

The Catholic Register



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Food Pantry Volunteers Are Family

Photo and Text By
Tony DeGol

Sacred Heart Parish in Altoona. The pantry opened in 1985 in the rectory basement. Eventually, it moved to the parish formation center – the site of the former Sacred Heart School.

Armed with the support of the pastor, Father Lubomir Strecok, and fellow parishioners, six ladies run the food pantry every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

“We have a wonderful group of women,” said Rita Sangiorgi, captain of the operation, about her team. “The Holy spirit has been so kind to find us the volunteers we need.”

Sangiorgi interviews clients as they arrive while the other ladies prepare baskets of food for the clients. Before the pantry opens each

week, and between clients, all of the volunteers stock the shelves with food donations they receive from various sources.

The pantry helps about 50 clients each month, Sangiorgi estimated, which extends to about 200 people in those collective households.

“Many of them work, but they don’t earn enough to support their family and pay all their expenses,” added Sangiorgi. “We’re able to help them maintain a good lifestyle.”

Among the many items available are pasta, tomato sauce, soup, peanut butter, produce, and bread.

Volunteer Marlene Archey
(Continued on Page 6.)



STOCKING SHELVES: Barbara Gerhart (left) and Lucille Parker, volunteers at the Sacred Heart Food Pantry in Altoona, stock shelves with various items for clients. The pantry receives food donations to help dozens of individuals and families each month.

If the Sacred Heart Food Pantry ever decides to have a theme song, perhaps it should be the Sister Sledge classic, “We Are Family.”

Just ask some of the dedicated volunteers.

“It’s just wonderful – not only the client part of giving to people in need, but also the fellowship among us is just wonderful,” summarized Barbara Gerhart. “It’s like another family. I have my family at home, and this is my Sacred Heart family.”

That spirit has been going strong for the past 33 years at

Bible Should Show Signs Of Wear, Says Bishop

Photos And Text By
Tony DeGol

Everyone likes to have things that look crisp and new.

The Bible should not be one of those items, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak reminded youngsters at Camp Zacchaeus.

“Your Bible should be a book that you use so much that the pages should be dirty, and your Bible should be one that you might have to put tape on to keep it together,” he preached. “That shows that you really use it and you’re not just putting it on the shelf.”

After two uplifting sessions of Camp Zacchaeus 2018, there is a good chance campers’ Bibles will

start looking much more tattered.

Have You Heard the Good News? Journeying With the Bible was the theme for the annual summer camp, sponsored by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Office of Youth Ministry.

Open to boys and girls entering grades four through nine, the experience gives students a healthy dose of spirituality such as daily Mass and devotions, group evangelization, Eucharistic Adoration, and the opportunity for Reconciliation.

“Our whole point this week is to get the kids interested in really picking up the Bible,” said camp director Francine Swope in the midst of session one the week of July 22. The second session was held the week of July 29.

Reading the Bible is a tremendous guide throughout one’s life, noted Swope, also the coordinator of Youth Ministry, Religious Education, and Sacramental Preparation.

“In the end, it will help you reach your ultimate goal of getting to Heaven,” she added.

During his visits to both sessions, Bishop Mark did his part to extol the power of the Bible.

“The Bible is not just stories,” he said. “Whenever each of us reads the Bible, it’s not just a book, it’s God’s Word.”

Knowing that reading the entire Bible may seem overwhelming to such a young audience, the Bishop encouraged the crowd to

(Continued on Page 6.)



PRAYER BY THE POOL: With candles in hand, campers joined in evening prayer by the pool on their first night of session one held the week of July 22 at Camp Sequanota in Somerset County. “Have You Heard the Good News? Journeying With the Bible” was the theme for the camp this year.

Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies

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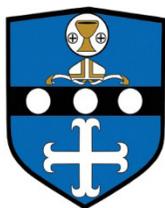
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RCIA Brings Many Into Catholic Church



RITE OF ELECTION: Each year the Catechumens or adults to be Baptized are named the Elect by Bishop Mark L. Barthcak after they have signed their names in the *Book of Life*. The book is ceremoniously processed through the cathedral by people bearing bowls of incense as a symbol of lifting up our prayers to God for them.



2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Making Christ A Home In Your Heart

100% of your gift supports 14 ministries like [The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults \(RCIA\)](#)

The road to becoming fully initiated into the Catholic Church is taken by many in our Diocese each year. We welcome the young and old through Baptism; unite them with Christ through the Eucharist; and strengthen them by the power of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation.

The journey to Discipleship begins with acceptance and commitment and ends with joyful hearts overflowing with Christ's love and grace.

A story of Faith, Hope & Charity.

The Diocese is filled each year with grace and hope from individuals and families who are called to become Missionary Disciples.

- This year, 98 individuals became fully initiated in the Church and 25 received full Communion.
- From 2014 to 2018, 693 individuals became Catholic.
- Since 1998, more than 3,055 have joined the Church.

"Like the 12 apostles who were sent out by Christ, the newly initiated also have their own stories of inspiration and encouragement to share," said Jeanne Thompson, coordinator of Christian Initiation.

At the annual Palm Sunday retreat a teenager wanted to share her story. It was one of courage and commitment and love of the Lord. She would climb out her bedroom window to attend Saturday evening Mass as her parents did not understand her deep desire to be Catholic and forbid her to go to Sunday Mass.

A veteran soldier shared that when he became a member of the Catholic Church, it filled him with courage and hope that his life in the military would be guided by Jesus through the Eucharist.

A woman battling breast and stomach cancer shared her story of faith. Her love of the Eucharist has not wavered as she has grown to trust in the will of God for her life.

Your support today of the RCIA program makes you the 'support team' needed to help others on their journey to have a new (or renewed) relationship with Jesus Christ. If you know someone who wants to join our Catholic family of believers, take the first step by contacting Jeannie Thompson at jthompson@dioceseaj.org or 814-693-9605, Ext. 2672.

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



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Mandeville Diocese, Jamaica

In The Alleghenies

SFU Named College Of Distinction

Based on its excellence in four distinctions - engaged students, great teaching, vibrant community, and successful outcomes - Saint Francis University in Loretto was recently honored as both a "Catholic College of Distinction" and a "College of Distinction" for the 2018-2019 school year.

In addition to receiving this honor, four Saint Francis University programs have received program-specific recognition from the national Colleges of Distinction organization. Business, Education, Engineering, and Nursing all received 2018-2019 "Field of Study" badges recognizing them for their innovative leadership and excellent programming.

According to Distinctions Chief Operating Officer Tyson Schritter, "Saint Francis continues to impress with its exceptional commitment to student success. Its extensive liberal arts curriculum informs and enriches everything students do both in and out of the classroom."

Tuition Break For Emergency Responders

Saint Francis University in Loretto is offering a discount to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. Details:

- A 35% discount for active volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel.

- Discount rate applies to all degrees within ADCS (see below for the list)

- Classes can be taken either in-person or fully online.

ADCS Degrees include: Accounting, Aviation, Behavioral Science, Business Administration, Computer Systems Management, Behavioral Science, Early Childhood Education, Engineering (Applied Science), Health Professions Technology, Human Resource/Computer Technology, Health Care Management, Health Studies, Management, Medical Laboratory Science, Mechanical Technology, and Organizational Leadership.

Learn more at francis.edu/ADCS

Or contact us at 814-472-3012, or via email at oce@francis.edu.

Bishop's Appointments & Announcements

Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown



REVEREND JEREMIAH LANGE, OSB, appointed Pastor of Saint Nicholas Parish in Nicktown, effective August 1, 2018.

REVEREND ALFRED PATTERSON, OSB, appointed Catholic Chaplain at UPMC Altoona, residing at Saint Benedict Parish in Carrolltown, effective August 1, 2018.

Wedding Anniversaries Will Be Honored At Annual Masses

The Family Life Office of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese has announced the scheduling of the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgies honoring couples celebrating their 1, 5, 10, 25, 40, 50, 55, and 60+ anniversaries within the 2018 calendar year.

Couples and their families may attend the Eucharistic celebration at 2 PM on Sunday, September 9 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, or at 2 PM on Sunday, September 16 at St. John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will be celebrant and homilist at both Masses.

This public recognition of those who have faithfully lived the vocation to married life provides an opportunity for all to recall the value and importance of such commitments in today's world.

A punch and cookies reception will follow the Eucharistic celebrations for celebrating couples and their family members.

Couples who wish to attend one of these celebrations should contact their home parish by Tuesday, August 21 to make the necessary reservations.

Sutton To Speak At Prayer Gathering

Bob Sutton, gifted speaker and campus minister at Altoona Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, will speak at 7 PM on Monday, August 6 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

He will address the first gathering of the Praise and Worship Cathedral Prayer Group. The public is invited to attend.

