor of Psychology. Our students will directly benefit from his wisdom and

knowledge when he returns to the classroom."

Dr. Powell holds a doctorate in education from George Mason University, with a specialization in organizational development and organizational learning. She holds a bachelor of science in business education, among several others degrees.

On Friday, April 27, 2018, the University continued its annual tradition of hosting a Red Mass followed by a luncheon. Bishop Mark Bartchak, J.C.D., served as celebrant, and Fr. James Sean Code delivered the homily.

Over the years, the Mass was extended into a luncheon of fellowship and learning for judges of all faiths in Cambria and Blair counties. Notable speakers have included then Senator Joseph Biden, E.G. Marshall, The Honorable Justin Johnson, and The Honorable Kenneth Starr.

The keynote address at the Law Day Lunch was given by Justice Debra McCloskey Todd, Pennsylvania Supreme Court and was attended by more than 130 people including judges, lawyers, law enforcement officials, and elected officials.

Law Day is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law in the United States. It underscores how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms of all Americans, and it provides an opportunity to recognize the rule of courts in this democracy and the importance of jury service in maintaining the integrity of the courts.



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Published Bi - weekly at
925 South Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg PA 16648

Phone (814) 695 - 7563
FAX (814) 695 - 7517

Subscriptions: \$8.00 Parish Based
\$18.00 Individual

Periodical Class Postage Paid At
Altoona PA and other mailing offices.
Postmaster send change of address to:
925 South Logan Boulevard
(USPS 094 - 280)
Member Publication Of
The Catholic Press Association

Publisher:
Most Reverend Bishop
Mark L. Bartchak

Manager:
Bruce A. Tomaselli

Secretary:
Frances M. Logrando

In Light Of Faith

By Olivia Clarke Silver

The Life Changing Power Of Joy



and that my attitude had to change. I'd like to say it was the prayer and visits to churches that changed my mind, but I believe God reached me through the people I traveled with. This small group of friends opened my eyes. I couldn't find joy in the same activities as before.

I came home from Italy and started volunteering to help a poor church, school and food pantry by raising money; getting new winter coats donated to the school; helping with social media and a newsletter; coaching a student slam poetry team; and creating an artist mentorship program for the students. I found joy raising money for turkeys at Thanksgiving or by sharing the words of Pope Francis on the church's Twitter account I maintained.

Once I got started, I kept thinking about what else I should do. I thought about how to help others facing cancer.

In November 2017, I started an online community called Humor Beats Cancer. I wanted to create a place for those experiencing or having beaten cancer in their 20s, 30s and 40s to talk about their journeys, but with an added twist.

So much of what you read about cancer can foster hopelessness. I wanted people to be able to share uplifting stories and allow them to laugh at all the crazy stuff we experience. People get confused when they see someone with cancer laugh. How can someone be joyful during such a difficult situation?

When you have a disease like cancer, there is a real fear that your heart will go dark and the light in your eyes will go out. I wanted to help keep the joy alive by creating a place that offers empathy and hope. I wanted to create a place to remind young adults facing cancer what it was like before cancer when they laughed and felt joy so easily. Instead of reminding them that they could die, I wanted to remind them that they're still alive. Pope Francis talks often about the importance of joy, particularly in the little things of life. He describes how being joyful with others brings us closer to God.

And I believe that. If we can bring joy to someone's life, without asking for anything in return and so that they forget their insecurities or pain for a little bit -- then we are practicing our faith. Joy changes lives and gives people hope -- just like it has done for me.

Point Of View

Amid The Fray

By Greg Erlandson

Final Thoughts On Alfie

Alfie Evans was born on May 9, 2016. He died on April 28, 2018. For 16 and a half months, he was a patient of Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool. By the time he died, a good portion of the world was aware of his short life and the battle his parents waged to prolong it.

For reasons that were never medically clear, Alfie began to show signs of a problem about two months after he was born. In December 2016, seven months after he was born, he was admitted to the hospital suffering from a variety of symptoms, including seizures.

Tests showed significant brain damage. He was kept alive on a ventilator and fed by tube. An array of doctors weighed in on the case, and, in the words of a subsequent judicial decision, their determination was that Alfie's decline was "both catastrophic and untreatable."

Alfie came to the world's attention when the hospital -- unable to secure the permission of the parents to remove him from the ventilator and feeding tubes -- sought a court's permission to do so. Eventually, Pope Francis was drawn into the case, as well as the Italian government, the English bishops and scores of advocates and activists.Â

Permission was sought, but denied, to bring Alfie to a Vatican hospital. While the doctors of Bambino Gesu did not deny the conclusions of the Alder Hey doctors, the hospital was offering to provide ongoing care for what the British call a "semi-vegetative state."

By the time Alfie died,



after his ventilator was removed April 23, an extraordinary amount of medical and legal effort had been made on his behalf. There was an extraordinary amount of polemics as well.

For those debating what course of action was most appropriate, a major point of division concerns parental rights and their limits. Those defending the actions of the hospital point to the almost unanimous conclusion of the medical professionals that the situation was hopeless, and to a legal system that recognizes there are limits to parental rights, such as mandating life-saving treatment for a child even when a family says it violates their beliefs.

While health care professionals felt that everything possible had been done and that there was

no possibility of a change for the better, the Evans family and others rejected the certainty of the medical professionals that all hope was lost. Because the Italian hospital was an alternative, they felt that the family should have had the last word.

As technology improves, the ability to keep human beings alive longer and longer will make additional cases like Alfie's inevitable. On a human level, parents are willing to go to great lengths to defend their children. They know that doctors do not always make the right predictions, and they hope for a future cure.

At issue are weighty matters regarding human dignity and a natural death, the allocation of resources and the role of the state. The Catholic Church offers valuable guidance, though even it is not capable of resolving every debate.

An unfortunate aspect of the controversy was the inflammatory polemics that accompanied it. Death threats against the doctors, exaggerated political rhetoric and the vilification of anyone who held a contrary view were all common as the debate progressed.

These momentous issues are not going away. Catholics must engage in these debates with intellectual vigor, but with humility as well. Those of us who have so often had our arguments misrepresented, distorted or taken out of context in the abortion debates must take care not to succumb to the same temptation when debating what to do when the next Alfie comes along.

When you're in your 20s and 30s, you often feel invincible -- like there's so much time to make mistakes because you'll fix them tomorrow. It's easy to boast that this is the time to do whatever you want.

But then something happens. Maybe you lose your job or your longtime friend stops returning your texts. Or, maybe you learn at age 35 that you have breast cancer -- and that's what happened to me.

Like any tragedy, it's impossible to not be changed by what happens to you when you get your diagnosis. And at the same time, you want to interact with those who have experienced this similar life-changing event. The problem is that young adult cancer (cancer affecting those in their 20s and 30s in particular) is not as commonly discussed as the cancer your great-aunt or grandmother gets.

You're often the only one in a waiting room trying to squeeze in your oncology appointment between work conference calls. Or you must worry about whether the chemo drugs will take away your ability to have children -- something you hoped for many years down the road after one of your online dates turns serious.

