

The Catholic Register

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Take Your Faith With You, Bishop Mark Tells Young People

Photos And Text By
Bruce A. Tomaselli

“When I have a problem with peer pressure my Catholic faith is a good place for me to turn,” said Matt Yahner, a sophomore at the Altoona Campus of Penn State University. He is a member of Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Altoona. Minutes earlier, Yahner participated in the annual outdoor Mass for college students

returning to school. The Mass is also for those going to college or higher learning for the first time, students beginning a new job or beginning a military career.

As a first year college student Brandon Kahley will be entering a whole new world. “My faith gives me guidance and I plan on continuing my prayer life,” he said with his mom as a witness. Brandon and his mom, Valerie, are members of Saint Mark Parish in Altoona. He

said he plans on attending Mass regularly while away at school. He sees his faith as a place to look for answers when there are tough questions. Brandon is a graduate of Altoona Area High school.

The annual Mass, sponsored by the Office of Campus Ministry, was held on Sunday, August 5 at Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine in Loretto. Bishop Mark

(Continued On Page 6.)



BISHOP MARK CELEBRATES ANNUAL COLLEGE MASS

Students, New Director Of Education Anxious To Begin New School Year

By **Tony DeGol**
The Catholic Register

For Maddie High and Anna Razzano, Math really adds up.

“It makes sense if you can think about it logically,” High explained.

“I really like adding, subtracting, and finding stuff,” concluded Razzano. “It’s like a treasure hunt.”

Math class is just one of many reasons High and Razzano, both students at Our Lady of Victory School in State College, are looking forward to heading back to the classroom.

They and their fellow students, along with parents, teachers, administrators, and pastors, are all ready to make the grade as Catholic schools throughout

the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown prepare to open for the 2018-2019 school year.

So, too, is the new leader of the diocesan Education Office.

“I’m very excited,” exclaimed Director of Education Jo-Ann Semko. “We have so many initiatives going on, we have so many excellent schools, fantastic students out there, and great families behind them. I see nothing but success in the future.”

Enrollment at the diocese’s 13 elementary schools for the coming year is expected to hold steady, Semko reported.

With the start of this new school year, the Education Office is launching Step By Step Learning® to implement a comprehensive research-based approach to literacy.

The process, expected to continue over two to three years, will include mentoring with teachers and embedded coaching with teachers and students.

“It’s just a good outside research firm to look at our system and make it better,” Semko said.

A totally revised curriculum is also complete, Semko announced, and will be available on the diocesan website in the near future.

Divine Mercy Catholic Academy in Johnstown has high hopes for the new school year.

“We are beginning our third year and are looking forward to having our best year to date,” Principal Tom Smith commented. “We are continuing to expand our STREAM program and have extended it to include grades seven

and eight in the McCort building. We have hired an experienced, award winning teacher to help build the STREAM program at the middle and high school level.”

A STREAM curriculum focuses on Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, the Arts, and Math. It is now featured in some form in all of the diocese’s Catholic elementary schools.

Smith pointed out that both the East and West campuses of Divine Mercy Catholic Academy have added academic learning centers.

“In this small group setting, eligible students will work at their learning level to enhance their knowledge and growth as a student.”

Meltem DiLeo, teacher and STREAM coordinator at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Altoona, is also excited about some new additions to the school’s program.

Most of her students are anxious to learn 3D printing.

“Additive manufacturing

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Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Adult Enrichment and
Lay Ecclesial Ministry
FALL CLASS SCHEDULE
All Are Welcome!

Heart of Faith

Our Lady of Victory, State College

Wednesdays: **6:30-8:30 PM**

September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24

St. Patrick School Building, Johnstown

Wednesdays: **6:30-8:30 PM**

September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24

Old Testament

St. Rose of Lima, Altoona

Tuesdays: **6:30-8:30 PM**

October 30; November 6, 13, 20, 27; December 4, 11, 18

St. Patrick School Building, Johnstown

Wednesdays: **6:30-8:30 PM**

October 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19

New Testament

St. Joseph Friary, Hollidaysburg

Thursdays: **6:30-8:30 PM**-September 6, 13, 20

Thursdays: **6:30-9:00 PM**-September 27; October 18, 25;
November 1

St. Patrick School Building, Johnstown

Thursdays: **6:30-9:00 PM** (6 weeks)

September 6, 13, 20, 27; October 4, 11

For more information: (814) 361-2000 / mheinze@dioceseaj.org

Course descriptions and registration forms online:

www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry/

Lay Ministers Vital To Parish Communities



2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Making Christ A Home In Your Heart

100% of your gift supports 14 ministries like [Lay Ecclesial Ministry](#)

Did you ever wonder what “ecclesial” means or even how to pronounce it? Ecclesial (**ec·cle·si·al**) means pertaining to the Church as the community of believers, with stress on their faith and union through love, and on the invisible operations of divine grace among the faithful. catholicculture.org

A story of Faith, Hope & Charity.

... in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God... 2 Corinthians 6:4

Lay Ecclesial Ministry allows men and women in our Diocese to deepen the influence of Christian faith in their lives by allowing them the opportunity to do extraordinary public service in parish life.

Lay ministers are called to use their unique gifts and talents to encourage our faith and help build up the Church. Lay ecclesial ministers are co-workers in the ‘vineyard of the Lord’ with the bishop, priests and deacons.

Preparation for this professional ministry in the Church takes both time and commitment—two to three years of theological education, study, prayer and prayer reflection; coupled with communication, group dynamics skills and leadership training. Participants can earn Diocesan certification in Basic Lay Ecclesial Ministry with two years of study, while an additional year earns an Advanced Lay Ecclesial Ministry certification.

Lay ministers are a vital part of parish communities serving in roles such as pastoral associates, or as directors of religious education, youth, liturgy and music. They can also serve in hospitals and health care settings, on college campuses and in prisons.

“We need well-formed lay people, animated by a sincere and clear faith, whose life has been touched by the personal and merciful love of Christ Jesus,” said Pope Francis.

Your support today of the **Lay Ecclesial Ministry** program will assist in the formation of lay people who have a missionary spirit. To learn more about becoming a lay minister visit ajdiocese.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry; call 814-361-2000, or email Mary Beth Heinze at mheinze@dioceseaj.org

Your gift to the Catholic Ministries Drive 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. The Catholic Ministries Drive continues through Dec. 31, 2018 and all donations are tax deductible.



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

Educating Youth

Sacramental Preparation

Youth Ministry

CARING FOR THE POOR AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Catholic Charities

Family Life

Fulton County Catholic Mission

Mandeville Diocese, Jamaica

In The Alleghenies

Carmelites Hosting Monthly Novena

The Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Loretto will hold the eighth Novena of 2018 to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Therese (the Little Flower) on Wednesday, August 22 to Thursday, August 30 in their Chapel in Loretto.

All intentions submitted to the nuns will be remembered with the special Novena prayers following the daily holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is held at 4:00 PM on every Sunday and every First Friday of the month. Everyone is welcome to attend the Benediction followed by the veneration of the relic of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus of the Holy Face.

Those who desire to share in the graces and blessings of these nine days of prayer, and in the private prayers of the Carmelite Nuns during the Novena, should send their petitions to: Mother Prioress, Discalced Carmelite Monastery, Post Office Box 57, Loretto, PA 15940.

12 Week Bible Study

Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Lakemont, Altoona will host a 12-week Bible study: "The Bible and the Virgin Mary." It will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 AM each Sunday in the cafeteria.

The presenter is Matthew Leonard an internationally known speaker, author, and executive director of the Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology. The facilitator will be Deacon Gene P. Neral.

The series is part of the Journey Through Scripture as presented by the Saint Paul Center.