All meetings end with prayer ministry for healing and other concerns.

A graduate of Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, with a master's degree in Theology, Sutton combines his deep knowledge of the Scriptures with his desire to inspire his listeners to share the message of God's loving Spirit.

The Cathedral Prayer Group music ministry will lead the singing. Refreshments and fellowship will follow.

Flea Market, Bake Sale

The Saint Therese Conference of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society in Altoona will hold its annual Flea Market and Bake Sale from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Friday and Saturday August 10 and 11. The event will be held at Father Kelly Hall located at the corner of 25th Avenue and 5th Street in Altoona. All proceeds benefit those in need in the diocese.

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nancyrosevincent@gmail.com



RECEIVE FIRST COMMUNION: Four students at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Johnstown received their First Communion. Members of the class pictured (left to right) are: Front row--Gabriella Esposito, Bryce Anderson, Ava Deskevich, and Aubrey Ressler. Back row--Carol Pisula, director of Religious Education; Conventual Franciscan Father Anthony Francis Spilka, pastor; and Elyse Anderson, catechist.

PRAISE and WORSHIP at the Cathedral Cathedral Prayer Group Fall 2018 Schedule



"Come to His gates with thanksgiving; enter His courts with praise (Ps 100:4)."

**Mon, Aug 6th, Praise & Worship, 7pm—
Bob Sutton—speaker.**

**Mon, Aug 20th, Praise & Worship, 7pm—
Fr. Mark Begley—speaker.**

**Mon, Sept 10th, Praise & Worship, 7pm—
Fr. Jonathan St. André, TOR—speaker.**

Mon, Sept 24th, Praise & Worship, 7pm.

**Mon, Oct 8th, Healing Mass, 7 pm—
Fr. Bill Kiel—main celebrant.**

**Mon, Oct 22nd, Festival of Praise, 7 pm—
Deacon Mike Anna.**

Mon, Nov 5th, Praise & Worship, 7pm.

**Sunday, Nov 18th, Festival of Praise, 6:30 pm,
St. Michael's Basilica, Loretto, PA.**

Everyone is welcome!

****All meetings end with prayer ministry for healing and other concerns.
CLIP and SAVE***

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In Light Of Faith

Change Can Be Painful

By Christopher White

must lead to changes in the church -- particularly as it pertains to young people.

"Change is painful. There is however no alternative," he said. "Catholics must learn new ways in which they can win young hearts for what the teaching of Jesus involves."

"The Irish church has to relearn the ability to speak the language of

faith authentically in a world where that language may be alien. The church in Ireland needs a radical overhaul in its outreach in faith toward young people," he continued.

Archbishop Martin's words come just two months after the majority Catholic country voted overwhelmingly to legalize abortion. Pope Francis will visit the island country for two days.

While an entirely separate event -- the World Meeting of Families takes place every three years and is targeted at addressing the specific challenges of family life -- in some respects, this year's event can be considered a teaser for the upcoming synod on "Young people, the faith and vocational discernment," which will take place in Rome this October.

For starters, organizers of this year's World Meeting of Families have made a deliberate point of not avoiding the messiness of family life throughout the world. While making clear that the church's ideal for family cannot be compromised, the programming for the event was designed in a way to acknowledge that a multitude of Catholics are at varying stages of striving toward that ideal without yet achieving it.

It's for that reason the organizers have emphasized that all are welcome at this event, regardless of how imperfect their family life may be -- pledging to be the most open World Meeting of Families to date. It's not a compromise, they've maintained. Similarly, the upcoming synod -- while intent on serving as an occasion to better understand the needs of young people today -- isn't trying to whitewash the realities that many young people find themselves living in today. It's for that reason Pope Francis has urged the honest participation of young people so he can hear directly from them, rather than being filtered by other members of the church.

The "instrumentum laboris," the synod's working document that was released last month by the Vatican, concludes with a meditation on holiness and declares that the witness of the great saints of the faith, particularly young ones, can serve as a guide for young people today.

Vocation View



By
Father
Matthew Reese

Diocesan
Director Of
Vocations

Listening. It is in itself an art that needs to be practiced in order to be perfected. Successful relationships contain good communication skills. Good communication skills require the ability to listen. Active listening is not just the ability to hear the words of another but to comprehend these words as they were meant to be conveyed. So many relationship arguments stem from misunderstanding which is a byproduct of miscommunication.

When discerning a vocation to priesthood or religious life one must have the ability to listen to God speaking to them. As I mentioned above though, it takes practice in order to be perfected. I have always found it funny that some people are amazed that current priests or religious had a boyfriend or girlfriend while growing up. These people think that somehow just because we are called by God that we would never have been "normal" (a term that they use). However, in growing up, in our experience of relationships, in our human development, we are called to learn these skills which then help every one of us to better communicate with God and know to what vocation He is calling us -- priesthood, religious life, marriage, etc.

So how would you better your communication with your loved one? Is communication all in the words we speak? How do we actively listen when no words are directly spoken? For anyone who has entered into a deep loving relationship with another, for example marriage or a close (non-sexual) friendship, you may already know these answers. For someone who is young and is still learning the ability to listen it may seem daunting and/or one may feel like many mistakes are made.

Allow me to offer a bit of advice: In order to listen actively to anyone (spouse, family, friends, etc.) you must give them your full attention. If you don't understand what they are saying then do not pretend to do so. That's a sure path to miscommunication. Always ask for clarification until you know for sure that you understand what is being said. Once understanding is established then true dialogue may occur.

Now translate those ideals into how you pray to God, especially when you believe that God is calling you to a possible vocation to the priesthood or religious life or even marriage. Give God your full attention. Clarify until you believe you understand what He is saying to you. After that then dialogue with God in your prayer. If you are afraid of the calling, tell Him. If you do not feel the calling is right for you, tell Him. Tell Him everything, but be prepared to repeat the process of listening to His replies. This makes for a good healthy prayer life, and good discernment of what God is calling you to be in life.

Father Matthew Reese is the diocesan Director of Vocations. E-mail him at vocations@dioceseaj.org or call him at (814) 695-5579.



Speaking at a recent ordination of new priests in Ireland, Dublin Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said changes in the today's culture

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO A LIFE OF SERVICE AS A DEACON?

All those interested in learning about the Formation, Ministry and Life of the Permanent Diaconate, are invited to join Deacon Michael Russo, Director of the Permanent Diaconate, at a special get together on Saturday, August 18th at the Carmelite Community of the Word Incarnation Center, 394 Bem Road, Gallitzin from 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Married men are expected to attend with their wives. **Space is limited. Reservations are required.**

To make reservations contact:
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
The Office of the Permanent Diaconate
(814) 693-9870 or email: jnoonan@dioceseaj.org
www.dioceseaj/diaconate/



Family Meals Can Provide Important Lessons To Children

Our family makes Sunday family meals a priority. Around our table can be our sons, aged 25 and nearly 13, and an 8-year-old niece who spends most weekends with us. We start each meal with a prayer of thanks and enjoy each other's company with conversation, not technology. Our diverse family shares conversation as we eat favorite family dishes, from a simple recipe or take out. Not everyone eats everything or chats, and sometimes dinner is lunch or brunch depending on schedules. No matter the menu or the topics, we are blessed to share the time together.

Family dinner, or regular meal times without distractions of technology or media, aren't simply good things to do. Regular family meal times become a protective factor in a child or youth's development. Research shows that the more often families gather together, the less likely that child is to engage in risky behaviors. Whether it's over a simple sandwich or a fancy meal, it's the connection and engagement in pro-social activities that can have a lifetime of benefit for kids.

Mealtime preparation can be a family affair where children can learn how to plan a menu, shop for food, set a table, and assist with clean up. Important lessons are shared on how to plan ahead, budget and time manage-



By Cindy O'Connor

ment. Visit a local farmer's market for fresh ingredients, use fancy dinnerware on a normal day, choose a special plate for each family meal, allow different family members to choose the menu or a special treat.

The family meal can be a starting point for even more family time. Everyone can share responsibility for the cleaning up. Afterwards, take a family walk, have family game night, all followed by everyone's favorite dessert!

Family meals allow for a sense of belonging and provide opportunities for parents to model valuable life and pro-social skills such as table manners, and how important it is to respect each other. Family values and wisdom can be shared through the stories and inside jokes over a bowl of ice cream or mac-n-cheese.

The dinner table can act as a unifier, a place of community, a place where learning never stops. Sharing a meal is an excuse to catch up and talk, one of the few opportunities where people are happy to put aside their work and take time out of their day. Parents can take advantage of everyone sitting around the table to have teachable moments, ask open-ended questions to bring healthy discussions to the forefront. It's a place where all can also learn to agree to disagree in a positive way.