About a year after I got through cancer, I thought I was fine and could just go back to my old life as if nothing happened. I had successfully compartmentalized cancer -- I carelessly fell back into the habit of thinking I could do whatever I wanted.

As a reward for beating cancer, I went on a pilgrimage to Italy with other young adults from my parish. During that trip, I realized that I had been changed by cancer,

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This article reflects on the past and future with '**Promising to Protect and Pledging to Heal**' with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. It is a comprehensive set of procedures established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in June 2002 for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. The Charter also includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse. We continue to use this as a framework to establish and continue safe environment practices within the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

Then and Now

While not perfect, child abuse prevention efforts have come a long way in the past two decades. In looking at and appreciating the collective strides we have taken in our efforts to combat child sexual abuse, it is helpful to know about the context from which diocesan prevention programs have come.

Most of the time, new approaches to existing societal issues arise because of a crisis. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), for example, was born of the tragedy

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



of a child's death. Seatbelts in cars were developed as a result of the involvement of insurance companies because people were dying needlessly in car accidents. In the same way, the Protecting God's Children programs were developed to address the existing societal issue of child abuse in a new, unique way.

In 1997, when the platform for the Protecting God's Children programs was being developed by The National Catholic Risk Retention Group (TNCRRG), a new approach to child sexual abuse prevention was being created with a landscape already established for training children, but not for adults. Many schools had simple and complex programs to empower children to protect themselves from the advances of sexual predators. Simple programs using puppets and coloring books addressed the issue in ways that gave children permission and encouragement

Blair County

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

Cambria-Somerset Counties Victim Services, Inc.

(814) 288-4691 and (800) 755-1983

Victimservicesinc.org

Huntingdon -- Mifflin -- Juniata Counties

The Abuse Network
(717) 242-2444

Abusenetwork.org

Clinton County

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

Ccwcsafe.org

Franklin -- Fulton Counties

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

Winservices.org

Centre County

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

Ccwrc.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.

to speak up. More complex programs had several weeks of safety-education curricula that instructed children about child sexual abuse prevention. Adult education, in contrast, was limited to teaching adults how to recognize children who might have already been abused, handling and responding to disclosures of abuse by children and reporting allegations to authorities.

The professional community had focused their attention on the education of youth, because children are a captive audience in our school systems while educating adults presented greater challenges. For those who were experiencing the consequences of these types of crimes against children, it was clear that there was an urgent need to raise awareness and better educate adults.

In lieu of the fact that the professional community had not yet found a way to meet the challenge of effectively educating adults, TNCRRG strove to find a new way to raise awareness in the community and to teach adults how to prevent child sexual abuse from occurring. The VIRTUS Protecting God's Children program was the finished product, and was a unique effort to raise the issue with adults in a way that created and maintained safe environments for children and those who work with them.

The completion of the program toward the end of 2001 meant it was available and ready to implement when the child sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church became front-page news in Boston the next month. Later, in 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) mandated adult education and awareness in June of 2002 through the bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (Charter).

This subsequent decision by the bishops was the catalyst for establishing a framework for prevention that is making a profound difference in the level of awareness and education about protecting children and promoting safe environments. The willingness of the bishops to issue the mandate and to continue to enforce it has and is making our Catholic churches safer for our children.

After 11 focused years of raising awareness about this issue in our parishes, schools and organizations, it is time to focus our attention on continuing education, reinforcement and refinement of the message and expansion of the material in ways that enhance our ability to protect our children. Our collective objective now might be to have the adult's ability to recognize potentially risky behavior in those working with children become second nature and as automatic as buckling a seat belt. Those who have been engaged in addressing this issue in the Catholic Church in the last 11 years can and must provide leadership for the community at large, to spread this message.

You, as a protector of God's children, are an integral part of spreading the message. Thank you for your continued commitment to protect children. Our efforts to secure a safe environment for all would not be possible without you.

To learn more, please visit the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People please visit their website @ www.usccb.org.

For more information about VIRTUS Online or other VIRTUS® products and services, please call 1-888-847-8870 or email helpdesk@virtus.org.

For inquiries on youth protection and safe environment efforts within the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown please contact Cindy O'Connor at (814) 695-5579, extension 2621 or via email at coconnor@dioceseaj.org.

(Continued from Page 1.)

ed to open up to my faith. I began to read the Bible, and participate more in Mass."

Rachel said she began to participate in Junior and Senior High Youth Days, and Camp Zacchaeus because, "I wanted to help younger children and students my age have a life-changing experience as I did."

Sister Joseph Andrew is the vocation director for the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in Ann Arbor, MI.

She has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, National Public Radio, CBS, and Fox and Friends. She also has been published in various Catholic journals and magazines.

She spoke of discerning her own vocation as a child, "I found my vocation in my family. I had two good parents and we were proud to be Catholic." In addition, she said great examples were set for her by priests and sisters during her youth and they helped her to realize what God had planned for her.

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Bring a copy of your bulletin announcement or a cutout of this ad and get \$2 off each ticket bought at the gate which opens 3 hours prior to events.

PARKING IS FREE

Sister Joseph said that our pathway to life is our vocation, whether it be marriage, single life, a priest or sister. She said young persons must be honest with themselves. They need to speak with priests and religious, who must help encourage their feelings.

"Over four in 10 professed religious reported that a parish priest insured their vocation. It's important that they take it seriously," she said.

"I believe there's becoming a real openness to God," continued Sister Joseph Andrew. "Ask your question and God will write the answers on your heart."

Pope Francis reminded that vocations are born in prayer, and family prayer is important. "I believe I found my vocation by praying the Rosary, she said. "At the end of each Rosary my dad would pray to God that we honor His purpose for us in life. A vocation is something you know deep inside your heart, Sister Joseph said. "It's like a star you can't reach, but you know it's there. Pray the Rosary. I believe that is where I found my vocation."



ESSAY WINNERS: Pictured (left to right) are: Front--Samuel Clark. Back row-- Mackenzie Rezk, Megan Rager, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Sophia Simanski, and Sydnee McConnell. They were honored with awards at the annual Bishop's Night for Vocations held on Friday, May 11 at Ebensburg Bishop Carroll High School. Absent from the photo are: Alyssa Martinazzi, Leah Gruss, Evelyn St. Amant, Ava Cioffari, and Teresa Golden.

Sister Joseph Andrew said there are a couple things that serve as indicators of a young person that is discerning a vocation. You hear them say things like, "I've always felt like I was little different from everyone else. I really have this deep love for God."

"They are persons that are always looking for 'more' out of life. That word 'more' seems to recur in their conversations."

"Go find out what it is you want to do with your life and embrace it, whether it's marriage or something else," said Sister Joseph Andrew.

Bishop Mark said that all of the things Sister Joseph Andrew mentioned "I experienced in my own life. Dedicated priests and sisters led me to where I am now."

Bishop Mark was part of a big Catholic family. They were always encouraged to abide by their faith.

He said "we need to pay attention to the young people of our diocese. They have many good things to say. I am very proud of this diocese and our young people."