Since books must be ordered, reservations must be made by August 22. The books required will cost about \$15 depending on participation. To make a reservation e-mail Dea-

con Gene Neral at gene@lifein-focus.net

Birth Of Mary Celebration

Saint Catherine of Siena Shrine on Old Route 22 in Duncansville, will hold the 37th Annual Birth of Mary Celebration. The event will be held on Saturday, September 8 at the church and shrine.

Franciscan Father Richard Davis, minister provincial of the Franciscan Friary in Loretto, will be the celebrant and homilist for the 5:00 PM Mass.

The day will begin with 7:45 AM Mass celebrated by Monsignor Robert Saly, pastor. He will also celebrate a 12:00 PM noon Mass.

At 8:30 to 11:30 AM and 1:00 to 4:00 PM there will be a continuous Rosary. The 1:00 to 4:00 PM Rosary recitations will be held in the church and Saint Catherine of Siena Shrine. In addition, there will be a Rosary Procession.

Food is available from 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Coffee and cake will be served after the evening Mass. Bring a lawn chair.

Petitions may be sent to: Birth of Mary Celebration, P. O. Box 88, Duncansville, PA 16635. Donations are welcome.

Father Mark Begly To Speak At Charismatic Gathering



FATHER MARK BEGLY

Father Mark Begly, pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Johnstown, will speak at 7 PM

Ecumenism Course

Monsignor Michael Becker, Ecumenical minister for the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese, will be offering a special introductory course: **Ecumenism: Understanding Other Christians.**

The course will be offered from 6:30 to 9:00 PM on Monday, September 17 and 24, and on October 1. Registration is \$10 and is required by September 10.

Christ is loved by many who are not of the Catholic Faith, but who are rooted in various Christian traditions. They are neighbors, friends, and spouses. Often we know so little about their traditions. Ecumenism involves the study of various Christian traditions with the desire to grow into communion and friendship with them.

To register contact the Family Life Office at (814) 886-5551. Payment can be mailed to the Family Life Office, 5379 Portage Street, Lilly, PA 15938



PROFESS VOWS: Franciscan Brothers Marius Strom (left) and David Todd (right), professed final vows with the Third Order Regular of the Saint Francis Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Loretto. Pictured with them (center) is Franciscan Father Richard Davis, minister provincial. Brother Todd is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John and Kay Sappenfield Dodd of Nashville, TN. Brother Strom is the son of Stephen and JoAnne Kovalcik Strom of Telford, PA. Brother Todd will continue his studies toward priesthood at Catholic University of America in Washington. Brother Marius is serving in the Engineering Department at Saint Francis University, where he will continue to serve.

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 20th, Praise & Worship, 7pm—
Fr. Mark Begly—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.

**Sun, 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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Sister Remembered For Dedication



GALLITZIN CROSS HONOREE: Sister Marietta Therese Hanley, SSCJ, (left) received a Prince Gallitzin Cross in 2015. She is pictured at the banquet with (left to right) her mother, Julia Hanley; Bishop Mark L. Bartchak; Mother Amabilis, SSCJ; and Sister Jacinta Miryam Hanley, SSCJ, one of her siblings. Sister Marietta Therese passed on Friday, August 3 after a lengthy illness.

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

We all know someone to whom we cannot say “no.”

Sister Marietta Therese Hanley was one of those individuals.

“She would ask you to help with a project and say it would only take about 20 minutes,” Tyler Moudry recalled with a smile. “Three hours later, you were still doing the same project.”

Moudry, a teacher at All Saints Catholic School in Cresson, has cherished memories of Sister Marietta Therese, who also taught at the school when Moudry first started.

“She was constantly busy,” he added. “She never stopped. She just had a presence about her. You felt better about yourself just being around her.”

Sister Marietta Therese, a member of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, passed on Friday, August 3 after a lengthy illness.

(Please see obituary on

page 15).

Hundreds of mourners filled Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Cresson for her viewing on Tuesday, August 7.

A standing room only funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, August 8 at Saint Aloysius Parish in Cresson. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak was in attendance. Father John Byrnes, Rector of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel and Judicial Vicar of the diocese, was the celebrant.

In his homily, Father Dennis Carbonaro, a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, highlighted what the Word of God tells us about life, suffering, and death.

“Anyone can say ‘God is good’ when the sun is shining, but when a person bearing painful suffering can still laugh, smile, be interested in others, witness to Christ, and encourage faith, now that person understands what we mean when we say that suffering is redemptive and nothing can separate us from the love of God,” he said, referring to Sis-

ter’s unbreakable spirit throughout the challenges of her illness.

“Anyone who seeks suffering is a fool, but anyone who does not accept suffering when it comes in resignation to God’s will is also a fool,” added Father Carbonaro. “Sister Marietta Therese was no fool. No doubt she had her days, and yet faith and love triumphed.”

Highlighting the words “infectious” and “vivacious,” Bishop Mark recalled Sister Marietta Therese’s dedication to consecrated life in his remarks at her funeral Mass.

“They are such a joy,” he said of men and women religious, crediting their influence on his vocation. “Their life and their experience with God is so infectious that we don’t even know what we’ve been infected by until one day we realize that somehow God has gotten inside of us in that same joyful way.”

The Bishop could not help but notice the many young people gathered in the church and offered them something to consider as they discern their own vocation in life.

Vocation View



*By
Father
Matthew Reese*

*Diocesan
Director Of
Vocations*

Sister Marietta Therese, a member of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus with convents in Cresson, Munster, Middletown, and Grand Rapids, Michigan, has passed into eternal life at the youthful age of 56. She suffered a long extended illness in her final years and yet anyone who knew her, even if superficially, could see that she exhibited authentic joy in the midst of suffering.

As the Temporary Administrator of the parish communities in Cresson, I had the privilege of witnessing some moments of her approach to the inevitable culmination of her life on earth. Always the teacher at heart, she did not pass up any moment to teach as many people as she could about the beauty of living the life of faith as she held gatherings with many people to pray and to teach. When she was in her final days, I had visited her bedside and I noticed two significant things: that she did suffer many pains with her illness and that she accepted them and offered them for herself and for others as graciously as the pain would allow.

Why do I write about any of this in a column about vocations? The merit of suffering souls always brings about good fruits. Would it surprise you to learn that this week alone nine girls contacted the order inquiring about a vocation to the religious life? I have heard many speak about Sister Marietta Therese’s death as a very holy death. That she had touched many souls in this life was witnessed by the overflowing number of people coming to her viewing and Funeral Mass, including Bishop Mark Bartchak and 20 priests from the Diocese, the Third Order Regular Franciscans, and around the state of Pennsylvania.

Vocations to priesthood and religious life are almost always more numerous where we see priests and religious striving to live authentic lives. The key word here is “authentic” because we are all human beings. We will inevitably be tempted to, and likely will fall into sin from time to time. Authenticity simply means that we humbly acknowledge our place and our need for a Savior who gives us forgiveness and helps us to grow while we carry out our vocations as best as we can. Sister Marietta Therese is a human being. All of the Saints are human beings. They all faced these same struggles that we face. It is how we handle these struggles, along with the salvific grace of God, that define the “legacy” of our lives, which ultimately should be the glorification of God and His goodness and His majesty.

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

“You are the beneficiaries of the vivaciousness and the infectious joy of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, especially as lived and expressed in the person of Sister Marietta Therese,” he said.

Tips For Sending Children Back To School

Summer is winding down and within a few weeks our community schools will be opening their doors and welcoming their students for the new school year!