Managing today's family calendars is challenging with intense schedules for school, work and extracurricular activities; often making it difficult to find time to eat together. Unfortunately, it's easy to go days or weeks without sitting down as a family to share a meal. Be encouraged! The great thing about meals is that there are three a day. You can try to arrange a breakfast, lunch or dinner where all members of the family are together.

The benefits certainly outweigh the challenges of sharing meals as a family. When work, overwhelming schedules and tyranny of the moments occur that may affect the quality or quantity of family time together, being intentional about your family dining together will allow for conversations between parents and children, helping strengthening families.

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.

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is committed to the safety and protection of children and youth, and to supporting the victims and survivors of sexual abuse. The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) and trained professionals serving local agencies greatly assist with the needs of victims of sexual assault and their loved ones in the healing process.

In an effort to educate the public and raise awareness of the support available in our community, the diocese continues to refer victims and survivors to the resources provided by PCAR and the local centers to help spread the word. The diocese's collaboration with these agencies is limited to our mutual desire to help those who are suffering and is not an endorsement of other policies or positions the agencies may hold.

No one should suffer alone. If you need of help, please take advantage of the contact information on this page. Please join the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown in praying for all those who have been affected by sexual abuse in our society. May God

grant them healing and peace.

PCAR partners with a network of rape crisis center programs to bring help, hope and healing around issues of sexual violence to all 67 counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To find services within Pennsylvania call PCAR at 1-888-772-7227.

For information on Sexual Abuse Victim Assistance and Service Agencies within the eight counties of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown (Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clinton, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset) please refer to:

Bedford County: Your Safe Haven Inc. (800) 555-5671 or (814) 623-7664

Blair County: Family Services, Inc. (800) 500-2849 or (814) 944-3585

Cambria/Somerset Counties: Victim Services, Inc. (800) 755-1983 or (814) 288-4691

Centre County: Centre County Women's Resource Center (877) 234-5050 or (814) 234-5050

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

Franklin/Fulton Counties: Women in Need/Victim Services (800) 621-6660 or (717) 264-4444

Huntingdon/Mifflin/Juniata Counties: The Abuse Network 24-Hour Hotline (717) 242-2444. Toll-Free PA Hotline (888) 810-2444; Mifflin County Office (717) 242-0715; Juniata County Office (717) 447-1885 and Huntingdon County Office (814) 506-8237 or (717) 242-2444

Catholic Charities Inc. of The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown: Victim Assistance Coordinator (814) 944-9388, extension 204.

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.



UNPACKING ITEMS: Marlene Archey (left), and Rita Sangiorgi, unpack canned goods at the Sacred Heart Food Pantry. They are among several volunteers who donate their time each Wednesday to operate the pantry, which serves Sacred Heart parishioners and others in the Altoona area.

(Continued From Page 1.)

Food Pantry

pointed out that some clients bring their children with them to the pantry.

“They are very grateful for our service,” Archey stated. “They come back month after month. When we give them the basket of food, their reaction makes you feel good. It just gives you goosebumps.”

Clients of the Sacred Heart Food Pantry can receive items every four weeks and cannot use other food agencies, Sangiorgi said.

“I never in my wildest dreams thought that there was such a need as there is for a lot of people in our area,” Archey added. “It’s just very satisfying to help them.”

Some clients are parishioners,

but most are from elsewhere in the Altoona area, said Sangiorgi.

“We’re able to help people in need,” noted volunteer Lucille Parker. “They spread the word and they come once a month. It’s so gratifying for me to be able to help other people.”

At Thanksgiving, the pantry offers huge bags filled with the items for a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

Parishioners donate most of those items, Sangiorgi said, and some even donate goodies on a monthly basis.

The ladies appreciate the generosity of the parishioners and are glad the parish offers the venue.

“This is a ministry, and we’re grateful to be able to establish this ministry and maintain it,” Sangiorgi emphasized.



CHECKING THE FRIDGE: Elaine Toomey, a Sacred Heart Food Pantry volunteer, organizes items in one of the many refrigerators at the site. The pantry began in 1985 in the Sacred Heart Rectory basement. It is now located in the parish formation center.

(Continued from Page 1.)

Camp Z

read a little at a time, and to read those parts a few times.

“If you do that whenever you read the Bible, you’re going to know that God is talking to you,” he said.

In the spirit of the theme, Bishop Mark played host for a Bible version of the gameshow *Jeopardy*.

Campers teamed up and competed to answer Bible-related questions posed by the Bishop in his role as Alex Trebek.

That experience was one of many recreational opportunities afforded to the youngsters both weeks.

They also engaged in crafts,

swimming, and games.

“We make sure they get that mix here,” Swope emphasized. “They’re getting a great experience where they’re learning about their faith, having an active week, appreciating the creation that God gave us, and walking away hopefully closer to Jesus.”

Every camper seems to take away a different highlight from the experience.

For Adrian Gover, Evening Devotions are important.

“It really clears my mind and gets me ready for the next day and gets me closer to God,” concluded the parishioner of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha in Spring Mills.

“I’ve been learning a lot about

the Bible that I didn’t know before, and I know once I leave I’ll be able to learn more and keep using it my whole life,” stated Marian Stephens of Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Altoona. “Camp Z is always a lot of fun! It has been worth the wait all summer.”

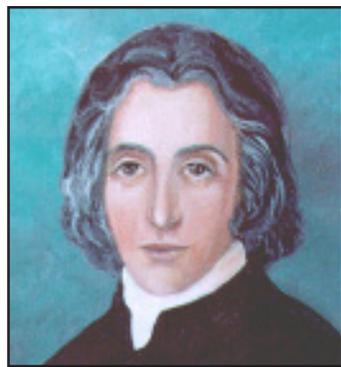
Editor’s Note: New this year, parents were able to see their child’s camp journey as it unfolded throughout the week. Videos and photos of various activities were posted on the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Youth Ministry Facebook page and the diocese’s general Facebook page. Please visit both sites to see highlights of the Camp Z 2018 experience.



HANGING WITH THE CAMPERS: Campers pose with Bishop Mark during his visit to session one on Wednesday, July 25. The Bishop also stopped by the second session on Wednesday, August 1. During his visits to Camp Z, the Bishop celebrated Mass and ate lunch with the youngsters.



JEOPARDY: Bishop Mark hosts a Bible version of the game show *Jeopardy* for students at Camp Zacchaeus. The fun activity played off the theme for Camp Z 2018: “Have You Heard the Good News? Journeying With the Bible”. Francine Swope, camp director, looks on.



A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

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

Sainthood Process Opens For Young Italian Mother

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) -- The Diocese of Rome formally opened the sainthood process for a young Italian wife and mother who avoided inducing a premature birth and invasive treatment for cancer while she was pregnant.

The diocese described Chiara Corbella Petrillo as a "beacon of light of hope" and "an example of a love greater than fear and death"

in the document opening the process July 2.

Her husband, Enrico Petrillo, told Vatican News July 21 that her growing "fame of holiness" is a kind of "consolation for me" as he sees so many people finding inspiration in the way she lived her faith. "She is doing so much good in heaven," he said.

Born in Rome in 1984, Corbella was active with the Catholic charismatic renewal movement and met Petrillo on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje in 2002.

Corbella wrote that her engagement to Petrillo was in deep

crisis until she realized, with the help of a spiritual adviser, that she hadn't understood her engagement to marry was a gift, not God trying to take something away from her.

After they married in 2008, their first child, Maria Grazia Letizia, was diagnosed in utero with a serious malformation. The parents chose to carry to term the child, who died less than an hour after she was born in 2009.

Their next child, Davide Giovanni, was also diagnosed with severe malformations and he, too, died right after birth in 2010.

When pregnant with her third child, who was found to completely healthy, Corbella discovered she had developed tongue cancer. They removed the tumor in March 2011 while she was pregnant, but the second round of treatment had to wait until after the child, Francesco, was born.

Corbella chose doctors who would help her continue her pregnancy as close to term as possible, because, she wrote, "I had no intention of putting Francesco's life at risk" with a premature birth.

A few days after the baby was born in May 2011, Corbella had a second operation and then began chemo- and radiation therapy. But the cancer had already spread to her lymph nodes, lungs, liver and right eye, and she died June 13, 2012, at the age of 28.

Petrillo told Vatican News his wife was peaceful and happy when she died because she recognized all the blessings, graces and beauty that had been in her life.

Maria and Davide, the babies who died right after birth, helped their parents experience the mystery of a life being full, no matter how brief it is, he said.

When a cause is formally opened, witnesses are called to testify about the life and holiness of the candidate, the person's writings are collected, and a biography is prepared. The diocese must gather evidence that the candidate has a widespread reputation for holiness and must look into claims by the faithful that they were healed through her intercession.