"Young people are our future. Sometimes they feel as though people don't want to take the time to speak to them. What they have to say is important."



CONGRATS FROM THE BISHOP: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak shakes hands with Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School graduate Nicholas Leamer following the school's Baccalaureate Mass on Thursday, May 17. Commencement exercises have occurred at three of the four Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. Please see story and photos on page 10.

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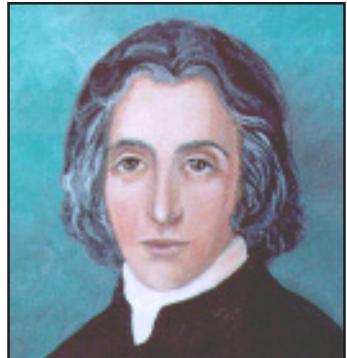
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A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

**The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840**

Family Will Attend Beatification of U. S. Priest

By Maria Wiering
Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Father Stanley Rother's distant cousins from Minnesota planned to be in the crowd attending the Sept. 23 beatification ceremony of the martyred priest in Oklahoma City.

"We're all very proud," Lee

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.

+++

Kindly send information about favors granted to:
**The Cause for the Servant of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
Diocese Of Altoona - Johnstown
927 South Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg PA 16648**

Rother said of his third cousin's upcoming beatification, adding that he feels special that his family has a saint who can intercede for them and now the whole world.

Lee, 78, has made a point to learn as much as he can about this distant cousin from Okarche, Oklahoma, who was just a few years older than him.

The cousin keeps a thick file of news clippings, including a lengthy

feature on the priest from 2006,

when the canonization cause started

to pick up steam. It was 25 years after Father Rother was gunned down in 1981 in the Guatemalan village where he ministered.

Lee also keeps a copy of a report written about another Okarche cousin, Sandra Rother McGougan, who credits an unlikely deathbed recovery to Father Rother's intercession. She was in a car crash in 1992.

The 22-year-old was pronounced brain dead and was being kept alive only for organ donation, but her mother begged for a second opinion, and doctors discovered some brain activity. It was later determined she had suffered a rupture in her brain stem. Doctors weren't optimistic she would live, but the family prayed for Father Rother's intercession. Sandra fully recovered, much to her doctors' amazement.

Her story was among the documents sent to the Vatican to support the priest's canonization. Not included was Lee Rother's own story, which he also considers miraculous, thanks to his cousin's intercession. In June 2016, Lee suffered a stroke. He prayed to Father Rother and experienced a full recovery within two days, he said.

"I think he helped me," he said, "(but) I can't prove it, you know." he told The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

He regularly asks for Father Rother to pray for him and his family, he said. He also has presented his cousin's story at his parish, St. Joseph in West St. Paul. He has visited Father Rother's former grave site in Okarche. At his last visit in April, the grave was covered with stones and mementos from people praying for healing. The priest's body has since been re-interred in the chapel at Resurrection Cemetery in northwest Oklahoma City.

Academy Adopts Road In Memory Of Teacher



CATHOLIC ACADEMY STUDENTS MAX WORTMAN AND LEAH FISHER

The National Honor Society at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy School is participating in the Adopt a Highway Program to honor the memory of Drivers Education teacher Dave Erney who passed away last year.

Every year, NHS students select, organize and engage in a group service project. The selection of Adopt a Highway seemed to the students the perfect way to make a difference and to remember their late teacher.

"It definitely meant a lot to me," said Jason Thomas, junior and vice president of NHS. "Every class we had with Mr. Erney he would ask us about everything that was happening in our lives. He genuinely cared about each and every one

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CONFIRMATIONS: (Above) Pictured are members of the Confirmation classes at Immaculate Conception Parish in Dudley, and (below), Saint Stephen Parish in McConnellsburg. Immaculate Conception students (pictured left to right) are: Front row--Emma Runde, Hannah Folk, and Brenden Gorey. Back row--Father Matthew Baum, administrator; Cyndy Maletta (DRE/Sponsor); Elizabeth Miller, sponsor; and Zane Treece, sponsor. Members of the Saint Stephen class (pictured left to right) are: Father Matthew Baum, administrator; Michelle Serrano, sponsor; Erine Chafardon, candidate; Audrey Bafile, sponsor; Emma Bafile, candidate; Breanna Dukehard, candidate; Cara Bafile, sponsor; Carmelite Community of the Word Sister Martha Burbulla, director of Religious Education; Telah Zenobile, candidate; and Erin Pistner, sponsor.



SCHWAB CONFIRMED: Joseph Schwab, religious education student at Good Shepherd Parish in Port Matilda, celebrated his Confirmation at Saint John The Evangelist Parish in Bellefonte. At right is Father George Jakopac, pastor of Saint John The Evangelist Parish.



PHILIPSBURG CLASS: Members of the Ss. Peter & Paul Confirmation class pictured (left to right) are: front--Jalyn James, Natalie Ruggiero, and Jerry Craven, director of the Religious education. Back row--Jonathan Paladina, Benjamin Lanager, Ethan Moore, Dawson Granville, and Terry Smeal. Absent from the photo is Alexis Hahn.



STUDENTS CONFIRMED: Mandi Bearjar (left) and Olivia Kissell of Saint Bartholomew Church in Wilmore were Confirmed at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown.



POETRY WINNERS: The Poetry Contest winners at the annual Bishop's Night for Vocations pictured (left to right) are: Front row--Abigail Ledney and Sophia Wise. Back row--McKenzie Gost, Lauren Pursel, Lauren Mucciola, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Leah Homan, and Sophie Morocco. Absent from the photo are: Matthew Mosholder and Abby Lee. The event took place on Friday, May 11 at Ebensburg Bishop Carroll Catholic High School.



POSTER WINNERS: The Poster Contest winners at the annual Bishop's Night for Vocations pictured (Left to right) are: Front row--Brady Younkins, Evan Rimbeck, Megan Kwisnek, Samantha Hilyer, Jaden Quinn, Sydney Grosholz, Ella Lauver, Gabriella Ruggerio, and Emily Culley. Second row--Joshua Warmath, Blake Houck-Leitzell, Zane Ritko, Isabella McMullen, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Isabella Pensiero, Caroline Troll, and Sachi Ohmoto. The night was held on Friday, May 11 at Ebensburg Bishop Carroll Catholic High School. Absent from the photo are: Chole Croft, Emily Ream, Morgan Lenzi, Madison Adams, Justice Woodard, Zachary Lehman, and Michael Waibel.



LIVES CELEBRATED: The fourth grade students at Holy Trinity Catholic School, Hollidaysburg Campus, joined the mayor and other officials of Hollidaysburg for an Arbor Day celebration. The students planted trees in remembrance of a local pastor and his wife who lost their lives in a car accident.

BISHOP'S APPOINTMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

REVEREND LUBOMIR J. STRECOK, appointed Administrator of Saint Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish in Altoona, continuing as Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Altoona, effective May 21, 2018.