Whether it is a child's first time entering school, or returning to start a new grade, there can be feelings of nervousness for both the child and the parents. As parents and caregivers prepare for the beginning of school and ease out of the carefree days of summer, here are a few tips you might consider adding to your routine:

- If a child is starting school for the first time or has changed buildings due to going into a higher grade or a new school, consider taking your child to the building prior to school starting and walking through the facility as a family. If older siblings have attended there (or still attend there) ask them to talk about what's nice about the school, who their favorite teachers are/were and what their best memory of that school has been.
- If your school is offering a meet and greet the teacher night, or an orientation for students/parents, consider taking advantage of the opportunity to schedule time to meet the teachers and school staff.
- Discuss schedules: let your child know what their schedule will be like, what time school begins, when lunch will be and the time of day that school ends.
- Approximately a week before school begins, set a bed time earlier and begin to get up earlier to create a comfortable daily school attendance schedule. To avoid the morning rush and chaos, take a few moments the night before for the following: Take time to prepare the breakfast table, pack lunches, choose outfits and have backpacks ready to go.
- Ask your child if there is anything



By Cindy O'Connor



they are feeling hesitant about regarding school. How they are feeling about starting a new year of learning? Explain to your children that every single day adults learn new things too. Share pleasant stories of your childhood school years, what subjects you liked and why and what important lessons you learned that continue to help you today.

- Promote the positive aspects of school as well. School is a place where they will see their friends and make new ones. Share with them that everyone gets nervous the first few days, including the teachers.
- Put a note in your child's lunchbox telling them that you are thinking of them while they are at school and how proud you are of them. Take advantage of opportunities where parents are permitted to be involved and assist with classroom activities or school events.
- Have healthy afterschool snacks ready and opportunities at dinner for them to share with you about their day.
- If possible, have your child be engaged in afterschool activities and sports. Often afterschool programs offer homework assistance, tutoring and exercise programs.
- Talk to your children about being safe and staying safe and about bullying. Remind

your children that if anyone should make them feel uncomfortable or unsafe, to tell you immediately or to tell a trusted adult. The adult could be their teacher, the principal or the guidance counselor. They should tell you as well as soon as they come home if they have told a teacher or another adult first.

- Remember to yield for school buses and watch out for children going to and from the bus stops and those who walk to school.

As a community of faith, please add intentions of prayer for our schools: parochial, public and private. Now more than ever, prayers are needed for all students, educators, support staff, bus drivers, school boards, security and school resource officers, community partnerships and cafeteria personnel. Remember all types of schools, brick and mortar, and online educational organizations.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) offers an easy 'Prayer for Safety' that can be said daily, all year long!

Strong and faithful God, keep our son/daughter safe from injury and harm and make him/her a blessing to all he/she meets today. Amen

Source: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayer-for-safety.cfm>

The [Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-household-blessings-and-prayers-p/5-645.htm) book offers this prayer and many more for God's blessings for the school year, for students and teachers. It is a great resource for intentions to strengthen families and can be purchased through the USCCB website: <http://store.usccb.org/catholic-household-blessings-and-prayers-p/5-645.htm>.

For inquires 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.

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.

(Continued From Page 1.)

Take Your Faith

L. Bartchak was the main celebrant for the Mass. It was con-celebrated by Father John D. Byrnes, rector of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto; and Monsignor Michael A. Becker, coordinator of Campus Ministry. Deacon Sam Albarano of Our Lady of the Alleghenies Parish in Lilly served as deacon.

Weather-wise it was a perfect evening for an outdoor Mass and a large crowd took advantage to worship with the bishop.

Bishop Mark urged the students to pray, listen to the Word of God, and receive the Sacraments. "Remember the Sacrament of Penance. Jesus wants you to hunger for forgiveness," said Bishop Mark.

"Remember the words of Jesus in the Gospel, 'I will feed you with the bread of life,'" said the bishop. "Go to Mass regularly and receive Communion."

Natalie Nardelli is a sophomore at the Altoona Campus of Penn State University. She is a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Altoona. Natalie has remained committed to God and her faith while attending college and participates in the Mass every week.

"My education at Altoona Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School has helped me stay committed to God," Nardelli said. "College campuses can be hard, especially if you're not trusting in God."

Bishop Mark said in his Homily, "you are heading to a new phase in your life and you should not forget all of the good things you have learned."

He told the students to remember who they are and that they are human beings with dignity made in the image and likeness of God. "You must take care of yourself," he said. "Get sleep, eat healthy, and exercise. Your brain won't work if you are overly tired."

He told them to stay away from sex, drugs, alcohol, and smoking. "Do I need to explain that to you?" Bishop Mark said. He told them that all he needs

to do is to tell them some stories of young people who have come to him ashamed and all messed up because of something they did while they were under the influence of alcohol or another substance. "Be careful who you make friends with," he warned. "You might say it won't happen to me, but bad things can happen to anyone. Remember why you are going to school. You are there to learn job skills, but you're there to learn the truth and to find out who you should become in this world.

"Don't leave your Catholic faith at home," said the bishop. "Read the Bible just a few minutes each day and do what God wants you to do. There are thousands of Bible apps you can download. And, if you don't have a hard copy of the Bible, see me after this Mass and I'll make sure you get one," he added.

"Welcome to the next chapter of your lives," continued the bishop. "Take good care of yourselves and find the right people with which to socialize. Remember that Jesus is always near. May God bless all of you and continue to strengthen your faith."



GIFT OF JOURNALS: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak presents a journal to a young college student. He also presented them to young people who joined the military or are about to begin a new career.

(Continued From Page 1.)

School Opening

is changing the world and the way products are designed and manufactured," she said. "This year, we are beginning our addi-

tive manufacturing journey with support from the community and businesses."

She acknowledged the Saint Michael's Men's Club for donating for a 3D printer and General Electric for granting great resources, lesson plans, and materials including a high performance 3D printer.

"I am so glad that we were selected to participate in 2018-2019 GE Additive Education Program from over 3,000 schools from 41 countries," she said. "I can't wait to integrate this technology into our STREAM challenges and projects."

DiLeo said HTCS will continue to offer students experiences in computer science, robotics, engineering, First LEGO League, and other robotics competitions.

"These kind of STEM competitions are great because they expose students to research, critical thinking, creativity thinking, problem-solving, engineering, computational thinking, collaboration and communication," she said. "I am looking forward to an excellent academic year in our STREAM program with excellent learning opportunities for our students."

Beyond academics, enhancing the Catholic environment of our schools will be paramount.

Semko is launching the RICH program, which focuses on Respect, Integrity, Courage,

and Humility.

"This is a cooperative effort across the diocese to bring the Gospel message to a new and heightened awareness in the lives of our students and their families," she stated. "Along with our ARISE program (the diocesan-wide renewal initiative), our students will be submerged in the essence of what a Catholic Christian life looks like when it is lived everyday with Christ as the center of our daily actions and encounters."

As part of the program, students from every grade level in each school will team up in faith families for regular RICH activities. Each faith family will move with students throughout their years in Catholic school, Semko noted.

She offered thanks to Saint Francis University in Loretto and Mount Aloysius College in Cresson for providing funding for the RICH T-shirts students will wear throughout the year.

Pastors also welcome the opportunity to see Catholic school students grow spiritually.

"One of the things that inspires me is that our students enjoy getting back into the structure of the school year," said Father John Byrnes, Rector of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel and Pastor of Saint Michael School in Loretto. "They grow in their faith through the daily classroom prayers, and with repetition, they learn these classic prayers, such as the Morning Offering, by heart."

Regular school Masses not only bring students closer to Jesus, but also each other.

For many years, Saint Michael School has paired older students with the younger students as "church buddies" to help them guide them through the Liturgy, Father Brynes noted.

"One of my altar servers told me this summer that he is looking forward to helping his little church buddy when we return to classes," he said, noting that these relationships really do endure and build up the Church.

"In fact, one of our summer brides, a former student, invited her church buddy to serve her wedding this summer," pointed out Father Byrnes. "This young man just graduated from Bishop Carroll. Twelve years later, these grade school faith relationships endure. That says something great about Catholic education!"