Pope Calls For Respect For Migrants As Death Tolls Rise



By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- With the rising death toll of migrants and refugees attempting the treacherous voyage across the Mediterranean Sea, Pope Francis urged world leaders to act to prevent further tragedy.

"I make a heartfelt appeal to the international community to act decisively and promptly in order to prevent such tragedies from recurring and to guarantee the safety, respect for the rights and dignity of all," the pope said July 22 after reciting the Angelus prayer with an estimated 25,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square.

According to the International Organization for Migration's Missing Migrant Project, an estimated 1,490 migrants have died in the Mediterranean Sea this year. The pope expressed his pain "in the midst of such tragedies" and offered his prayers "for the missing and their families."

In Italy, Interior Minister Matteo Salvini has barred several rescue ships from docking and has vowed to stop any foreign boats carrying rescued migrants into the country. The move has hampered rescue efforts of migrants trying to escape war, violence, persecution and poverty.

Before making his appeal, the pope reflected on the day's Gospel reading in which Jesus invites his disciples to rest after their first mission, but the gathering of a large crowd prevents them from relaxing and eating.

"The same thing can happen today as well," the pope said. "Some-

times we don't succeed in carrying out our plans because something urgent occurs that messes up our plans and requires flexibility and availability to the needs of others."

In those situations, he continued, Christians are called to imitate Jesus.

Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

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

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

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

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

+ + +

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FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES: Members of the First Communion classes at Saint Michael Parish in Hollidaysburg (above) pictured (left to right) are: First row--Allison Hayer, Adelaide Bryson, Gabe Pazcoquin, Connor Eberhart, Brooklyn Hemminger, Ava Zanfino, and Colton Sullivan. Second row--Liam Jancula, Amelia Servello, Matt Peachey, Vincent Albarano, Alex Zanfino, and Mia Bella Wansley. Third row--J. Declan Peterson, Olivia Kirsch, Jillian Buffone, Liam McGroarty, Andrew Neatrou, and Graham White. (Bottom) pictured (left to right) are: First row-- Zachary Blescia, Nicolas Georgiana, Lucia Montagnese, Tyler McGough, Finely Link, Alex Diaz-Marlin, Claire Long, and Cohen Chuff. Second row--Adalai Carney, Leah Pugh, Reagan Bihary, Grace Long, William Padamonsky, Gracie Ciofferi, Natalia Maserati, and Mara Ulery. Third row--Nicholas Bauman, Patrick Van Kleunen, Lily Davis, Joseph Kendziora, David Kendziora.



CELEBRATE: Pictured are members of the Confirmation and First Holy Communion classes at Holy Rosary and Saint Mark's Parishes in Altoona. Members of the Confirmation class (above) pictured (left to right) are: Front row--Samantha Walter, Father Ronald V. Osinski, administrator and pastor; Katheryn Clyma, Peyton Sanders, and Hailey Killinger. Back row--Daniel Potopa and Jude Miller. Members of the First Communion class (below) pictured (left to right) are: Front row--Ajaycia Alexander, Addison Heaton Andrew Burke, Kate Seidel, and Lillian Brown. Back row--Suzanne Barry, director of Religious Education; Cathy Vorndran, catechist; Father Ronald V. Osinski, administrator and pastor; Bonnie Pfeffer, catechist; and Valerie Kahley, director of Religious Education.



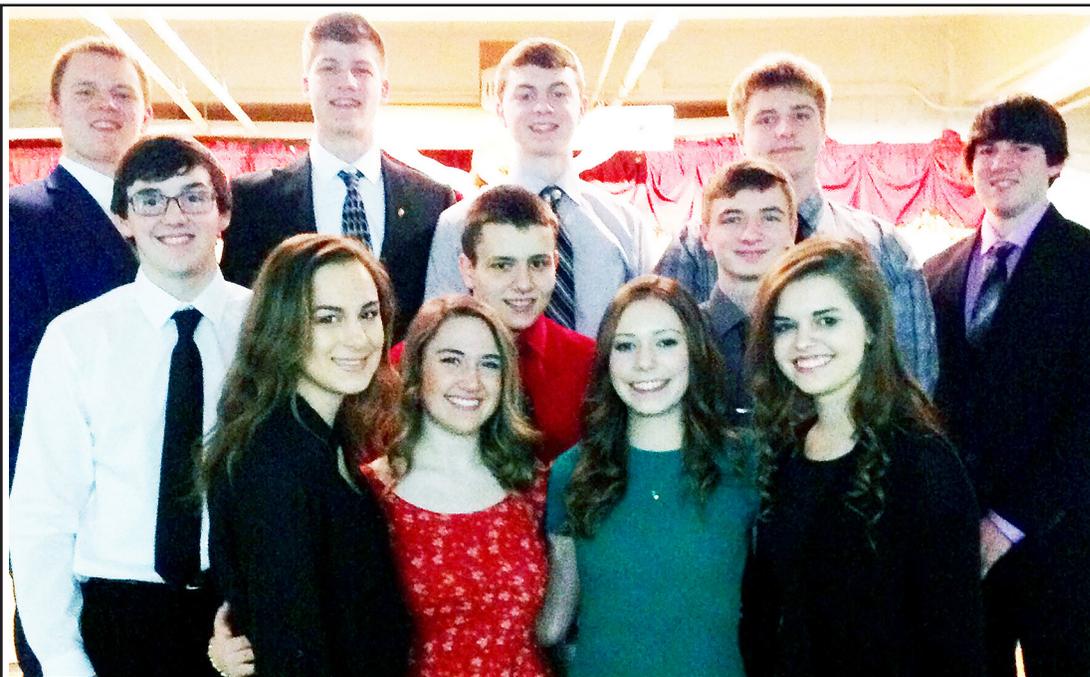
CONFIRMATION CLASS: Members of Confirmation Class at Saint Michael Parish in Hollidaysburg pictured (left to right) are: First row--Nathaniel Fisher, Abigail Goodman, Jenna Sheetz, Theresa Gildea, Paige Jodon, Jenee Delerme, and Kaitlyn Diehl. Second row--Austin Weakland, Anthony Martinelli, Connor Burns, Luke Ruggery, Luke Trumbour, and Robert Byrne. Third row--Zachary Yingling, Alexander Lieb, Adam Carey, Maxx Swineford, Jack Hatajik, Adam Baranik, and Izaac Wilkinson.

COMMUNION CLASS: Members of the St. Bernard Parish, Hastings, First communion class pictured (left to right) Front row--Gavin Rogal, Macy Keller, and Davin Warner. Back row--Grace Nevling, Sadie Bradley, Noah Thomas, and Addison Kopera



CELEBRATES FIRST COMMUNION: Members of the First Communion class at Most Holy Trinity Parish in Huntingdon pictured (left to right) are: Front row--Tegan Hanlon, Ellie Mazurowski, McKenzi Harpster, and Jenna Mazurowski. Middle row--Alex LoPiccolo, Mallory Erdman, Melody Merovich, and Owen McNeal. Back Row--Denise Gutshall, Capuchin Fr. John Harvey OFM, Fr. Mark Reid, administrator; Elaine Porter, and Rita Martinez.

OLV CONFIRMATION CLASS: Members of Our Lady of Victory, State College, Confirmation class are: Eleanor Ahern, Elizabeth Bagley, David Barone, Gabriel Billy, Noah Brytczuk, Sybelle Caviston, Sean Cawley, Derek Cestone, Audrey Clement, Julia Cusatis, Grace Dangelo, Olivia DeLaNuez, Madeleine DeNezza, Brady Dible, Lea Fisher, Anne Garrett, Anna Griggs, Nathan Guay, Gabriel Herrera, Hannah Hilands, Colleen Jones, Liam Jones, Emma Kerber, Kenzie Kocher, Riley Kracaw, Abigail LaPorta, Thomas Leahey, Sierra Leynes, William Lundy, Katie McGuire, Stephen Maher, Michael Manyak, Stephanie Miller, Elaina Ohlson, Shawn Oputa, Jacob Powers, Lexi Risha, Kathryn Salada, Enzo Sapia, Jack Sapia, Sean Scanlan, Ann Sepich, Benjamin Servey, Zachary Shunk, Genevieve Sicree, Rachel Smith, Katie Spearly, Matthew Steyers, Jason Thomas, Zane Thornburg, Sydney Washell, and Deacon David Lapinski.