HOLY SPIRIT AWARD: Rachel Hall (right), was the inaugural winner of the Holy Spirit Award presented by the Serra Club of Cambria County. Also pictured are: (left), Barbara Bartkovich, president of the Serra Club of Cambria County; and Bishop Mark L. Bartchak. The banquet was held on Friday, May 11 at Ebensburg Bishop Carroll Catholic High School.

Photo Deadline

You are reminded that all First Communion and Confirmation photos must be to The Catholic Register by July 15. No exceptions will be made.

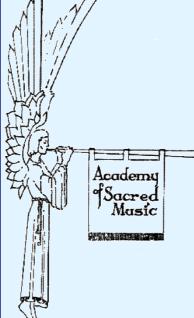
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PCC Names Eric Failing Director

There will be a shift at the helm of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference beginning June 1, 2018. Eric A. Failing, PCC's current social concerns director, will assume the role upon the retirement of Robert J. O'Hara, Jr. after his 21 years as executive director.

Prior to joining the PCC staff as social concerns director, Failing was vice president of sales, marketing and development for Pennsylvania Legislative Services. In his year since joining the PCC team, he has spearheaded efforts to pass bills that would ban the practice of abortion for a Down syndrome diagnosis in the womb, expand services to the poor, address the crisis of drug addiction, and other issues.

When he announced his plans to retire in March, O'Hara told CatholicPhilly.com that he counts programs that benefit Catholic school families, namely expanding the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC),

among his proudest accomplishments. Good relations with lawmakers key to 'vocation' as ...

Before his retirement as executive director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, Robert O'Hara reflects on his 21 years representing the Catholic Church in the state capitol on a range of issues, including Catholic education.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference was established in 1960 to give witness to spiritual values in public affairs and to provide an agency for corporate Catholic service to the statewide community. It serves as the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Its mission is to formulate positions on public policy issues, officially represent the Church before state government, and to foster a public understanding of the Church's teaching and concern about morality, health, welfare, human rights, education and the common good.

The PCC gets involved with a wide variety of issues that span across the political spectrum. Visit www.pacatholic.org for the latest news and legislative updates, to lend your voice to advancing the Church's position in the State Capitol through the PA Catholic Advocacy Network.

Truth A Gift Given To Graduating Seniors, Says Bishop



2018 EBENSBURG BISHOP CARROLL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CLASS

**Photos And Text By
Tony DeGol**

How will you develop as a person? Do you have a relationship with your God? How will you handle tough situations in your life?"

Her thought-provoking queries, part of her address at commencement exercises for Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg, were perhaps more complex than any of the subjects the students tackled in the classroom. Her overall message was, of course, applicable to all those donning caps and gowns at the four Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown this graduation season.

Commencement exercises have occurred at three of the schools – Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School in Altoona, Saint Joseph's, and Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg. Seniors at Bishop McCort Catholic High School in Johnstown will receive their diplomas on Friday, June 1.

In her address, Sister Donna Marie reminded the SJCA graduates that life is full of relationships. She stressed three relationships in particular.

"First, you have a relationship with yourself that you need to understand and reach satisfaction," she advised, noting that in order to love others, one must first love himself or herself.

She encouraged developing relationships with others.

"We are social beings even if we are introverts," she said. "Others will help you understand yourself as well as to understand and relate better to them. When you walk away from a situation, study how you acted in that situation and how you reacted in that situation. Study how you relate to people and how people relate to you."

Finally, Sister spoke about a

relationship with God.

She encouraged the graduates to maintain a life of prayer as they head off to college and to take advantage of campus ministry opportunities.

"You were made by God and for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense," she cautioned. "So the development of your faith life – your relationship with God – is essential to your being, your self-knowledge, and your sense of purpose in life."

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak had a similar message as he celebrated Baccalaureate Masses prior to the commencement exercises.

"You are like God who is the perfect expression of goodness," he told Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School seniors during his homily. "You are like God who established the meaning of discipline as a way of thinking, and believing, and acting, and living that is based on the ongoing awareness of who you are, what you are supposed to do with your life, and how you are to get there."

The Bishop continued: "In the prayer of Jesus just before his passion and death, Jesus is praying for all of us, which means, Class of 2018, Jesus is praying for you even while I am speaking."

He suggested that the graduates take time to thank God for the parents, teachers, coaches, and others who have helped them discover truth.

"And take that truth with you wherever you go," he added. "The Lord Jesus is counting on you and he's praying for you tonight and always, and that is what brought us here to pray with you and for you."

Bishop Carroll Catholic High School graduated 53 seniors. Maggie Blaisdell was valedictorian and will

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(Continued On Page 11.)

Graduation

(Continued From Page 10.)

attend Rochester Institute of Technology. She is among the 91 percent of BCCHS graduates going on to higher education, noted Jonathan Nagy, Director of Admissions and Social Studies teacher.

Sixty one seniors earned diplomas at Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School with 97 percent planning to pursue post-secondary education, reported principal Joan Donnelly. Valedictorian Charles Patterson will attend Duquesne University and early admission to Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

All 37 of Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy graduates plan on pursuing higher education, said Jean Kozak, interim Head of School/Counselor/Admissions.

Bishop McCort Catholic High School Principal Tom Fleming said the school will graduate 96 seniors on Friday, June 1, with 95 percent indicating they plan to attend college.

New Education Director Shares Vision

(Continued From Page 1.)

(PSEA). In that role, she handled administrative matters such as contract negotiation, personnel management, and grievance procedures and reconciliation.

Despite her history in public education, Semko embraces Catholic education because it offers an environment for youth to learn about and celebrate their faith. There is also another reason.

"We teach children, we don't teach to a test," she said, referring to standardized testing administered to all public school children in Pennsylvania such as the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). "Yet when we give our students standardized tests, they score well above the average."

A resident of Ebensburg, Semko is a member of Saint John the Evan-

gelist Parish in Altoona. She is a native of Colver, where she formerly attended Holy Family Parish. Semko is the Lay Director for the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

"My personal faith guides everything I do every day," she stressed, which explains why building the Catholic community of Christ is part of her vision for her new position.

"Our Catholic schools will adhere to the teachings of the Catholic Church, and we will begin a program that imparts those teachings for all students," she revealed. "In all aspects, our schools will revolve around Respect, Integrity, Courage, and Humility (RICH) as these relate to the teachings of Christ."

Under this plan, each school will

develop "faith families," which will involve students from every grade level coming together for shared experiences.

"It puts Christ at the forefront of the family, and it allows the students to work together in a RICH environment," she added. "Students will develop slogans around the RICH acronym such as 'I am RICH in Christ Who Walks Beside Me' or 'RICHness Comes From a Life Lived in Christ.'"

Another focus will be continuous curriculum enhancement to better prepare students for careers that demand outcomes over process.

"Curriculum updating is an ongoing process that describes not only what we teach but how we teach it," Semko explained. "We will also be working on a full, written version of our curriculum, which will be web-based and constantly upgraded as education is not a stagnant process but a process that is always changing as society moves forward."

All elementary schools in the Diocese offer a STREAM program emphasizing Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, the Arts, and Math. Semko plans to expand STREAM opportunities to include such things as ethical considerations involving hypothetical issues.