BISHOP DESCRIBES CROSS: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak has the full attention of two students at the Divine Mercy Catholic Academy School in June. He's always delighted to interact with the students and answer their questions.

Pope Advances Sainthood Causes Of Four

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic New Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis issued decrees advancing the sainthood cause of four candidates, including a widowed mother of nine from Mexico, who founded groups for laypeople as well as two religious congregations.

At a meeting June 8 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, the pope signed a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Venerable Concepcion Cabrera Arias, thus paving the way for her beatification. Another miracle would be needed for her canonization.

Born Dec. 8, 1862, in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, Venerable Cabrera was known for her spiritual devotions and writings. She married Francisco Armida

in 1884 and had nine children before his death in 1901.

She founded the "Works of the Cross," which includes a religious order for women, one for men and apostolates for laypeople. She died in Mexico City in 1937 and was declared venerable by St. John Paul II in 1999.

The pope also recognized the martyrdom of Argentine Bishop Enrique Angel Angelelli Carletti of La Rioja, Fathers Carlos Murias and Gabriel Longueville, and of a layman, Wenceslao Pedernera.

Bishop Angelelli was killed Aug. 4, 1976, while returning from celebrating a Mass for the two priests who were murdered a month earlier. Pedernera was murdered one week after Fathers Murias and Longueville were murdered.

The Argentine bishop had collected evidence regarding the

military's involvement in the death of the two priests and was targeted for assassination by the dictatorial government. The car he was riding in was forced off the road.

Although his autopsy revealed that he died to trauma from a blunt object, authorities at the time ruled that his death was an accident. In 1986, the newly established democratic government in Argentina confirmed his death was a homicide.

A recognition of martyrdom means the four can be beatified, a step toward sainthood, without a miracle attributed to their intercession.

The other decrees signed by the pope recognized miracles attributed to:

-- Blessed Nunzio Sulprizio, an Italian layman born April 13, 1817. He died in Naples in 1836.

-- Venerable Guadalupe Ortiz de Landazuri, a Spanish laywoman and member of Opus Dei. She was born in Madrid in 1916 and died in 1975.

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).

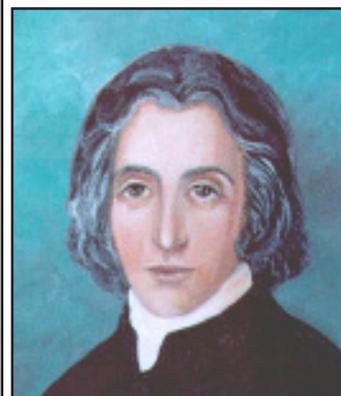
May Christ's saving work continue to the end of the ages, and may we feel a more urgent call to work for the salvation of every creature. We pray this, as did your priest Demetrius Gallitzin, through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,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

+ + +

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A Prince In The Service Of The Great King



FAMILY OF THE YEAR: The Youngs of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., are the Knights of Columbus Family of the Year at the Baltimore Convention Center. Members of the family, honored August 8, are from left, Christopher, 17; Mary, 9; Ryan, the father; Grace, 12; Elizabeth, the mother; Justice, 8; and Trinity, 15. The family also includes Faith, 2, and Xavier, 5 months.

K Of C Names Family Of The Year

By Paul McMullen
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- A little more than two decades after they met at an ice cream social on the second day of class at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, Ryan and Elizabeth Young head the Knights of Columbus International Family of the Year.

With five of their seven children in tow, the parishioners of St. Martin de Porres Parish in Poughkeepsie, New York, accepted the honor Aug. 8, day two of the Knights 136th annual national Supreme Convention at the Baltimore Convention Center. They're the founders of Camp Veritas, a summer camp for Catholic high school students that began in 2008 in New York, spread to locations in Ireland and Florida.

"We were getting a lot of kids from the South, enough to consider another location, and I had attended Mount 2000 on a number of occasions," Ryan Young explained, referring to the retreat for high-schoolers sponsored by the seminarians of Mount St. Mary's.

The camp began at Camp Lakota and has since grown to also include Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh, New

York; Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center in Lake Placid, Florida; and Clongowes Wood College in County Kildare, Ireland.

Like his wife, who is an assistant professor at Marist College, Young is a physician's assistant. They are the parents of Christopher, 17; Trinity, 15; Grace, 12; Mary, 9; Justice, 8; Faith, 2; and Xavier, 5 months.

In addition to Camp Veritas, Young, 41 serves as the director of the Fearless Retreat Program, hosted by Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of New York.

Young began the camp before he joined Knights Council 7551 in Poughkeepsie, which supports both of his signature outreaches. In addition to running his parish blood drive, he's involved in council efforts that include Food for Families, Habitat for Humanity and Coats for Kids.

With a demanding job and a large family, where does he find the inspiration and time to be involved hands-on with so many different philanthropies?

"If I'm not going to do it, then who should I expect to do so?" Young said, turning around the question. "The Lord, when you hear his voice, it can be a persistent one."

A Tradition Ends With Closing Of Franciscan Mission Store In Loretto



Photo By Bruce A. Tomaselli

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

After more than seven decades in business, a familiar store will soon be no more.

The Friar's Shop in Loretto has announced that it will close its doors on Saturday, September 15.

The store, which opened in 1942, sells many religious items including statues, crucifixes, rosaries, Bibles and other religious books.

The Sacred Heart Province of the Third Order Regular Franciscans owns the store and decided to sell the property to Saint Francis University for its

Dorothy Day Outreach Center.

According to Friar's Shop manager Melissa Yeager, the Province felt the timing was right for the transition since the property will be used for such a valuable ministry.

The Dorothy Day Center at Saint Francis University assists local families with food, clothing, programs, and other support.

"We hope to continue our good work there – just a different setting," said Third Order Regular Franciscan Brother Gabriel Amato, director of the Dorothy Day Outreach Center, noting that the center is still part of the university and students will continue

to assist in the ministry.

Yeager said customers of the Friar's Shop included young families, senior citizens, college students, and members of religious communities.

"It was pretty much the whole gamut," she added.

Many customers found the store – located at 115 St. Mary Street, near the SFU campus – to be a great place to buy gifts for family and friends who received sacraments like Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation, Yeager noted.

"It is a bit said," she said of the closing. "I will definitely miss my customers. I love working for the friars. I couldn't have asked for a better experience here."

Yeager said she will continue her employment with the Franciscans in another capacity. Other Franciscan employees have helped out at the store over the years as needed.

Everything in the store is currently on sale. The store's hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Monday, September 3 is a Day of Prayer in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. On Labor Day the local Church will observe the intention for **human rights** and **equality**. Pray the following prayer for all of those who seek just and rewarding work:

"God of all compassion and love, guardian of the oppressed and lover of the poor, watch over and protect our brothers and sisters who seek work that meets the needs of their families. Provide labor that offers just wages and dignity of life so that all may live comfortably and in peace. On this Labor Day we ask your blessings through Christ Our Lord. Amen"

Father Scornaienchi Elected Minister Provincial

Franciscan Father Frank Scornaienchi, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Altoona, was elected Minister Provincial of the Franciscan Friars Immaculate Conception

Province. He was installed on June 21, at Saint Bernadine Monastery in Hollidaysburg by Franciscan Father Nicholas Polichnowski.

Father Frank was born in 1952 to Albert and Mary Scornaienchi of Johnstown and attended Johnstown Bishop McCort Catholic High School where he graduated in 1970. In that year he entered the Franciscan Friars and made his first profession of vows at Saint Bernadine Monastery. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Jerome Pechillo in May of 1979.

Father Frank received a bachelor of Philosophy degree from Oblate College and a master of Teaching Science in Mathematics degree, both from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

He is a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic School Board, the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, and the Diocesan Finance Council all in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese.

