

The Catholic Register



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Seminarian Numbers Continue To Rise

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

Jacob Gindhart loves music.

He has played the drums for about a decade and even a little piano, too.

These days, he is marching to the beat of a very different tune.

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has announced that Gindhart is the latest seminarian in formation for the diocesan priesthood. He recently began studies at Saint Mark's College Seminary in Erie.

"I'm mostly excited to experience living my life for others in a totally new way," said Gindhart as he begins this next chapter in his discernment journey.

Prior to becoming a diocesan seminarian, he attended Penn State University for two years where he shared his talent as music coordinator for Catholic campus ministry.

One of seven children, Gindhart is a member of Queen of Peace Parish in Patton.

"I am very happy to have Jacob as a new seminarian for the diocese," stated Diocesan Director of Vocations Father Matthew Reese. "He has been discerning this faithfully for a



NEW SEMINARIAN: Father Matthew Reese, diocesan director of vocations, welcomes Jacob Gindhart, a new diocesan seminarian. A member of Queen of Peace Parish in Patton, Gindhart recently began his priestly formation at Saint Mark's College Seminary in Erie. He is one of five diocesan seminarians.

while. It is always a pleasure to observe someone take the next step in their discernment."

The addition of Gindhart brings to five the number of current diocesan seminarians.

As vocations director, Father Reese is constantly working to help young men find their true calling. At a time when the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

— like many dioceses around the country — is experiencing a dwindling number of priests, it is critical work.

"The state of priestly vocations may appear to be small, however, at this time, we're focusing more on the quality of the young men discerning a vocation to the priesthood more so than quantity," observed Father Reese.

The Vocations Office recently sponsored a discernment gathering for young men considering the possibility of a vocation. The turnout was encouraging, Father Reese noted.

"The next step in the process is keeping the lines of communication open," he added. "That includes discussion with myself and perhaps their pastor or spiritual director, but ultimately praying to God for enlightenment as to their true vocational calling."

All Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown seminarians are in various stages of their formation and looking forward to their next steps.

Mark Groeger and Michael Pleva are entering their second year of Theology studies at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe.

Groeger's home parish is Saint Andrew in Johnstown. Pleva is a member of Holy Rosary Parish in Altoona.

Both spent their summer in parish assignments for the first time.

"It was really enjoyable to be able to finally get acclimated to a parish to see what happens and use a lot of what we've learned in seminary," said Pleva of his summer assignment at Saint Andrew. "It shows there is life after seminary. What you do is take what

(Continued On Page 9.)

Adult Classes Enrich Faith

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

As we strive to grow in our Catholic faith, it is common to sometimes feel that something is missing on the journey.

Mary Cubbison can relate.

"I was one of those struggling people," she recalled. "I would go to Church on Sunday and just watch, and I thought there has to be more to my faith than just this."

So Cubbison did something about it.

The parishioner of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Huntingdon began taking a series of Adult Enrichment/Lay Ecclesial Ministry classes offered every year throughout the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

"I just went for my own sake to learn about the modern Church and how I fit into the modern Church," she said.

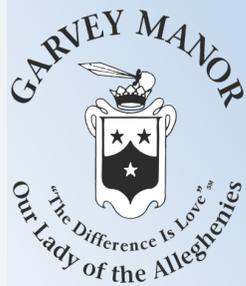
After four years, she earned certification from Bishop Mark L. Bartchak in the diocese's Lay Ecclesial Ministry program.

"What I enjoyed was the aspect of all the different people in the room," Cubbison noted of her classroom encounters. "We all came from different walks of

(Continued On Page 11.)

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A story of Faith, Hope & Charity.

Fifteen-year-old Rob arrived at Camp Timothy with a chip on his shoulder, nervous about what to expect. He was being raised by devout grandparents and felt sure he had nothing in common with the other campers—at least that's what he thought. By the end of the first day, he quickly learned that other kids also had similar stories and feelings. He wasn't so different after all.

Camp Timothy is a fun-filled adventure that is deeply rooted in the belief of living a Christian life. Through various hands-on activities like zip lining, Rob was challenged to look at his life today and how to trust someone—of how faith can be a guiding light. He only had to reach out.

At week's end, Rob realized he had a great time, met some cool kids, and the chip had melted. He became especially close to one friend who he learned to confide in—Jesus Christ.

He also said that a miracle happened that week. "We didn't miss or want our cell phones!"

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In The Alleghenies

Knights Plan Annual Gathering In October

An annual gathering saluting the Knights of Columbus in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is planned for Sunday, October 7 at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto.

The celebration begins with the recitation of the Rosary at 1:45 p.m. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will celebrate Mass at 2:00 p.m. A reception and dinner will follow at the Our Lady of Loretto Community Hall in Loretto.

The guest of honor will be Pennsylvania State Deputy Mark Jago, FIC.

The speaker at the dinner will be Reverend Gregory J. D'Emma, who was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark. He retired from the United States Army as a Colonel after 37 years of service as military chaplain.

In a 2017 ceremony at the U.S. Army War College Chapel in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Father D'Emma received the most prestigious award that can be given to an Army chaplain.

Even in retirement, Father D'Emma continues to serve. He is currently the Pennsylvania State Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus.

"Our annual diocesan gathering is an important opportunity to gather in prayer and to greet one another in fraternity in celebration of the many works of charity that are accomplished by the Knights of Columbus in their local communities and beyond," said Bishop Mark in a letter to his brother Knights.

"I am especially grateful to the Knights of Columbus for the many activities that you undertake in support of the mission of our diocese, especially for the promotion of vocations and the education and formation of seminarians," the Bishop stated. "It is a pleasure to celebrate this special Mass and share this dinner with you on a day that has become an annual event."