"To succeed in our world today, we need to teach children to think critically, solve problems, and work collaboratively with others," she re-

minded. "If this is done correctly, we prepare students for life regardless of the profession they choose."

At a time when most schools around the country are focused on the physical security of buildings, Semko intends to also focus on ensuring that students feel mentally and socially secure in their academic environment. This involves forming young people who can manage stressful situations and interact appropriately with others.

"Jo-Ann is deeply committed to the Catholic identity and mission of our schools, and she intends to assist school administrators and teachers in making sure that the truth of our Catholic faith and the values of our Catholic schools remain a priority," said Bishop Mark in announcing Semko's appointment. "She has a deep appreciation for the dedicated teachers, administrators, and support staff of Catholic schools, not to mention the extraordinary efforts made by the Catholic high school and regional elementary school boards in the Diocese."

Semko is the President of the Board of Appalachian Youth Services, an organization that deals with alternative education and housing for court-appointed youth. She is retiring as a member of the Bishop Carroll Catholic High School Board, but will serve as the Bishop's representative on the board (ex-officio) and other boards.



PROUD FAMILIES: Relatives and friends were on hand to congratulate graduates following the Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School Baccalaureate Mass on Thursday, May 17. Above, David Pleva is surrounded by his parents, grandmother, and older brother, Michael, who is a Diocesan seminarian. Below, Tony and Char Labriola pose with their granddaughter, Aliyah Labriola.



Director of Faith Formation

Young, vibrant 650-family parish in a university town is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. Primary responsibilities include organization and implementation of catechetical and evangelization ministries for Children, Youth, and Adults.

Other responsibilities include overseeing the parish's Youth Ministry program, Sacramental Preparation programs, recruiting, training and supporting volunteers, and budgeting. Schedule is flexible but the position will require working on evenings and weekends.

Candidates should be experienced catechists who think creatively, work independently and possess effective written and verbal communication skills. Must be a practicing Catholic with a solid command of Catholic theology.

Candidates must have or be able to obtain all Safe Environment related clearances required by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A master's or bachelor's degree in religious education, pastoral ministry or comparable field required. Pay commensurate with experience. Starting date is negotiable and we hope to fill the position by early July, 2018.

Applications will be accepted until May 31, 2018 or until the position is filled.

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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

Pope Updates Role Of Women, Laity In Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis has updated the statutes of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, adding among other things a specific reference to the office's responsibility for promoting a deeper reflection on the role of women in the church and society.

"The dicastery works to deepen the reflection on the relationship between men and women in their respective specificity, reciprocity, complementarity and equal dignity," the new statutes said. "Valuing the feminine 'genius,' it offers a contribution to ecclesial reflection on the identity and mission of women in the church and in society, promoting their participation."

The new statutes, approved by the pope on an experimental basis, were released by the Vatican May 8 and were to go into force May 13. They replace statutes issued in June 2016, just before the new office began functioning under the leadership of U.S. Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell.

While most of the articles in the statutes were unchanged, the new set eliminated a requirement that the office have three separate sections -- for laity, for family and for life -- each presided over by an undersecretary. However, the new statutes said the office will have "at least two lay undersecretaries."

The introductory article added a reference to how, "in accordance with the principles of collegiality, synodality and subsidiarity," the dicastery is to maintain relations with national bishops' conferences, dioceses and other church groups and promote collaboration among them.

And, in response to Pope Francis' call in "Amoris Laetitia" to improve marriage preparation programs, the new statutes called on the dicastery to offer "guidelines for training programs for engaged couples preparing for marriage, and for young married couples."

The statutes also gave the dicastery added responsibility for expressing "the pastoral care of the church also in relation to so-called 'irregular' situations," which include co-habiting couples and couples who are divorced and civilly remarried.

The new document also expanded references to the office's care for youths and young adults, promoting their involvement in the church and advocating for their needs in society.

The dicastery, it said, "expresses the particular concern of the church for the young, promoting their agency in the midst of the challenges of today's world. It supports the initiatives of the Holy Father in the field of youth ministry and is at the service of the episcopal conferences, of international youth movements and associations, promoting their collaboration and organizing meetings on an international level."



ONE MORE TIME: In May of 2001, Blaise Michaels, construction clerk of the works for the new Garvey Manor in Hollidaysburg, watches as the foundation is laid for the Marian Center for Dementia Care. The entire project was dedicated on October of 2003.

The Catholic Church Must Listen And Learn From Youth, Says Pope Francis

By Juno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Catholic Church must not keep young men and women at a distance, but instead must learn to listen to them, Pope Francis said.

In a video message to young people gathered at several sites around the world to pray the rosary together, the pope warned of the "dangers of speaking to young people without letting them speak, leaving them at 'a safe distance.'"

"Young people do not bite, they can come close and have enthusiasm," Pope Francis. "And not only do you have enthusiasm, you hold the key to the future," he told them.

The international Marian vigil organized at the Shrine of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother in Teramo, Italy, connected Italian young adults with their peers from Panama, Russia, Ireland and Taiwan via video link to pray for the upcoming synod in October on "young people, faith and vocational discernment."

In the video, Pope Francis said praying the rosary was a way for



POPE FRANCIS ADDRESSES YOUNG PEOPLE

young people to show their affection for Mary who is "a young woman among the young, a woman of our days."

Her youthfulness stayed with her throughout her life as "a disciple of her son with the enthusiasm of young people, following him to the cross with the courage that only youths possess."

"She continues to be young, even now when we contemplate her in heaven, because holiness keeps her eternally young; it is the true 'elixir of youth' that we really need," he said.

He encouraged young adults in the church to "not be afraid to be saints" and to follow the example of

Mary and other saints "who have preceded you and show you the way."

Pope Francis added that the international Marian event was proof that young people are a "prophecy of peace and reconciliation for all of humanity" and that they must teach adults, "whose hearts are often hardened, to choose the path of dialogue and harmony."

"I will never tire of repeating it: Do not raise walls, build bridges. Unite the shores of the oceans that separate you with enthusiasm, determination and the love that only you are capable of showing," he said.



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Mass Attendance Required?

Q. An elderly woman in our parish has terminal lung cancer. I have seen her condition deteriorate over the last two months. She is no longer driving, is very weak and is now on oxygen full time. I had been helping her to get to church, and the other day she told me that she "goes back and forth" over whether she is still required to attend Sunday Mass.

Out of sympathy, I responded that I thought it would be OK if she did not attend. But now I worry that I may have said the wrong thing. Did I? (City and state withheld)

A. Relax. You gave her the right advice. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: "The faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of

infants)" (No. 2181).

Note that the catechism does not define the gravity of the illness that would excuse, leaving room instead for the person to make the judgment. If the illness were contagious, or if -- as, it would seem, in this case -- the burdensome condition would preclude a prayerful experience, a person need not (indeed, should not) go to church and would be better off praying at home.

Your friend, though, might feel added comfort if she heard this same advice from a priest. Why not call your pastor and let him know about the woman's situation? He might want to call and assure her that she is not obliged to attend Mass. Even more important, he can visit her, bringing her holy Communion and, perhaps, the anointing of the sick.