Father Frank leads the providence that has friars ministering in Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio,



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RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION: Members of the First Communion class at Saint John Parish in Summerhill pictured (left to right) are: Front row--Brayden Myers, Kinleigh Baumgardner, Jocelyn Myers, and Paelyn Pcola. Back row--Benedictine Father Leon Hunt and Shawn Ray.



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS: Members of the Holy Family Parish, Portage, First Communion class pictured (left to right) are: First row--Gianna Gentile, Lucy Lee, Sophia Miller, and Mya Burda. Second row--Melissa Lee, director of Religious Education; Kimberly Klein, Johanna Noel, and Avery Smith. Back row--Franciscan Father Tom Stabile pastor; and Maryellen Young, teacher.



CONFIRMANDI: Members of Saint Augustine Parish, Saint Augustine, Confirmation class pictured (left to right) are: Front row--Franciscan Father Christopher Lemme, pastor; Morgan Shreyer, Lindsey Drass, Kelsey Krug, Tia Sherry, and Jane Stoltz, director of Religious Education. Back row--Roy Holtz, teacher; Miranda Stasko, teacher; Seth Link, Clayton Nelen, and Scott Riner.

Plans Fall Into Place For Fall Launch Of ARISE

As the faithful enjoy these final weeks of summer, plans are continuing for the fall launch of ARISE Together in Christ, the diocesan-wide pastoral renewal initiative.

ARISE is for anyone seeking to deepen their relationship with Christ through faith-sharing and nurturing Christian friendships.

During five seasons over three years, the experience will provide opportunities to connect meaningfully with Christ and one another through small faith-sharing communities. The groups will gather for six weeks in the fall and during Lent.

Each parish in the diocese will have its own plan for sign-up. In the coming weeks, parishes will release details regarding the dates and times for small faith sharing communities. The groups will begin the week of October 7 in most parishes, however parishes are free to start at a time determined by the pastor and



leadership team.

In September, a series of training sessions for small group leaders will be held at various locations throughout the diocese. Please visit the special ARISE section of the diocesan website, www.dioceseaj.org, to register.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will celebrate a Mass of Commissioning for small community leaders on Sunday, September 23 at 2:00 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the campus of Saint Francis University in Loretto. Please register through the diocesan website.



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS: Members of the Saints Gregory & Barnabas Parish First Communion class pictured (left to right) are: First row--Anna Martinec, Kira Amenti, Stone Santoya, Gavin Haynal, Greyson Studer, Cecilia Conrad, and Addalyn Dunbar. Second row--Margaret Stiffler, Madilyn Wang, Laine Poborski, Carly Oleksa, Bella Kist, and Marianna Weaver. Third row--Carey Stiffler, catechist aide; Father Robert Ruston, pastor; and Mary Beth Deitke, catechist.

Understanding The Order Of The Permanent Diaconate, A Servant In A Servant-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.

Who is a Deacon?

A deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church. There are three groups, or "orders," of ordained ministers in the Church: bishops, presbyters and deacons. Deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world of Christ, who came "to serve and not to be served." The entire Church is called by Christ to serve, and the deacon, in virtue of his sacramental ordination and through his various ministries, is to be a servant in a servant-Church.

Deacons are Married

The Second Vatican Council decreed that the diaconate, when it was restored as a permanent order in the hierarchy, could be opened to "mature married men," later clarified to mean men over the age of 35. This is in keeping with the ancient tradition of the Church, in which married men were ordained into ministry. Also in keeping with ancient practice is the expectation that while a married man may be ordained, an ordained man, if his wife should die, may not marry again without special permission. The majority of permanent deacons are married with children and grandchildren. Since deacons volunteer their services and are not paid by the church, they must maintain a job. A deacon is instructed that his priorities are (in order): family, job, the diaconate. Most people do not realize the sacrifices that a deacon's wife and children make to allow the deacon to serve.

A Deacon is Ordained to Serve

All ordained ministers in the Church are called to functions of Word, Sacrament, and



DEACON JACK ORLANDI ON A TRIP TO CHINA

Charity, but bishops, presbyters and deacons exercise these functions in various ways. As ministers of Word, deacons proclaim the Gospel, preach, and teach in the name of the Church. As ministers of Sacrament, deacons baptize, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages, and conduct wake and funeral services. As ministers of Charity, deacons are leaders in identifying the needs of others, then marshaling the Church's resources to meet those needs. Deacons are also dedicated to eliminating the injustices or inequities that cause such needs. But no matter what specific functions a deacon performs, they flow from his sacramental identity. In other words, it is not only WHAT a deacon does, but WHO a deacon is, that is important.

Whenever a person is ordained, he is to serve the diocesan Church. Deacons are no different in this regard: they are assigned by the bishop to ministries for which the bishop perceives a great need, and for which the deacon may have special gifts or talents. Most often, this will be within a parish setting, just as most priests serve in a parish. Once assigned to the parish, the deacon and any other clergy assigned to the parish minister under the immediate supervision of the pastor. However, this assignment may be changed at

the request of the deacon or the initiative of the bishop.

The Deacon has Prescribed Parts of the Eucharistic Liturgy

After the priest, in virtue of the sacred ordination he has received, the deacon has first place among those who minister in the celebration of the Eucharist. For the sacred order of the diaconate has been held in high honor in

the Church since the time of the Apostles. At Mass the deacon proclaims the Gospel reading, sometimes preaches God's Word, announces the intentions of the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful), ministers to the priest, prepares the altar and serves the celebration of the sacrifice, distributes the Eucharist to the faithful, especially under the species of wine, and from time to time gives directions regarding the people's gestures and posture.

At ordination, the bishop hands the Book of the Gospels to the deacon and says, "Receive the Gospel of Christ whose Herald you are. Believe what you read. Teach what you believe and Practice what you teach."

Other Roles of the Deacon

The deacon can preside at baptisms, weddings, vigil (funeral/wake) services, exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and various prayer services. The deacon cannot celebrate Mass (he only assists), cannot hear confessions, and cannot

anoint the sick.

Diaconal Spirituality

All deacons are required to pray the Liturgy of the Hours like bishops, priests, and religious. Deacons are also required to have a spiritual director, make annual retreats, and continue their education.

How to Address a Deacon

While various forms of address have emerged with regard to deacons, the Congregation for the Clergy has determined that in all forms of address for permanent deacons, the appropriate title is "Deacon." Either the first or last name of the deacon may be used depending upon the deacon's preference.

In the next edition: The Road to the Permanent Diaconate, Requirements for an Applicant, and the Role of Wives.



CONFIRMATION CLASS: Members of the Saints Gregory & Barnabas Parish Confirmation class pictured (left to right) are: Front row--Madison Kist, Kylee Hamilton, Hannah McCombie, Katie Makin, and Tessa Gunby. Back row--Mary Helen Percinsky, director of Religious Education; Father Robert L. Ruston, pastor; Jaden Stiffler, Isaac Roberts, Ron Moot, catechist; and Daphne Moot, catechist.

WILDFIRES DESTROY MISSION CHURCH, HOMES

By *Agnieszka Krawczynski*
Catholic News Service

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (CNS) -- Catholics in the Diocese of Whitehorse, Yukon, sought assistance after a devastating wildfire in Telegraph Creek, British Columbia, destroyed a mission church, rectory and homes.

"Many people are in complete distress and broken because they are finding themselves with nothing," said Bishop Hector Vila of Whitehorse in a letter to Canadian bishops Aug. 8.

Lightning sparked a wildfire northwest of Telegraph Creek in the northern part of the province Aug. 1, and a local state of emergency was declared three days later. All 300 residents of Telegraph Creek were told to evacuate Aug. 5.