2018 CONFIRMATION CLASS: Members of the 2018 Confirmation class at Saint Bernard's Parish in Hastings pictured (left to right) are: First row--Sara Snyder, Natalie Kopera, Sydney McAndrews, and Cassidy Patterson. Second row--Nicolas Bradley, Jared Fredo, and Alexander Weakland. Third row--Blaze McCombie, Bradley Lieb, Takota Miller, Christopher Coover, Connor Johnstone



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Catholic Bishops Pen Book On Pope Francis's Vision For Permanent Diaconate

By Catholic New Service

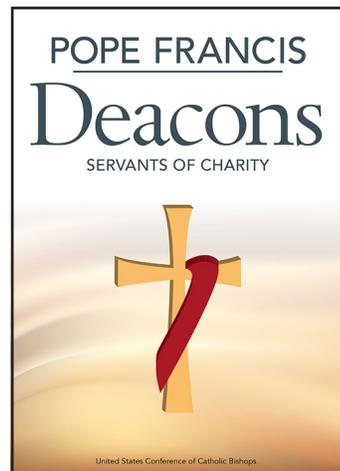
WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A new book titled "Pope Francis: Deacons -- Servants of Charity" available from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops "draws the reader into the sacred ministry of the diaconate."

The book "will inspire deacons, those thinking of becoming deacons, and all those drawn to the service of charity in the church," said a USCCB news release announcing the release of the book.

It discusses Pope Francis' vision for the diaconate, with deacons as ministers to the community of believers, in the service of Christ, their bishop, the poor and the body of Christ.

In 1968, the U.S. bishops petitioned the Vatican for permission to restore the diaconate in this country. The Second Vatican Council called for the return of a permanent diaconate in the Latin church, and Blessed Paul VI restored it in 1967. Although the Eastern Catholic churches kept the permanent diaconate, for hundreds of years the Latin church used the diaconate only as a transitional stage to the priesthood.

As of 2017, there were 18,287



permanent deacons in the U.S. About 40 percent of the world's deacons are in the United States.

"Pope Francis: Deacons -- Servants of Charity" reviews the renewal of the permanent diaconate and magisterial teachings on the diaconate. It includes at Pope Francis' words on the diaconate when he was when he was archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and his papal teachings, including his 2013 apostolic exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the Gospel"), which lays out a vision of the church dedicated to evangelization -- or missionary discipleship.

"Written through the eyes of a deacon, this study of the permanent diaconate discerns who deacons are

in relation to the church and the service that flows from their interior character as ordained ministers, preachers of the Word, and models of Christ," the USCCB release said about the book. "As deacons move along the path of charity, they herald the good news of Jesus Christ in the world."

Deacons Main Work Is Evangelization

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) --

The core vocational work of permanent deacons is to evangelize and care for others, not to perform office duties, the apostolic nuncio to the United States said to more than 1,300 deacons attending the 2018 National Diaconate Congress in New Orleans. In his post-Communion remarks at the opening Mass of the five-day gathering, Archbishop Christophe Pierre noted that St. John Paul II had declared that the "service of diaconal ministry finds its identity in evangelization. "I'm quite amazed to see so many deacons and wives of deacons," the nuncio said, as his message from the altar was displayed to the far reaches of the room on two oversized video screens.

Recalling the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the permanent diaconate in the *Latin-rite church by Blessed Paul VI through his 1968 "motu proprio" (on his own initiative) titled "Sacrum Diaconatus Ordinem," Archbishop Pierre lauded the permanent deacons for their humble service of charity, proclaiming the word and leading the faith community in prayer.*

Diaconate Has Strong Tradition In Church

Editor's Note: This year marks the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the Permanent Diaconate in the United States. In honor of the milestone, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will celebrate a Mass on Monday, September 17, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The faithful are invited. In observance of the anniversary, The Catholic Register is spotlighting the Permanent Diaconate through a series of vignettes prepared by the Office of the Permanent Diaconate.

Origins and Decline of the Permanent Diaconate

According to a 1998 Joint Declaration of the Congregation for Catholic Education and the Congregation for the Clergy, the service of deacons in the Church is documented from apostolic times. "A strong tradition, attested already by St. Irenaeus and influencing the liturgy of ordination, sees the origin of the diaconate in the institution of the 'seven' mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (6:1-6)." The Congregations go on to point out that St. Paul refers to them and to the bishops in his Letter to the Philippians (1:1), and he lists the qualities and virtues which they should possess so as to exercise their ministry worthily in his First Letter to Timothy (3:8-13). The order continued to flourish in the Western Church up to the fifth century. After this period, however, a slow decline ensued until it became simply an intermediate stage for candidates preparing for priestly ordination, only the transitional diaconate survived.

The path to restoration

The Council of Trent (1545-

1563) concluded that the permanent diaconate, as it existed in ancient times, should be restored to its original function in the Church. This recommendation, however, was not carried into effect.

It wasn't until the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) that the stage was set for the restoration of the permanent diaconate. The Council in its Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) established this possibility. According to the Joint Declaration, there were three reasons for opening the door to restoration: (1) a desire to enrich the Church with the functions of the diaconate, which otherwise, could only be exercised with great difficulty; (2) the intention of strengthening with the grace of diaconal ordination those who already exercised many of the functions of the diaconate; and (3) a concern to provide regions where there was a shortage of clergy with ordained ministers.

Blessed Pope Paul VI acted on the recommendation of the Second Vatican Council 1967.

In the next edition: Understanding the Order of the Permanent Diaconate

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NICKTOWN CONFIRMATION CLASS: Members of the St. Nicholas Parish, Nicktown, Confirmation Class pictured (left to right) are: First Row -- Gabrielle Stevens, Kaitlyn Kudlawiec, Katherine Yahner, Taylor Sherry, Paige Dumm, Leah Farabaugh, Gabriella Lessard, Megan Freidhof, and Sarah Farabaugh. Second Row -- Brennan Keith, Devin Gomish, Brian Birchall, Thomas Hamilton, Nathan Miller, Jordan Benamati, Samuel Krumenacker, Henry Dumm, Steven Morris, and Benedictine Father Alfred Patterson, pastor.

PA Supreme Court Clears Way For Redacted Grand Jury Report

Erie Bishop Lawrence T. Persico Backs Transparency

By Mary Solber
Catholic News Service

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) -- The Pennsylvania Supreme Court July 27 cleared the way for the August release of a redacted version of a grand jury report on clergy sex abuse that has been termed by one of the state's Catholic bishops as "graphic" and "sobering."

The seven-member high court ruled that the long-awaited report must be released as early as Aug. 8, minus the names of several clergy who argue that the report sullies their reputations without providing them their constitutional right to defend themselves.

If all parties agree to conceal the estimated 24 names, the nearly 900-page redacted report could become public Aug. 8. If an agreement is not reached by then, the court will appoint someone to assist in reaching a consensus by Aug. 14.

"There can be no doubt that the subject matter of the report is incendiary, and therefore, the stakes for individuals reproached therein are substantially heightened," Chief Justice Thomas Saylor said.

The Diocese of Erie in northwest Pennsylvania has been at the forefront of an effort urging the release of the report, which details widespread clergy sex abuse of minors in six of the state's eight Catholic dioceses. In addition to Erie, the dioceses are Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Allentown, Scranton and Greensburg.

Erie Bishop Lawrence T. Persico has repeatedly called for a swift and fair resolution to the legal quagmire. His most recent public statement on the matter came July 26, a day after Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro sent an unprecedented letter to Pope Francis, asking the pontiff to direct church leaders to "follow the path of truth" and abandon efforts to silence abuse survivors.

According to Bishop Persico, "Victims and their advocates have indicated that the delay of the report's release is causing more suffering. After two years preparing the report, the attorney general is understandably frustrated. And we have seen the concerns of the pe-

tioners who feel they have not had due process."

Bishop Persico was the only prelate in the state to testify in person before members of the grand jury, which was empaneled from 2016 to 2018.

"I believe in our legal system and have confidence that those involved understand the urgency and the import of the work that must be accomplished. A legal drama has been playing out in Pennsylvania since June, when Shapiro had planned to release the grand jury report in its entirety. But the state's Supreme Court ordered a last-minute stay after several clergy members who were named -- but not charged -- in the report argued that the document, if released without their comment, would violate their constitutional rights.

All six bishops of the dioceses investigated by the grand jury the past two years supported the release of the report, despite what Bishop Persico called its "graphic" and "sobering" content.

In his own diocese, which he has led since 2012, Bishop Persico is leading an effort to expose -- once and for all -- a tragic history of sexual abuse of minors by clergy and laypeople going back more than 70 years.

He is considered to be the first bishop in the nation to publish the names of priests and lay men and women who have been credibly accused of actions that disqualify them from working with children and youth.

"I want to express my sincere

sorrow for the sexual abuse that has occurred within the church, particularly here in the Diocese of Erie," Bishop Persico said last spring when he first publicly named 34 priests and 17 laypeople who were credibly accused of actions ranging from the use of child pornography to sexual assault of minors, and in some cases, inaction, or failure to report abuse.