Q. My son was born and raised Catholic, attended Catholic school

and received all of his sacraments. Now he is about to marry a very nice Protestant woman. Her cousin is a Protestant minister, and he has been asked to perform the wedding ceremony. I remember that you had recommended that a member of the Catholic clergy also be involved in such a ceremony.

The uncle of their best man happens to be a priest, and my wife and I tried to encourage our son to have that priest participate in the wedding, but unfortunately they said no. What are the long-term ramifications of this? Will their marriage be recognized by the Catholic Church as valid? And if one day they should decide to raise their children Catholic and have them receive the sacraments, will they run into any trouble? (Virginia)

A. A Catholic priest need not be present at a mixed marriage ceremony in order to have it be recognized as valid by the Catholic Church.

However, your son and his fiancee -- some time prior to the wedding -- would need to meet with a Catholic priest to obtain from the diocese the necessary permissions: a) for the marriage to take place in a setting other than a Catholic church; and b) for the officiant to be someone other than a Catholic priest or deacon.

Even if the couple does not choose to do this (the result being that their marriage is not recognized by the church), that does not preclude them from having a child baptized in the Catholic faith -- provided, of course, that they intend to raise the child Catholic. (In the words of Canon 868.1.2 of the church's Code of Canon Law, "there must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion.")

Pope Francis in 2009, while still a cardinal in Argentina, was reported to have told an Italian news magazine that "the child has absolutely no responsibility for the state of the parents' marriage. And often a baptism can be a new start for the parents as well."

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



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
Caught In The Very Act

One of the Gospel's most gripping stories unfolds in John 8:1-11.

In this era of "#metoo," the movement that reveals women's experiences of sexual assault, this reading describes an incident of the oppression and condemnation of a woman and Jesus' remarkable reaction to it.

In John, a woman "caught in the very act of committing adultery" is brought before Jesus by the scribes and Pharisees.

Often, I wonder how past generations viewed the good news of Jesus in different ways than we do. How did they use their imagination to contemplate this scene?

Today, it's probably rare for one reading this story not to immediately question the whereabouts of the man with whom this woman had sex. That phrase resonates: "in the very act." If you catch someone so flagrantly, obviously the other party is clearly identifiable.

Yet it's only the woman who is roughly dragged forward and thrust before Jesus into the middle of a group of self-righteous men. Where's her adulterous partner? Why isn't he being publicly rebuked and threatened? The law of Moses, the men say, condemns "such women" to stoning.

In so much of history -- and even today -- it's often the woman who pays society's price for sexual transgression. Not so long ago, the pregnant unmarried teen was hustled away to a maternity home while the prospective dad was allowed to finish high school.

In John's story, we are struck once again by the gentleness and mercy of Jesus, the way he crosses the border into the lives of women, engages them and stands up for them.

A mystery of this story is what Jesus is writing in the dirt. Twice, he bends over and uses his finger to write in Palestine's dust.

Then Jesus asks the men, whose faces I imagine are hostile and indignant, which of them is without sin. Let that man cast the first stone.

One by one, beginning with the eldest, they move silently away. They slither away. Is their indignation now replaced by embarrassment? Insight? Were their sins written on that road?

Jesus, who came to fulfill the law and the prophets, had little use for religious laws made by men that favored authority over mercy. As my favorite Jesuit homilist was told by his spiritual director, "Our God is a rule breaker. Don't focus on the rules. Focus on God."

This reading illustrates the great compassion of Jesus toward the underdog -- in this case, the woman. Jesus stands with all the oppressed, the victim of rape as a tool of war, the immigrant mercilessly separated from his family and deported, those marginalized because of their race or religion, those imprisoned in the relentless cycle of poverty, the victims of violence, those on death row.

Jesus is the Lord of the underdog.

He speaks to the woman. "Has no one condemned you?" When she replies no, he says, in a voice I imagine to be full of affection, "Neither do I condemn you." He sends her away to sin no more.

I examine my own role in this story. Whom do I condemn? Not in major ways, perhaps, but in the silent "tsk, tsk" of my mind. How often do I shake my head, thinking I could direct people to make better choices, when I have enough of a challenge making my own? Which of my sins would be written in that dust?

If Jesus stands in mercy with the underdog, that's where Christians are challenged to stand. Am I standing there? Are we standing there as church?



Blessed Thomas
Pickering

c. 1620-1679

FEAST May 9

This English Benedictine lay brother was a martyr of the Popish Plot. He professed vows in France in 1660 and was sent to London in 1665 as procurator of a small community celebrating liturgies in the chapel of Queen Catherine of Braganza. Though other monks were banished, he was allowed to stay. Because of the fictitious plot, in which Titus Oates alleged that King Charles II would be assassinated and the French king would re-establish Catholicism in England, three Jesuits, Pickering and a layman were found guilty of conspiracy.

Now Showing

Life Of The Party Essentially Lifeless



Anemic comedy in which middle-aged mom Melissa McCarthy (who also co-wrote the script) is dumped by her husband (Matt Walsh) in favor of the hard-edged real estate agent (Julie Bowen) with whom he has been having an affair and decides to get a fresh start by returning to the university she dropped out of in order to have her now-grown daughter (Molly Gordon) who is also currently a student there. Frivolously treated offscreen nonmarital and marital sexual activity, some of it in semi-public places, unintentional drug use, comic brawling, sexual and anatomical humor, a couple of crude and numerous crass terms. 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**

**Proclaim!
10:30 a.m.
A half - hour of local Church news and features**



BENCH: Bishop Guilfoyle freshmen J. T. Johnston tests out the bench press while fellow freshman Brad Shaffer serves as weightlifting spotter.

BG Opens New Center For Athletic Performance

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School held the grand opening of the new Anthony J. and Nora E. Misitano Center of Athletic Performance Saturday before 100 families and school supporters.

The state-of-the-art facility is the centerpiece of BG's new health and wellness program designed to expand upon the school tradition of personalized educational experiences.

"This new center is more than just a weight room," Bishop Guilfoyle president Joseph Adams said. "It is a modern, exciting and welcoming place for students to develop themselves and support each other to achieve goals and build positive lifelong habits."

More than \$100,000 was invested into a complete transformation of the 2,200-square foot center. New equipment includes five integrated stations which enables athletes to complete full body workouts in a single area. Double sized weight-

lifting cages, Powerblock adjustable dumbbells, adjustable benches, and rubberized plates are all located at each station.

iPad charging stations support the digital experience, which included tracking performance, fitness monitoring, and a multi-media experience.

The Misitano Center of Athletic Performance has multi-media access to the Internet, supports custom videos and cable television. Three smart TVs with Apple TV devices will broadcast television channels, provide on-demand instructional videos and support other custom media applications. The state-of-

the-art audio system can broadcast streaming music played on iPads located in the center.

Bishop Guilfoyle has purchased a subscription to a fitness app which will be run by every student on their school issued iPad. "Whether a student prefers walking or yoga, or weightlifting or volleyball, every student will now have their own personalized fitness plan designed just for them," BG athletic director and vice principal Michael Cacciotti said.