Bishop Vila said all residents were evacuated safely, but many structures, including buildings at St. Theresa Mission, were destroyed in the blaze. The church rectory was the home of pastoral workers Joshua and Denise Grimard and their children.

The Diocese of Whitehorse also sought donations for victims through its Canada Helps webpage and for material donations to be dropped off at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Whitehorse.

Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, apostolic nuncio to Canada, said he would offer prayers and a blessing for the small, devastated community.

"I am both deeply saddened by the stress and hardship hurting the people of Telegraph Creek, and encouraged by the spirit of

solid solidarity of Dease Lake residents receiving them and by the good number of volunteers who from different places of your diocese are moving to Dease Lake to provide help and pastoral ministry," he said in a letter to Bishop Vila.

"I would like to assure you of the fraternal proximity of Pope Francis to the people of Telegraph Creek affected by this present calamity, and to those who are in any way helping them, kindly asking you to transmit to them his comforting apostolic blessing," the archbishop wrote.

As of Aug. 10, the British Columbia Wildfire Service said the active blaze had merged with the South Stikine River fire and was an estimated 74,000 acres in size.



Photo By Kady Manifest

YOUTH WEEK: Saint Augustine Church in Saint Augustine and Saint Monica Parish in Chest Springs combined their faith communities for a youth gathering in June. Fifty-six kids participated in the week along with 13 adults and 27 youth volunteers. Throughout the week they read Bible stories, played games and music, completed service projects and made crafts. They also enjoyed a variety of foods.



SUMMER BIBLE SCHOOL: The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona held a Vacation Bible School in June. Over 30 students of ages four to 10 attended. The campers learned how Jesus saves us during times of fear, loneliness, worry, and trouble.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Members of the Immaculate Conception Parish, New Germany, First Communion class pictured (left to right) are: First row--Adelaide Smith, Lydia Wise, Olivia Shrift, Adalyn Fisher, and Abriella Ritchey. Second row--Parker Anslinger, Michael Rickley, Benjamin Golden, Ethan Popma, and Brayden Moss. Third row--Jessica Daubert, Benedictine Father Leon Hont, pastor; and Ronald Kulback.

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The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

Pope Revises Catechism, 'Death Is Inadmissible'

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Building on the development of Catholic Church teaching against capital punishment, Pope Francis has ordered a revision of the Catechism of the Catholic Church to assert "the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person" and to commit the church to working toward its abolition worldwide.

The catechism's paragraph on capital punishment, 2267, already had been updated by St. John Paul II in 1997 to strengthen its skepticism about the need to use the death penalty in the modern world and, particularly, to affirm the importance of protecting all human life.

Announcing the change Aug. 2, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said, "The new text, following in the footsteps of the teaching of John Paul II in 'Evangelium Vitae,' affirms that ending the life of a criminal as punishment for a crime is inadmissible because it attacks the dignity of the person, a dignity that is not lost even after having committed the most serious crimes."

"Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life") was St. John Paul's 1995 encyclical on the dignity and sacredness of all human life. The encyclical led to an updating of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which he originally promulgated in 1992 and which recognized "the right and duty of legitimate

public authority to punish malefactors by means of penalties commensurate with the gravity of the crime, not excluding, in cases of extreme gravity, the death penalty."

At the same time, the original version of the catechism still urged the use of "bloodless means" when possible to punish criminals and protect citizens.

The catechism now will read: "Recourse to the death penalty on the part of legitimate authority, following a fair trial, was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes and an acceptable, albeit extreme, means of safeguarding the common good.

"Today, however, there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes. In addition, a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state. Lastly, more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption," the new section continues.

Pope Francis' change to the text concludes: "Consequently, the church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that 'the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,' and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide."

Pope Francis specifically requested the change to the catechism in October during a speech at the Vatican commemorating the 25th anniversary of

the text's promulgation.

Cardinal Ladaria said, the death penalty, no matter how it is carried out, he had said, "is, in itself, contrary to the Gospel, because a decision is voluntarily made to suppress a human life, which is always sacred in the eyes of the Creator and of whom, in the last analysis, only God can be the true judge and guarantor."

Cardinal Ladaria also noted that the popes were not the only Catholics to become increasingly aware of how the modern use of the death penalty conflicted with church teaching on the dignity of human life; the same position, he said, has been "expressed ever more widely in the teaching of pastors and in the sensibility of the people of God."

In particular, he said, Catholic opposition to the death penalty is based on an "understanding that the dignity of a person is not lost even after committing the most serious crimes," a deeper understanding that criminal penalties should aim at the rehabilitation of the criminal and a recognition that governments have the ability to detain criminals effectively, thereby protecting their citizens.

The cardinal's note also cited a letter Pope Francis wrote in 2015 to the International Commission Against the Death Penalty. In the letter, the pope called capital punishment "cruel, inhumane and degrading" and said it "does not bring justice to the victims, but only foments revenge."

Furthermore, in a modern "state of law, the death penalty represents a failure" because it obliges the state to kill in the name of justice, the pope had written. On the other hand, he said, it is a method frequently used by "totalitarian regimes and fanatical groups" to do away with "political dissidents, minorities" and any other person deemed a threat to their power and to their goals.

In addition, Pope Francis noted that "human justice is imperfect" and said the death penalty loses all legitimacy in penal systems where judicial error is possible.



Amid The Fray

By Greg Erlandson

A Family Moment

"It is a profound spiritual experience to contemplate our loved ones with the eyes of God and to see Christ in them."

Weaving my way through a wedding reception with my six brothers and sisters in a long conga line swaying to the music of Harry Belafonte, I felt such a deep affection for them all. Bound not by the ordinary ties of friends and work mates, but by ties of flesh and blood, the moment felt like a gift of love, an undulating chain that visibly represented the genetic bonds that can never be denied or revoked.

Being family is hard these days for many people. It isn't just the age-old tensions of kith and kin described in so many novels and plays. It is the modern pressures of distance, distraction and fragmentation.

My wife and I live far from our families, so such gatherings are infrequent and a little bitter-sweet -- a coming together that is a reminder of longer apartness. We are both oldest children, so it's possible our sibs occasionally perceive our distance as a blessing of sorts!

Yet we are welcomed back as annual prodigals returning home. The fatted calf is slain, and our ever-expanding clans gather around food and drink and conversation. We all take each other's emotional temperature, catching up on job developments, marital twists and turns, and of course the status of our many nephews and nieces.

No family is perfect, so we all fit right in. Among us all, we have had marriages and divorces and remarriages. Some have chosen other faith traditions. There have been bouts of unemployment and illnesses. Every one of our siblings have experienced hardship, loss, pain. We know both the "for better" and the "for worse."

My wife and I have lost our fathers. Our mothers are on solitary journeys after so many years of walking hand in hand with another. My mother sometimes remembers my name, and sometimes asks me to remind her of it. She who gave birth to eight children and raised seven to adulthood now lives in a kind of timeless present.

A font of a mother's love and wisdom who shepherded her teeming brood from grammar school to high school and beyond, she now listens quietly to our stories, watches as our conga line wends around the tables groaning with platters of appetizers and desserts, thinking thoughts we cannot share. Yet still she is a loving center.

My family is a study in diversity, and our dad rejoiced in it. Whatever our path -- journalist or musician, manager or church worker -- he delighted in us all. I'd like to think he saw us with the eyes of God, recognizing in each of us a bit of himself, yet delighting more in the new and unexpected discoveries that were truly our own.

Pope Francis, again writing in "Amoris Laetitia," says "all family life is a 'shepherding' in mercy. Each of us, by our love and care, leaves a mark on the life of others." My parents were such shepherds, and they have left their mark on us.