He recently added more 11 more names to the Diocese of Erie's publicized list of clergy and lay men and women who have been credibly accused. "In publishing the list of those who have credible allegations against them, the first goal is to protect children," Bishop Persico said. "In publishing the list of those who have credible allegations against them, the first goal is to protect children," Bishop Persico said. "It is not possible for us to monitor all the people on the list. This is a necessary step in helping the public become aware of information that is critical for the community's well-being." He also said it was vital to publish the names "in the hope of helping the victims/survivors move one step closer to healing. It is important they know they are not alone."

SFU Plans Restructuring

Editor's Note: The following is a news release issued by Franciscan Father Malachi Van Tassell, president of Saint Francis University.

Since 1847, Saint Francis University has made it our mission to prepare workforce-ready professionals who are competent, caring, and compassionate. In a few short years, we will be celebrating our 175th anniversary. In order for our graduates to continue to be integral problem solvers for the next 175 years and beyond, we need to re-imagine the academic programming to meet evolving societal needs.

In May, I shared with the University community that we are working on a restructuring plan to better align programming and reduce costs while serving as a catalyst for innovation. We have made progress on the plan over the last two months, and we are ready to move forward with changes for the 2018-2019 academic year.

The first part of this — a bold, new academic organizational structure — will be apparent right away. After a period of examination and reflection this summer, we developed an innovative framework that will better align academic programming, while also decreasing the financial burden of supporting a large organizational infrastructure.

Going forward our existing portfolio of programs are realigned within three schools:

- The Shields School of Business
- The School of Health Sciences & Education
- The School of Science, Tech-

nology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics

This shift resulted from an in-depth study that found having academic fields separated into four schools has increased costs for students, and created silos that prevent the arts and humanities from being a truly immersive experience for all students. Conversely, these "silos" are impeding our liberal arts majors from fully experiencing the benefits of a strong business and STEM foundation.

According to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, nearly 300,000 jobs statewide require STEM skills. Over the next decade, more than 70 percent of new jobs will require these skills. We want to make sure these opportunities are accessible to every one of our graduates.

Our first obligation is to speak with those most impacted this week and then share changes with our entire University community on August 9. After that we will issue a public announcement. What I can share is that faculty positions are not being eliminated for the 18-19 academic year. Students are able to continue toward the major of their choice as no changes have occurred in programs and/or offerings. New majors are under development and programs will be reviewed in 2018 – 2020 that will offer additional career paths to students.

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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

Support Life At All Stages, 'Avoid Dirty Work Of Death'

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Behind the indifference toward human life lies a contagious illness that blinds people to the lives, challenges and struggles of others, Pope Francis said.

Like the mythical figure Narcissus, people risk becoming infected by a "contagious spiritual virus" that turns them into "mirrored men and women who only see themselves and nothing else," the pope said June 25 to members of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

"Evil looks to persuade us that death is the end of all things, that we have come to the world by chance and that we are destined to end in nothingness. By excluding the other from our horizon, life withdraws in itself and becomes just a good to be consumed," he said.

The pope told members of the Pontifical Family for Life that the "ethical and spiritual quality of life in all its phases" must inspire the church's "behavior toward human ecology."

He also said that life from conception, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, old age, as well in those moments when it is "fragile and sick, wounded, offended, demoralized, marginalized and those cast aside" is "always human life."

"When we surrender children to deprivation, the poor to hunger, the persecuted to war, the elderly to abandonment, we are not doing our own work but rather the dirty work of death. And where does the 'dirty work' of death come from? It comes from sin," he said.

Speaking to journalists after the pope's speech, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, said it was the first time the pope used

the phrase "dirty work of death" to describe issues that threaten the sanctity and dignity of human life.

"The dirty work of death means all areas -- even legislative decisions -- in which life isn't helped but rather weakened, hindered, not helped and not supported in all its forms," Archbishop Paglia said.

"In this sense, the pope exhorts us to do, in every way possible, the beautiful work of life and not be like Pontius Pilate, who washes his hand and allow the dirty work of death to cast innocents aside," he added.

Pope Francis also highlighted the need for "a global vision of bioethics" inspired by Christian thought, in which the value of one's life is not determined by sickness and death but by the "profound conviction of the irrevocable dignity of the human person."

Citing his 2015 encyclical, "Laudato Si", on Care for Our Common Home," the pope called for a "holistic vision of the person" and the importance of articulating clearly the universal human condition "beginning from our body."

"The acceptance of our bodies as God's gift is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father and our common home, whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation," the pope said.

Encouraging the Pontifical Academy for Life's work in promoting a culture of life in the field of bioethics, Pope Francis said that this culture must always look toward "the final destination" where every person is called to be in communion with God.

"To recognize and appreciate this faithfulness and dedication to life raises gratitude and responsibility in us and encourages us to generously offer our knowledge and experience to the whole human community," the pope said.



Amid The Fray

By Greg Erlandson

Diversity Is America

My wife and I moved from the Midwest to the East Coast a few years ago. There was a predictable amount of culture shock for both of us in leaving the manifest blessings of the Midwest: Housing prices (you can buy a palace for what a garage might cost elsewhere). Traffic (four drivers politely waving each other through at a four-way stop). Endless expanses of corn and soybeans (OK, those do get boring after a while, but they make current talk of tariffs affecting crop prices much more real).

One big culture change is that in our new neighborhood, we are a racial and ethnic minority. We had lost any sense of how segregated our neighborhood was in the Midwest until we moved east. Diversity isn't just a slogan out here. It is America in all its technicolor glory.

We have an Eritrean Orthodox Church down the street. The parks are filled with Latino families playing soccer or baseball. A cacophony of languages is the soundtrack to our grocery shopping or subway rides. We find ourselves smiling at all sorts of people. Almost always, they smile back.

There are unintentionally funny moments as well. Like the time my wife couldn't find her shade of nylons at Macy's. It took her a while to realize why. In our old neighborhood, an African-American woman might have had the exact same experience.

You look at the world a bit differently when not everyone around you looks like you. It can make you more sensitive to how others feel. You realize that people can typecast us just as we can typecast others -- even when we, or they, don't mean to.

Diversity can breed powerful feelings of empathy. To see how hard our Central American neighbors work, their entrepreneurial gusto and their desire to better the lives of their children: These scenes are all little homilies about the American spirit that has characterized the vast majority of its immigrants for more than 200 years.

Empathy is not always the emotion that is stirred. In recent years, there has been an increase in fear and hostility. Racial tensions and violence have made headlines. Foreign looking people have been

assaulted, even killed.

Hosffman Ospino, an American citizen born in Colombia, is one of the church's leading Hispanic theologians. In a recent article in America magazine, he described the isolation he felt in his Boston suburb, where his family has owned their own home for seven years:

"One of our neighbors came over decidedly. I stepped forward and, without giving me much time to utter a sound, she said, 'It is people like you and your family that are bringing this country down.' Then she turned around and has not spoken to me since."

'Humanae-Vitae' Gift To Church, Says Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Fifty years ago in issuing his encyclical "Humanae Vitae," Blessed Paul VI "reaffirmed the beautiful truth that a husband and wife are called to give themselves completely to each other," said the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Marriage reflects the love of God, which is faithful, generous and life-giving. Through their vocation, spouses cooperate with God by being open to new human life," Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston said in a July 25 statement marking the 50th anniversary of the document.

Dated July 25, 1968, "Humanae Vitae" ("Of Human Life") was issued at a Vatican news conference July 29, 1968.

Subtitled "On the Regulation of Birth," the encyclical reaffirmed the church's moral teaching on the sanctity of life, married love, the procreative and unitive nature of conjugal relations, responsible parenthood and its rejection of artificial contraception.

Before Blessed Paul was elected to lead the church, St. John XXIII had appointed a small committee to study the issue of the regulation of birth.

There have been similar confrontations, many caught on cell-phone video, that have gone viral. On the Fourth of July of all days, a 92-year-old man named Rodolfo Rodriguez, a legal U.S. resident, was beaten senseless by a woman yelling, "Go back to your country! Why are you here?"

Such violence, and the fear that underlies it, is contrary to the Gospel. What can Catholic parishes and Catholic people do?

The goal must be to encounter and accompany those we view as strangers, to put faces, names and stories to those we perceive as different. We need to partner with parishes with different demographics, go into neighborhoods and help those in need, and always, always, see Christ in everyone.

It's what Pope Francis is challenging us to do: Go out from our churches, reach beyond our parish boundaries and experience God's powerful love in encountering others.

Blessed Paul expanded the commission, which included several married couples. The commission's work ended in 1966 with the leaking of a report by the majority of members asserting artificial contraception was not intrinsically evil. The leaked report heightened expectations of a major change in church teaching.