The athletic center was possible by a generous donation from 1972 BG graduate, Anthony Misitano. He has spent his career in the health care industry and is currently Chief Executive Officer of Post Acute medical.

"My mother and father loved BG and would be pleased and honored to have their names associated with a facility that will help all BG students," Misitano said. "My father loved BG sports and prior to his early passing got to see me play a few basketball games."

Construction services and materials were donated by longtime BG supporter and alumni, McCloskey Builders. "I saw firsthand as a father how important this room was to my son and his friends," Sam McCloskey said. "This transformation is definitely needed and will help future generations of athletes."

Bret Geishauer (BG assistant football coach) of APEX Academy Performance and Exercise managed the overall design of the new center, lending their expertise from extensive experience with college and university athletic centers.

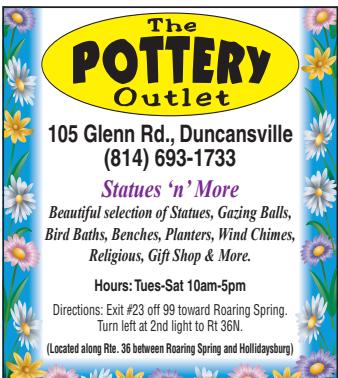
Adams also applauded the contributions from BG football coach Justin Wheeler and BG soccer coach, BG trustee and vice president of Blair Companies Joe DeLeo with the development of the athletic center.

Coming Up On Proclaim

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

June 3 -- A group of 2018 graduates from Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg discuss their bond of friendship and their plans for the future.

June 10 -- Braden Hatch and Micah Claar of Saint Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish in Altoona share with Bishop Mark their joy after making their First Holy Communion.

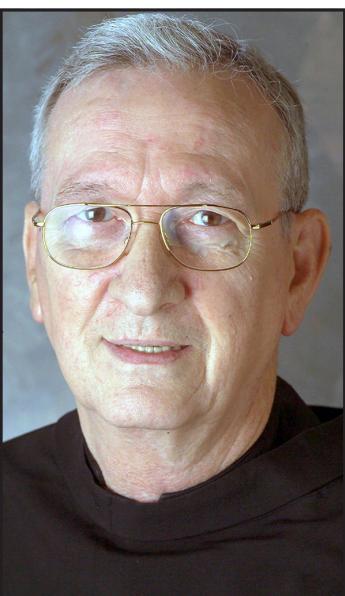


May They Rest In Peace



was on the Provincial Council from 1988-1992. He was a guest lecturer at the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, for a number of summers. From 2003, Fr. Gervase has served in the ministry of prayer at St. Francis Friary, Loretto. Fr. Gervase is survived by his sister, Patricia Cain Broker, Jeanette and his brother Robert, Export, and his Franciscan brothers. He was preceded in death by his brothers, John and Paul, and sisters, Catherine, Ellen, and Irene.

Memorial contributions may be made to support retired T.O.R. Friars, c/o T.O.R. Retirement Fund, St. Francis Friary, P.O. Box 137, Loretto, PA. Arrangements by Gibbons Funeral Home, 301 Church Street, Gallitzin, PA 16641.



Fr. Gervase Cain, T.O.R.

Fr. Gervase Cain, T.O.R., 86, of the Third Order Regular Franciscans of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, died May 12, 2018, at St. Francis Friary, Loretto after an illness.

Born June 17, 1931 in Export son of the late Howard and Mary (Martinsek) Cain, and given the name Joseph Howard when baptized at Most Holy Sacrament Church, Greensburg, PA on July 5, 1931. He attended grade school in Export and graduated high school from St. Francis Preparatory School, Spring Grove, in 1949. He was a candidate at the Prep School from 1946 to 1949. He entered novitiate at Portiuncula Monastery, Washington, D.C. on June 30, 1949.

He pronounced his first vows on July 1, 1950 at Portiuncula Monastery, Washington, D.C., and his solemn vows on July 1, 1953 at Mt. Assisi Friary, Loretto. Fr. Gervase was ordained to the priesthood on May 25, 1957, at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, by the late Bishop Richard Guilfoyle, D.D., Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from St. Francis College (University) in 1953. He completed Theological studies at St. Francis Seminary, Loretto, in 1957. Fr. Gervase did graduate studies in philosophy in Fribourg, Switzerland, from 1959-1963. During his long Franciscan life, Fr. Gervase ministered in secondary education.

He taught philosophy for 29 years, at St. Francis Seminary and St. Francis College (University), Loretto. He served as pastor and assistant pastor in various parishes where the T.O.R.'s ministered. He



**Sister M. Jamesella Mawhinney,
IHM**

Sister M. Jamesella Mawhinney, IHM, of the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, died on Wednesday, May 2, 2018, at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton, PA.

She was born on May 5, 1929, in Baldwinsville, NY, and given the name Mary Patricia. She was the daughter of the late James K. and Genevieve Doherty Mawhinney. She entered the IHM Congregation on November 1, 1950 and made her temporary profession of vows on August 2, 1953, and her final profession of vows on August 2, 1956.

Sister Jamesella served as a teacher at St. Ann's Elementary School in Nyack, NY, from 1953 to 1956.

She served as a registered nurse at the Marian Convent in Scranton, PA, from 1956 to 1963, nursing supervisor at Catholic Child Care Center in Hollidaysburg, PA, from 1963 to 1970, among several other assignments.

From 2012 to the time of her death, Sister Jamesella was a prayer minister at Little Flower Convent in Bethesda, MD, and later at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton, PA.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Donald R. She is survived by cousins and members of the IHM Congregation.



**Sister Dorothy (Nicholas)
Antonazzo, CSJ**

Sister Dorothy (Nicholas) Antonazzo, CSJ, 90, died May 12, 2018, in her 72nd year as a Sister of St. Joseph of Baden. The daughter of Nicholas and Louise Letizia Antonazzo, Sister Dorothy entered the Congregation from Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Johnstown, PA. Her ministry in education spanned six decades in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Altoona-Johnstown, Circleville, OH, Memphis, TN, and Morgantown, WV, where she served as a teacher, principal, reading coordinator and educational consultant.

From 1964-1972, Sister Dorothy was the Reading Coordinator with the Anti-Poverty Program at St. Richard in the Hill District, and later at Holy Rosary in Homewood. After serving as principal at St. Clement in Johnstown (1972-74), Sister Dorothy began a 14-year ministry as an Educational Consultant for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown where she teamed up with her longtime friend and co-minister, Sister Patricia Ann Foley. They continued to serve together until their retirements in 2001.

Sister Dorothy was the Associate Superintendent of Schools in Memphis (1988-1991) and Assistant Principal and Guidance Counselor at St. Francis Central Catholic School in Morgantown (1991-2001). In a farewell ceremony at St. Francis, Sister Dorothy told the students she was most proud of the school's mission statement – To Serve, Not Be Served – because the students demonstrated that service with compassion every day.