Now we shepherd each other. We listen to our stories of joy and heartbreak, we embrace our moments together, we offer support where we can. Time's tide carries us relentlessly forward, but there are those moments, like that swaying dance on a clear California evening, when we are bound to each other by shared joy and celebration, and we see each other perhaps as God sees us, manifestations of a love that is greater than us all.

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle

Why Is Michael A Saint?

Q. I am not a Christian, but I enjoy reading your column and learn a lot from it. I am hoping that you can explain why St. Michael the Archangel is regarded as a saint. I have always been under the impression that a saint is a deceased believer who is recognized by the Catholic Church after the process of canonization. But Archangel Michael has never been human, right? (Jefferson City, Missouri)

A. In the contemporary church, what you have said is true: A saint is a believer who, after a lengthy investigation, is formally declared by the Vatican to have reached heaven and to be worthy of veneration. But in the early centuries, there was no such formal process.

The first saints were martyred for their faith during the Roman persecutions, and Christians began spontane-

ously to honor their memory and to commemorate annually the dates on which they had died. It was only in the 12th century, under Pope Alexander III, that the process of canonization became centralized in Rome.

St. Michael, as you point out, was never a human being. Like the other angels, he was created by God as a pure spirit -- with intellect and will, but no physical body. The word "saint," though, is derived from the Latin meaning "one who is holy," and the holiness of Michael has long been recognized by the church.

Michael is one of the three angels mentioned by name in the Scriptures -- the others being Raphael and Gabriel. In Chapter 12 of the Book of Revelation, Michael is portrayed as leading the faithful angels in defeating the hosts of evil and driving them out of paradise. He has thus been revered in Catholic

tradition as the protector of the church. As early as the fourth century, Christian churches were dedicated to St. Michael, and since the ninth century his feast day has been celebrated in the church's liturgy on September 29.

Q. My father died earlier this week, and his body has been cremated. He loved his cats, and a few years ago he told me that he wanted me to scatter his ashes in the backyard where his cats are buried, so that he could be with them. The problem is that, although he was not a Catholic (an avowed atheist, in fact), I am. So would it be a sin for me to honor his request? (Carrollton, Georgia)

A. In October 2016, the Vatican clarified that the remains of the deceased should be treated with respect and laid to rest in a consecrated place. That teaching is based on the church's belief that the human body constitutes an essential part of a person's identity and will one day be reunited with the soul.

This Vatican's instruction simply reinforced what had already been the Catholic Church's position. (In 1997, an appendix to the church's Order of Christian Funerals had explained that "the practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the church requires.")

But your father, as a non-Catholic, was not bound by the church's guidelines; nor would I imagine that he meant his wish as a public repudiation of the church's belief in a bodily resurrection. So I would say that you are free to honor his wishes. (And I know that, when you visit his backyard, you will remember to pray for your father's eternal happiness in the company of the Lord.)

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

Execution And Mercy



In early July, the Nebraska Supreme Court issued an Aug. 14 execution date for Carey Dean Moore.

Moore, 60, has been sitting on death row for nearly four decades. It was 1979 when he killed two Omaha cabdrivers five days apart, and in 1980 he was sentenced to death for these crimes.

I've met Carey, and I've corresponded with him recently. So it was with no small sense of irony that I noted that on the day after his death warrant was set, July 6, we observed the feast of St. Maria Goretti.

When I was a child, the nuns who taught me held up Maria Goretti as an example, reaffirming that she, at only 11 years old, died to maintain her purity.

If this young Italian girl could die to preserve her virginity, it was strongly suggested, we girls could certainly develop a healthy respect for our own.

But it was only when I was older that I realized the stand-out theme of Maria's martyrdom was not sex. It was mercy.

Goretti and her murderer were both members of a poverty-stricken, illiterate Italian underclass. When her father died, Maria's mother assumed his role in the fields alongside the other children as they eked out a subsistence income.

Maria kept the house running. So, her attacker, Alessandro Serenelli, almost 20, knew she was alone and had previously made advances before the day that her resistance resulted in her cruel death.

On her deathbed, she forgave Serenelli. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison, where he was a vicious prisoner until the night Maria Goretti

came to him in a dream. Upon his early release from prison, he begged forgiveness from Goretti's mother, who granted it. Serenelli attended Goretti's canonization in 1950 and led a life of devotion and prayer.

And Carey? The Nebraska Legislature abolished the death penalty in 2015. I worked on that cause, and I saw the large files of information given to each legislator. It was a well-debated, thoughtful discussion and the facts won out.

Unfortunately, with the financial assistance of our wealthy governor, a petition to repeal the abolition put the issue before voters. Nebraskans voted overwhelmingly to reinstate the death penalty -- it's a conservative state and "that's the way we've always done it" won out.

If each thoughtful Nebraska voter could have personally read those files we presented the legislators, the vote would have been different. But education was a gargantuan effort.

So, Carey and 11 others face possible execution, depending on a few outstanding court challenges. For his part, Carey is not contesting the execution.

He sent me a brochure that detailed his own spiritual journey, recognizing the terrible wrongs he did and the way his "heart has been torn in so many pieces" and yet acknowledging the mercy of God.

I am grateful that the authorities did not execute Alessandro Serenelli. It gave God -- and Maria Goretti -- a chance to turn his heart toward love. May St. Maria Goretti pray for Carey, and for our nation, one of the last "civilized" countries that kills its own.



Blessed Mary MacKillop

1842-1909

FEAST August 8

The fifth of eight children in an Italian family, Mary Anna went in 1842 to a boarding school operated by the Sisters of St. Marcellina. She earned a teaching diploma in four years and wanted to join the order, but had to wait because of her mother's illness and father's financial reverses. After assisting her family, she entered the congregation in 1848 and professed her vows in 1852. Over a 40-year teaching career in the order's schools, she was both popular and successful; one of her students was the mother of Pope Paul VI. She died of throat cancer and was beatified in 1980.

Now Showing

'Dog Days' A Comedy With Dramatic Elements



A comedy with dramatic elements, this film follows a variety of Los Angeles residents as they live their lives and face some daunting challenges during one summer. By their sides, helping with presence and love are their dogs. Directed by Ken Marino and written by Elissa Matsueda and Erica Oyama, the film follows a barista (Vanessa Hudgens) waiting for an opportunity to put her education to good use, a lonely widower (Ron Cephas Jones) whose dog goes missing, a morning show host (Nina Dobrev) who can't quite seem to keep herself together, and others brought together by their canine companions. The film celebrates respect, forgiveness, responsibility and generosity. Two crass terms, some negative comments about marriage and pregnancy. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



ALIVE IN YOU: Four teens and two youth ministers from Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Johnstown participated in the Alive in You conference and summer camp in Columbia, South Carolina, in June. They are (left to right): Anne Gritzer, Julie Bingler, Courtney Hurlbert (youth minister), John Livingston (youth minister), Alli Pearson, and Maeve Milligan. (See story On Back Page.)

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



HOLY FAMILY CONFIRMATION: Members of the Holy Family Parish, Portage, Confirmation class pictured (left to right) are: First row--Franciscan Father Tom Stabile, Cody Trusik, Kristyn Smith, Isabella Nagy, Alyssa Baxter, Jenna Teno, Kaelyn Wozniak, and Lauren Hudak. Second row--Alyson Peacock, Emily Sikora-Warner, Owen Fabo, Blake Oravec, Alex Hoberney, Jeremy Koenig, Jacob Vasilko, and Katelyn Koenig. Third row--Jacob Lee, Lucas Rosemas, Hunter Kalinoski, Dominic Davis, Cody Sease, Sam Krisko, Cole Sossong. Absent from photo is Melissa Lee, director of Religious Education.