The pope rejected the majority's recommendations and, instead, upheld traditional church teaching against artificial contraception, saying that the only licit means of regulating birth is natural family planning. In the document, he also asked scientists to improve natural family planning methods "providing a sufficiently secure basis for a regulation of birth founded on the observance of natural rhythms."

At the time of its release, it was greeted with protests and petitions. But the 50th anniversary has been marked by conferences, lectures and academic discussions as theologians, clergy, family life ministers and university professors have explored what its teachings mean for the 21st-century church.

"On this anniversary, I encourage all to read and prayerfully reflect upon this encyclical, and be open to the gift of its timeless truths," Cardinal DiNardo said. "We wait in joyful anticipation for the canonization of Paul VI in October."

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle

Did Jesus Die At 33?

Q. Our parish council the other night got into a discussion of several questions, one of which was this: Was Jesus actually 33 years old when he died, and how do we know? Can you help us? (West Pawlet, Vermont)

A. Although we do not know with certainty at what age Jesus died, it is generally believed that he was 33. The Gospel of Luke says, "When Jesus began his ministry he was about 30 years of age" (3:23). And John's Gospel notes that there were three annual feasts of the Passover during the course of Christ's public life -- one in Chapter 2:13 (the cleansing of the Temple), another in 6:4 (the multiplication of the loaves) and a final one in 11:55-57 at the time of the crucifixion.

Putting those references together, one is led to the conclusion that Jesus was probably 33 at the time of his death. The actual age, though, does not matter theologically, as no doctrinal truths are built upon it.

Q. My son is scheduled to

be a groomsman for one of his best friends, who has been living with his girlfriend for several years. It is to be a civil ceremony held in a hotel. I told my son that I would not be able to go since I am a Catholic and my attendance would look like approval. Naturally, my son was annoyed. Am I doing the right thing? (County Westmeath, Ireland)

A. As regards your son's friend and his bride-to-be, I am assuming that at least one of them is a Catholic. If not, of course, there is no problem with your attending their wedding. Non-Catholics, it stands to reason, have no obligation to marry with the Catholic Church's approval. But if at least one of them is a Catholic, then some other considerations enter in.

Presumptively, their civil ceremony would not be a valid marriage in the eyes of the church -- since they are not being married by a Catholic priest or deacon or, in the alternative, with the required dispensation from the church. But -- perhaps surprisingly -- canon law has no explicit prohibition against Catholics

attending an invalid wedding. That decision is left to the prudent judgment of a Catholic, after prayerfully considering several factors.

Maintaining peaceful relationships within a family is important. Also, it is certainly better for the couple in question to solidify their commitment with a civil ceremony than simply to continue living together -- and this might even be the first step in their full return to fidelity to Catholic practice.

On the other hand, one must not give the impression that the canonical norms of marriage do not matter, so you wouldn't want your presence at the wedding to be seen as a stamp of approval by the Catholic Church.

Weighing these several values, here is a course of action that I might suggest. Why not explain to your son that, after thinking and praying about it, you have decided to attend the ceremony out of loyalty both to him and to his friend? But tell him that you do have some reservations about doing so because of your strong belief that they should be married in a Catholic ceremony.

Then, ask your son if he would feel comfortable passing on your feelings to his friend. The ideal outcome would be that the friend, upon reflection, would be reminded of his religious responsibilities and decide to have the marriage blessed by the church.

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

Are We Listening?



I was bustling around the house when the phone rang.

Morning multitasking consumed me: making the bed, grinding coffee beans, getting dressed for a doctor's appointment, dashing out to the curb with the trash before the garbage trucks trundled down the street.

And, importantly, keeping the radio turned up loud enough that National Public Radio could be heard throughout the house.

It was, after all, an explosive week in national news. President Trump's visit with our NATO allies, the summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the incredible news conference that followed. Each day brought jaw-dropping revelations.

Ever the news junkie, I pushed aside my mystery novel each evening and immersed myself in the latest "breaking" news.

So, I felt a pang of impatience at the early morning phone call. I needed to hear what NPR's "Morning Edition" had to say!

A relative was calling, someone with whom I frequently chat. Often our comfortable conversations meander on as we trade family news and debate the world's problems.

This morning, I wasn't rude or particularly brusque. But I glanced at my watch -- repeatedly.

He hadn't had time to listen to the news, so what, he asked, was the hubbub about? I gave a cursory rundown despite the fact that with the amount of news I'd devoured I could have written a book. I made sure to mention I was on my way to the doctor, indicating more immediacy than necessary. We said goodbye.

Slowly, I felt the pang of impatience turning to a pang of guilt. Why did I need to hear one more news story? Was I keeping well-informed in case the State Department called me for advice? What was I thinking? What was more important than that phone call?

Did I forget, as the spiritual

writer Vinita Hampton Wright says, that we should "love as if loving is the first thing on our to-do list"?

We often hear that we don't listen to each other today. But in my own life I think the problem is that often I half-listen. Sometimes, like this particular morning, I am halfheartedly present. I forget that love should be the first thing.

One of my favorite prayer books is "Hearts on Fire: Praying with Jesuits." This pocket-size volume offers prayers, poems and insights from Jesuits ranging from St. Ignatius himself to Father Daniel Berrigan.

The prayer "Teach Me to Listen" by Jesuit Father John Veltri begins by praying that I listen to those "nearest me." Sometimes those are the ones we most easily tune out.

Maybe it's the 3-year-old asking "why" for the 30th time in an hour, the teenager with the gossipy after-school story or your spouse chatting about something while you absent-mindedly check your phone. We're not entirely present.

Father Veltri goes on: "Help me to be aware that no matter what words I hear, the message is, 'Accept the person I am. Listen to me.'"

Accept the person I am. Isn't that what that toddler is really saying? That teenager? Your spouse?

Isn't that what we're seeking when we share? Acceptance. This is who I am. Hear me. Love me.

Often we blame social media and those ubiquitous smartphones for our lack of attention, and they most certainly play a part. But we're in control here. We can put those phones down. We can prioritize loving in the present moment.

It's no coincidence that the people who are the best listeners are the most prayerful people we know. It's a good bet that those who listen to the Spirit first thing each day are also listening in each moment.



Bridget of Sweden

1303-1373

Bridget, or Birgitta, married a Swedish nobleman and they had eight children, including St. Katherine of Vadstena. About 1335 Bridget was appointed chief lady-in-waiting at the Swedish court. After she was widowed in 1344, she founded the Order of the Most Holy Savior, known as Brigittines. Bridget spent much time in Rome, living austere and caring for the poor and sick. She died there after a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Bridget claimed to have visions and inspirations throughout her life, prompting both influence and controversy. She was canonized in 1391.



Now Showing



Mamma Mia, Here We Go Again

The exuberant kitsch that was the trademark of the Swedish band Abba lives on in this musical romance built around their songs that serves as both a prequel and a sequel to the 2008 adaptation of the Broadway hit "Mamma Mia." Unfortunately, the sexual morals on display are as tacky as the score. As it does so, we discover why mom could never say for certain which of three men (in the disco era, Hugh Skinner, Jeremy Irvine and Josh Dylan, nowadays, Colin Firth, Pierce Brosnan and Stellan Skarsgard) was her daughter's dad. Beyond the bedroom, the ensemble of characters, rounded out by, among others, ma's best friends and bandmates (once Jessica Keenan Wynn and Alexa Davies, now Christine Baranski and Julie Walters) behaves very nicely, for the most part. And writer-director Ol Parker includes both a prayer-like opening number and a sequence leading up to an Orthodox baptism. But, although it's referenced rather than portrayed, the blithe acceptance of casual sex taking place within hours of people meeting each other is obviously not in keeping either with scriptural values or with human dignity. Benignly viewed promiscuity, a nonmarital bedroom scene, *some sexual humor, a single profanity.* *The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.*



CELEBRATE SACRAMENTS: The Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto celebrated Confirmation and First Communion. Members of the Confirmation class (above) pictured (left to right) are: First row--Anna Wyland, Matthew Byrne, Caitlin Stewart, Madison Lee, Laken Guzik, Sarah Cretin, Genna Grove, and Ryne Talko. Second row--Ashley Weakland, Daniel McDermott, Katanna John, Angel Trexler, Eve Little, and Gabrielle Krug. Third row--Trevor Hogue, Gavin Link, Justin Bianconi, Marcus Wirfel, Amber Beck, Keagan Beiswenger, and Father John D. Byrnes, rector. Members of the First Communion class (below) pictured (left to right) are: First row--William Corcoran, Ethan Eckenrode, Autumn Farabaugh, Isabella McMullen, Ian Beck, Grace Osman, Emma Eckenrode, and Izabella Lee. Second row--Brilyn Harber, Nicholas Dzaibo, La' Ryah McGhee, Claire Rice, Aubrey Strait, Zoey Link, Ava Wirfel, and Dominic Roudybush. Third row--Diesel Link, Kate Eckenrode, Austin Fahr, Trentyn Hassenplug, Jace Davison, Krista Della Valle, and Bella Weiland. Fourth row--Emily George, teacher; Father John D. Byrnes, rector; Deacon Richard Golden, and Jessica Mento, teacher.