During her tenure, the school was featured in *Today's Catholic Teacher* as a model of Catholic social justice teachings. She was devoted to her family, the Congregation and the thousands of children who played a significant role in her ministerial

life. Sister Dorothy recalled that her parents initially "were not overjoyed" when, as a teenager, she expressed interest in entering the convent. "My father was totally against it . . . and my mother wouldn't talk to me about it," she told a reporter in 2008, adding that both soon realized "my happiness in finding the meaning of my life." While celebrating her Golden Jubilee, Sister Dorothy said, "What helps sustain my enthusiasm and commitment to religious life is the realization of knowing I was called by God to do his will and to teach the Word to those entrusted in my care." To respond to that call, she often turned to her favorite passage from Corinthians:

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." Sister Dorothy is survived by her brother Nicholas (Donna) Antonazzo, nieces, nephews, Associates, and the Sisters of St. Joseph. Donations in the name of Sister Dorothy may be sent to the Sisters of St. Joseph Memorial Fund, Development Office, 1020 State St., Baden, PA, 15005.

Area Native, Religious Sister Passes

Sister M. Margaret Alice Martinek, OSF, a Johnstown native, died at Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, Illinois in April. She was born in 1935, one of 10 children to Andrew and Margaret Martinek. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, John and Stephen; and her sister, Patricia Salas.

She is survived by her brothers, Andrew and Edward, both of Pennsylvania; and her sisters, Margaret Pasierb, Betty Ribblet, and Christine Buksa, all of Johnstown, PA, and Mary Lorditch of Newburgh, NY.

Sister Margaret was a teacher in the field of education for 45 years. She taught in various schools around the country. In 2016, Sister Margaret Alice returned to Joliet where she ministered as a volunteer at Our Lady of the Angels Retirement Home.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Saint Francis of Mary Immaculate, 1433 Essington Road, Joliet, IL 60435.

**Keep the
Faith Alive**



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Diocese Will Honor 10 With Prince Gallitzin Cross

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will present the 2018 Prince Gallitzin Cross to ten individuals who exhibit the “evangelizing spirit” of the Prince-Priest and Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin. The honorees will be recognized at a dinner on Saturday, June 2 at the Calvin House in Duncansville.

The award was created in 1990 – the 150th anniversary year of the passing of Father Gallitzin. Recipients come from ordained, religious, or lay members of the Diocesan faithful and are fully initiated Roman Catholics who are eligible to receive and avail themselves of the Sacraments of the Church.

The 2018 awardees include:

DEACON THOMAS BUGIE

From assisting with the formation of young people to providing handyman services around the church, Deacon Thomas Buige is beloved throughout Saint John Vianney Parish in Mundys Corner. Nominated by a group of parishioners, Deacon Buige is recognized for his work with Confirmation candidates, retreats, and Baptismal preparation with expectant parents. He also serves as a “Saint Joseph Carpenter” by offering his handyman services to the parish and engaging in remarkable wood construction projects.

MICHAEL FEDELE

A great example of one putting his faith into action, Michael Fedele, a member of Saint Joseph Parish in Renovo since birth, is an altar server and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. He facilitates morning Communion services and leads the weekly Rosary before Mass. He serves on Parish Council, the Cemetery Committee, and the Maintenance Committee. Michael attends Lay Ministry classes, attends weekly Bible study, belongs to the Knights of

Columbus, and volunteers at a local food bank.

REVEREND BERNARD KARMANOCKY, OFM

Described as a priest who “truly acts as the hands and feet of Christ,” Reverend Bernard Karmanocky, OFM, Pastor of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and Saint Anne Parishes in Johnstown, is credited with being “an incredible witness and leader of the Catholic Church.” Parishioners are grateful to Father Karmanocky for providing opportunities to deepen their faith including Bible studies and other groups.

JOSEPH MASIANGELO

Joseph Masciangelo is extremely active with Saint Vincent de Paul. He assists with the distribution of baskets to the needy at Christmas. The baskets include not only food, but gifts for children. He also helps with the Mayfest Haitian Market. A member of Most Holy Trinity Parish since 1978, Joe is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and Chair of the parish Finance Council. He brings Holy Communion to the sick and nursing home parishioners. He also assists with parish funeral dinners and fundraising fish dinners.

PAULINE MINOR

For nearly five decades, Pauline Minor has helped to shape the faith formation of young people. A member of Saint Michael Parish in St. Michael, Pauline has taught religious education for 48 years in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. She is on the REACH Youth Ministry Team and has journeyed with teens for more than 25 years as they come to know the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. A chaperone for many Senior High Youth Conferences (SHYCON), Junior High Youth Days, and National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) trips, Pauline



is also an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and Christian Initiation team member. Despite her busy schedule, she finds time to volunteer in the parish office and serves with the parish funeral dinner ministry.

JOHN RITA

A lifelong member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Altoona, John Rita is a professional artist. John painted the Our Lady of Mount Carmel church building in 1978, and spearheaded the restoration project in 2000. He organized and taught apprentices and parishioners in restoring art work, stripping and repainting the Stations of the Cross, woodwork, and gold leafing. John also painted new frescos for the small domes, utilizing the life of Saint Francis of

Assisi and Saint Clare of Assisi. He continues to volunteer in cleaning the frescos and maintaining the interior and exterior of the church.

JAMES SEILER

James Seiler has been a fixture at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona for more than 50 years. He is a member of the choir and a cantor at Sunday Masses. He is an active member of Parish Council and the Liturgy Committee. As a carpenter, Jim has created many items to enhance prayer and worship, including an eight foot cross that holds the relic of the True Cross, which is used for veneration on Good Friday. Jim also manufactures the candles used throughout the liturgical year, including the magnificent Easter Candle.

JANE STOLTZ

Jane Stoltz has been a religious

education teacher for 30 years at Saint Augustine Parish in Dysart and has served as Director of Religious Education for 20 years. She initiated youth week for Saint Augustine Parish and Saint Monica Parish in Chest Springs. Jane also spearheads First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation, Confirmation, Reconciliation services, movies, and parish parties. She is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a lector, choir member, and Altar-Rosary Society member.

CAROLYN SYLVESTER

Carolyn Sylvester dedicates herself to carrying for the elderly. She has her own “Meals on Wheels,” she runs errands for seniors, offers them rides, helps with household chores, and even clears their sidewalks in the winter. A member of Saint Demetrios Parish in Gallitzin, Carolyn visits the sick and homebound regularly and writes to a young man in prison. For parishioners who have moved away for health reasons, Carolyn keeps them connected to happenings in the parish and community.

ANGELA ZINOBILE

For more than a decade, Angela Zinobile, a member of Saint Mary Parish in Shade Gap, has worked as a youth counselor at the Tuscarora Catholic Summer Camp, facilitated by the Diocese’s Fulton County Mission. She organizes fundraisers so children from the parish can attend and further their religious education. Angela organizes work crews and volunteers to help with the Christmas gift wrapping program and school backpack program, also sponsored by the Fulton County Mission. She has served as chair of the parish Pastoral Council, and she is a soloist at Mass.

PERIODICAL RATE MAIL

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