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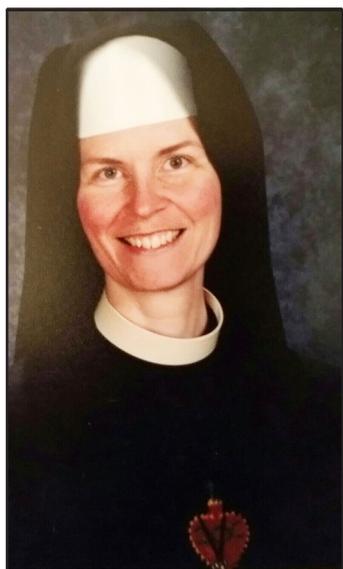
Upcoming guests on "Keeping The Faith," Bishop Mark L. Bartchak's segment of "Proclaim!" will include:

August 26 -- Maddie High and Anna Razzano, students at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in State College, share their anticipation for the new academic year with Bishop Mark.

September 2 -- On this Labor Day weekend, Bishop Mark chats with Midge Cessna, a member of Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Beans Cove, about her tireless volunteer efforts in the Church.



May They Rest In Peace



Sister Marietta Therese, SSCJ

Sr. Marietta Therese, SSCJ, a perpetually professed Sister of the Congregation of Sister Servant of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, entered into eternal life on August 3, 2018 at St. Joseph Convent, Munster Twp, Portage, after a lengthy illness.

Born Emmelia Marthamay Hanley on June 11, 1962 in Philadelphia, Sr. Marietta Therese was the daughter of Julia Teresa (Hack) Hanley and the late John Francis Hanley. She leaves behind her fellow religious Sisters who loved her dearly, as well as her beloved siblings, Teresa, Tom (Sandy), Raphael (Patty), Basil, Macrina (Denny) Hennessy, Miryam (Emil) Ghaly, Sr. Jacinta Miryam, SSCJ, Gregory (Maria), Junstin (Jen) Lazarus, Albertus, Marthamary (Tom) Rinkavage.

Sister Marietta Therese entered the Congregation of Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on December 28, 1980, professed her first vows on June 21, 1983 and her perpetual vows on June 21, 1988 in Cresson. She observed the Silver Jubilee of her religious profession on June 21, 2008 at Sacred Heart Province in Cresson.

Sister Marietta Therese obtained a B.S. (summa cum laude) in Education from St. Francis University and an M.A. (magna cum laude) in Theol-

ogy and Catechetics from Notre Dame Catechetical Institute (Christendom College) Throughout her religious life, Sister Marietta Therese served the glory of the Most Sacred Heart with love and zeal in the areas of education, administration, pastoral care, youth, retreat, summer camp and music ministries in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and in the Dioceses of Altoona-Johnstown, Metuchen, Scranton and Wheeling-Charlestown.

Sister will forever be remembered for her joy and enthusiasm. She loved with her whole heart and soul and was a true spiritual mother to all those who were privileged to know her. In her last illness, Sister Marietta Therese distinguished herself with the same beautiful spirit of trustful surrender and love that characterized her entire life.

A vigil for the deceased was held at Saint Francis Xavier Church, Cresson. The funeral Mass was celebrated by Father John Byrnes at St. Aloysius Church Cresson, on Wednesday August 8. The Sisters are truly grateful for every kindness extended to Sister Marietta Therese, particularly to her doctors and health care providers, to the Franciscan Friars, Father John Byrnes, Father Leo Arnone and



SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: Saint Michael Parish in Saint Michael awarded \$300 scholarships to each student that completed their senior year of religious education. Pictured (left to right) are: Front row--Victoria Russic, Abby Jordan, Sidney Kakabar, Kourtney Walls, Sarah Deibert, and Laurie Sloan, director of Religious Education. Back row--Evan Kundrod, Adam Bambino, Father Brian Warchola, administrator; Carter Vitez, and Brian Bernard.

Father Matthew Reese.

Donations may be given in Sr. Marietta Therese's name to the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, 866 Cambria St, Cresson, PA 16630.



HONORED: Three Religious Education students from Saint Michael Parish in Saint Michael were awarded \$250 REACH Service Awards. They pictured (left right) are: Adam Bambino, Victoria Russic, Father Brian Warchola, administrator; and Brian Bernard. The Community Foundation of the Alleghenies offers the awards to students having the most cumulative service time in the parish's REACH Youth Ministry program.



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OMOS Youth Group Extends Outreach To South Carolina

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

What did you do on your summer vacation?

Alli Pearson had an experience that opened her eyes to how she and her fellow teens can change the world.

“It was beautiful to see Christ’s work and people really embodying Jesus and spreading His love and His light and His beauty throughout the world and just really living His mission,” she said.

A member of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Johnstown, Pearson was one of four parish youth who journeyed to Columbia, South Carolina, earlier this summer as part of the Alive in You conference and summer camp.

Alive in You is an organization that hosts a series of camps in various cities around the country. They are open to church youth ministry groups, school groups, and families.

According to its website, the Alive in You vision is to educate and motivate young people and give them a renewed sense of Catholic identity.

Accompanied by OMOS youth ministers John Livingston and Courtney Hurlburt, the students had the opportunity to engage with hundreds of other young people from throughout the nation.

“It was just awesome to see 300 kids doing praise and worship in that assembly – it was



HARD AT WORK: Anne Gritzer (left) and Julie Bingler sand tables at a women’s shelter in Columbia, South Carolina, as a service project during the Alive in You conference and summer camp in June. The teens were part of a group from Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Johnstown that participated in the experience.

just really beautiful to see that,” recalled Pearson, who is entering her senior year at Westmont Hilltop High School in Johnstown. “Just seeing a ton of high school students just praying was an awesome experience.”

In addition to spiritual inspiration and a keynote speaker, the OMOS youth also visited work sites and lent their time and talent to service projects.

“So it’s a really beautiful balance between work, prayer, and education,” Livingston noted.

the trip. They also wrote letters seeking financial support.

Thanks to the fundraising, all costs for the trip were covered, and the students did not have to pay anything.

The benefits of the experience, Livingston commented, will be long-lasting.

“It’s almost 24/7 of watching all these high schoolers spend time face to face with God then becoming Christ as they go out,” he said. “With these kids, how cool to watch the lights turn on. What a blessing as a youth minister to see these fruits and be able to watch them grow into maturity right before your eyes.”

The outreach to young people at Our Mother of Sorrows is by no means limited to Alive in You. In fact, the parish is embracing an active youth ministry program.

“It is one of the most important things we’re trying to do,” said OMOS pastor Father Mark Begly.

The key is creating a welcoming environment for youth and going beyond the traditional classroom model, he observed.

Besides Livingston, who is also engaged in music ministry at the parish, the parish recently hired Hurlburt to also focus on youth ministry. She is building a team of adults to assist in youth engagement, Father Begly said.

The parish is continuing to offer a Youth Alpha course for sophomores, which includes videos and small group discussion.

This fall, the parish will launch Life Teen for all high school students. Mass will be celebrated for the teens on Sunday evenings with the youth carrying out all ministries. Food, activities, and a faith talk will follow.

Father Begly said OMOS youth also have the opportunity to participate in Service Saturdays, during which the students go with adults to volunteer at nursing homes, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, and other places.

Key components to good youth outreach, Father Begly emphasized, are praise and worship, evangelization, and small group discussion.

“We want our youth to know that they are loved by God, and they are loved and accepted by us,” he stressed. “If they can begin to believe there is a God who loves them and cherishes them, then we have accomplished a great deal.”

Participation in Alive in You will also continue to be a youth ministry opportunity at OMOS, Father Begly stated.

That is great news to Pearson, who is still savoring her experience and appears to be on fire with her faith.

“There are ways that we can change this world through the love of God and spreading that love to other people,” she mentioned. “We can make a difference, and that is such a beautiful thing for me.”

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