Sunday Mass

**Broadcast Live from
the Cathedral of**

**the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona
10:00 a.m. WFBG Radio, 1290 AM**

Sunday Mass Telecast

**Live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral
Downtown Johnstown**

11 a.m. - Noon WATM - TV ABC Channel 23

Proclaim!

10:30 a.m.

A half - hour of local Church news and features



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Coming Up On Proclaim!

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

August 12 -- Dr. James Merrick looks ahead to his new teaching and campus ministry position at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy and his upcoming role in helping to form future deacons of the diocese.

August 19 -- Twin brothers Cole and Zach Lowe, members of Prince of Peace Parish in Northern Cambria, discuss their energetic faith as Catholic young adults.

Catholics Have History Of Helping Poor

By Ethan Miscavige

The Pennsylvania General Assembly passed its 2018-2019 spending plan a full five days before the constitutional June 30 deadline. Part of this year's \$32.7 billion budget includes \$12.5 billion for human services that help the poor - Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (known as SNAP or food stamps), housing assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and others. Many line items represent the state's obligation toward implementing federal programs. While these programs may seem like a fact of life today, they were not always available to people in need.

When the economy doubled from 1920 to 1929, Americans found it hard to believe that anything but good would come to the United States and its citizens. The stock market hit its peak in August 1929, and few Americans were out of work. But on October 29, 1929, "Black Tuesday," the stock market suffered a calamitous crash. The rush on banks caused financial turmoil, many valuable American jobs were lost, and people everywhere were left with little to nothing. To make matters worse, a severe drought caused decreased food production and increased food prices. Bread lines and soup kitchens became necessities, and many families broke apart. There was genuine fear for the future and the resulting wide spread poverty was known as the Great Depression.

In 1932 Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected president of the United States. He proposed many social programs to improve the lives of Americans including the Social Security Act. It was meant to support those who lost their jobs, the elderly, survivors of family breadwinners who passed away, and dependent or disabled children.

American Catholics were on the front lines of caring for the poor through the Church's charitable works, but also in advocacy for social justice. The National Catholic Welfare Conference (a precursor to today's United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) wrote a [letter to Congress](#) articulating Catholic support for the Economic Security Act, "Everything that promotes just legislation, and particularly such legislation as is beneficial and helpful to our needy citizens in this time of wide-spread distress, has received and will receive the full support of the National Catholic Conference." They also advocated



ETHAN MISCAVIGE

for the law to support the kind of public/private partnerships that are common today.

Decades later President Lyndon B. Johnson furthered Roosevelt's work. His "War on Poverty" helped poor communities by creating jobs, issuing loans, and providing guarantees for employers that hired the unemployed. Greater access to health care was granted when Medicare and Medicaid became law. And schools and early childhood programs like Head Start were given greater resources.

There was much debate in the 1930s and the 1960s about the role

of government in alleviating poverty. The debate continues today; but what remains is the need for society to care for the poor. Government alone cannot solve the problem of poverty. As Catholics we must do the best we can with the charitable works in our Church; but also work to change public policy to eliminate contributing factors to poverty.

Miscavige is a high school student doing a summer internship with the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. PCC Communications Director Amy Hill contributed to this story.



Politics And Charity Is Fine Line

By Amy Hill

A series published by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

Jesus said, "The poor you will always have with you" (Matthew 26:11); but who are the poor?

According to the U.S. Census, approximately 13 percent of Pennsylvanians live under the poverty line. This is a threshold determined by the Census Bureau to be the minimum income necessary for meeting basic needs. The annual income figure is adjusted by the number of family members that it is supposed to support. For example, in 2017, a family of four earning less than \$49,200 per year is counted as poor in the statistics. The poverty threshold is updated annually to account for inflation, but admittedly it does not provide a complete description of what families need to live. It is merely a statistical yardstick to help us gauge the economic circumstances of our communities.

Works of mercy, those charitable actions by which we help our neighbors with spiritual and bodily necessities, have been a concern for Christians since the beginning. We are called by Jesus himself to care for the needs of sufferers. Many of us know the corporal works of mercy by heart: feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the

naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2447)

This love for the poor is supposed to inspire our decisions about how we practice this Christian charity through direct giving and in our work toward alleviating conditions that contribute to poverty. While there is much debate about how to address the needs of the poor and who bears the greatest responsibility, it is certain that the Church alone cannot eliminate poverty.

As the public affairs agency for the Catholic Church in the state capital, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference sits at the intersection between Catholic Charities and state government policy. We must pay close attention to the debate about poverty in the public square.

This series of articles will explore a few important questions: What is it like to experience poverty? How does someone fall into that situation? What is Pennsylvania doing to address the problem? What can a concerned Catholic citizen do to help?

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up-to-date with Catholic news and issues at www.pacatholic.org, www.facebook.com/pacatholic, and www.twitter.com/pacatholic.

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New Organ Promises To Fill Church With Beautiful Music

Photos And Text By
By Tony DeGol

Saint Augustine said those who sing pray twice.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Altoona now has a remarkable instrument to accompany all those prayers.

A magnificent pipe organ with digital features was installed at the parish last month and promises versatility to accommodate all liturgical needs.

“It will fill every single nook and cranny of this church with some of the most beautiful sounds,” remarked Josh Dove, president and CEO of Whitesel Church Organs of Harrisonburg, Virginia. “It’s going to feel like just a big hug of music.”

Dove, who coordinated the installation, compared the features of the new instrument to a baker having a cupboard full of ingredients on hand to make whatever a customer would request.

“What we’ve done here for Our Lady of Mount Carmel is provide them with every possible ingredient that the Scripture would call for musically in order for (the organist) to make the proper and appropriate sound,” he assured. “He has all those ingredients now at his fingertips in a very cohesive instrument.”

And those fingers are ready to roll.

“Rarely do churches get to see such a significant installation like this,” reminded James Dengler, music director at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish.

The project became necessary after a series of issues surfaced with the former pipe organ, which was

installed in 1984.

According to Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Frank Scornaienchi, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, the cotton wrapped around the wiring had disintegrated and was posing a fire hazard.

Additionally, the leather in the pipes had become brittle, the volume control collapsed, the stops were unable to be changed, and the console could not be repaired.

Late last year, the parish launched a campaign and began working with Whitesel for the organ console and the Peragallo Pipe Organ Company of Paterson, New Jersey.

In April, the project moved into high gear.

Peragallo removed all of the organ pipes from the Our Lady of Mount Carmel choir loft and brought them to its New Jersey shop for cleaning and revoicing, Dengler said. The crew tested everything there and transported everything back to Altoona.

In mid-July, the re-installation of the pipes began, and the new organ console – manufactured in Italy – was installed.

“The versatility of this organ is just amazing,” Dengler commented. “It’s going to aid in various types of worship. The music that I’ll be able to play on this instrument will be much more diverse. I’m very, very excited.”

The new instrument, Dove added, does a number of things.

“One important thing to me was that we weren’t just making this organ larger just for the sake of making it larger,” he said. “What we were really doing was trying to make a cohesive instrument that would satisfy any musical demand throughout the liturgical calendar year.”



HOW DOES IT SOUND?: Josh Dove (left), president and CEO of Whitesel Organ Company, and James Dengler, music director at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Altoona, test the parish's new pipe organ during installation on Tuesday, July 25. The instrument promises amazing sound and versatility to enhance worship at the parish.

Father Frank pointed out that the new organ will allow the parish to continue its excellent music program and enhance the architecturally beautiful church.

“With all the additional features that this pipe organ has, it will be a great asset to support our growing choir and cantors,” he stressed.

Musicians at the parish love the potential the instrument offers.

“It’s the versatility of the pipe organ with its many new voices that

will enable the cantors, choir, and congregation to musically enhance the Liturgy,” noted Our Lady of Mount Carmel choir member John P. Brown, Jr.

The price tag for the organ was more than \$550,000.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is enjoying great success with its campaign. So far, the parish has received more than \$300,000 – more than half of its goal, Dengler said.

“The parish membership and

area corporate community have been very generous is helping to purchase the organ,” added Father Frank.

Anyone interested in contributing may visit the parish website for a pledge card or contact the parish directly.

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