The cost of the dinner is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children seven years old and younger. Reservations must be made in advance through the Knights of Columbus by September 29.

SFU Graduates 27 Physical Therapists

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Saint Francis University is pleased to announce that all 27 of its 2018 graduates achieved 100% pass rate on the national licensure exam. This examination is offered through the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE). All 27 SFU DPT graduates have accepted positions in their field.

"Saint Francis University is very proud of the accomplishments of its most recent graduating class. This is the second time in three years our students have achieved this result," said Department of physical therapy Chair Doctor Ivan Mulligan PT, DSC, ATC, SCS.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of physical therapists is projected to grow almost 30 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. As demand for healthcare services grows, physical therapists will be needed to provide care to patients.

The Physical Therapy Program at Saint Francis University has maintained accreditation since its inception in 2000. In 2015 the program was granted its Accreditation-Continued status until 2025. This 10 year reaffirmation is the highest rating a program may receive.

Franciscan Priest To Address Prayer Group

Father Jonathan St. Andre, TOR, director of novices at St. Francis Friary in Loretto, will speak at 7 PM on Monday, September 10, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. His provoca-

tive message is titled "Holiness: Mission Impossible?"



FRANCISCAN FATHER JONATHAN ST. ANDRE

Father Jonathan will address the gathering of the Cathedral Prayer Group, which is celebrating its 13th anniversary year. The public is invited to attend.

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

Father Jonathan guides his new friars through a year of intensive prayer, spiritual direction and discernment as they prepare to profess temporary vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. A heartening speaker, he is always encouraging as well as frequently surprising.

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

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Bishop's Appointments & Announcements

Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown



REVEREND ARON M. MAGHSOUDI, appointed Temporary Administrator of All Saints Parish in Boswell, continuing as Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish in Central City.

REVEREND ANGELO J. PATTI, appointed Temporary Administrator of Saint Anne Parish in Davidsville, continuing as Pastor of Saint Andrew Parish in Johnstown.

Two Special Liturgies Planned

Plans are in the works for two special Liturgies in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown around the national observance of the anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will celebrate the biennial Blue-White Mass on Saturday, September 8 at 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The Liturgy honors all emergency workers such as police officers and firefighters, as well as medical professionals. All are invited.

On Sunday, September 9 at 11:00 a.m., Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown will

sponsor the annual Blue Mass, which recognizes all emergency responders. The Liturgy will be broadcast live on WATM ABC 23.

"It's gratitude to them for the service that they give," said Father James Crookston, Rector of Saint John Gualbert Cathedral. "It is important for our community to show that gratitude. Of course it's there at the time of the emergency, but we need to be conscious of the safety and protection that they give us all the time even when we're not calling upon them, and to say we are most grateful for what they do."

HEALING MASS

**Monday
October 8, 2018
7:00 pm
Fr. Bill Kiel
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Youth Protection Training Options

For any new volunteer or employee that would prefer to attend a workshop for the youth protection awareness and mandated reporting training please register online at www.virtusonline.org. You will be prompted to create an account and select a training date from the following options. All trainings are four hours and will begin at 8:30 am until 12:30 pm.

* Saturday, September 8th, 2018 at the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Administration Office (Building A) located at 927

S. Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. Please RSVP by August 31st.

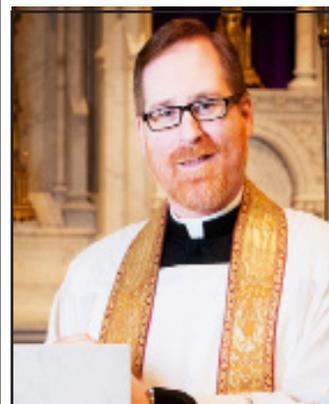
* Saturday, September 22nd, 2018 at Saint Patrick's School Building (Classroom 102) located at 625 Park Avenue (Moxham), Johnstown, PA 15902. Please RSVP by September 14th.

* Saturday, October 13th, 2018 at the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Family Life Office located at 5379 Portage Street, Lilly PA 15938. Please RSVP by October 1st.

* Saturday, October 20th, 2018 at Saint Peter's Catholic Church, Annex Building, 433 West Church Street, Somerset, PA 15501

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.

Vocation View



By Father Matthew Reese

Diocesan Director of Vocations

We are beginning a new academic year and I am proud to say that we have one new seminarian joining our Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. This brings the total number of seminarians to five in the academic year of 2018-2019. In this edition of **The Catholic Register** you will be able to read about all of our seminarians.

I have been criticized by some who believe that the identities of our seminarians should not be advertised. This criticism is understood, but like all ideas there are pros and cons. I believe it is good for the Diocese to see that there is hope for our future. To know that we are preparing young men to be priests who can minister in our parishes and hospitals and prisons, etc. is comforting. However, by knowing the identity of these individuals tempts us to pressure them to complete their formation and become priests. We must be cautious to keep a delicate balance between healthy support and the risk of pressuring someone.

Please encourage our seminarians. Send them notes letting them know of your support. When I was a seminarian I received notes from schools and various parishioners and that was always a great comfort and encouragement to me. Perhaps schools can adopt a seminarian. Knights of Columbus, Serra Club, and other organizations are so supportive. The balance we must have though is that we do not overly pressure our young men by expecting that they will inevitably become priests. They need to remain free to discern God's will which is the most important task of a seminarian's life.

If one of our seminarians discerns that God may be calling him to leave the seminary in order to date and to discern marriage then he must do so freely without feeling guilty that he thinks he is letting someone down. As you can imagine such a choice would be very difficult to make, but once again instead of anyone lamenting this loss we should encourage him to discern well. It is always better to know God's will before making a final commitment to the wrong vocation!

I am personally proud of our seminarians. They have shown serious resolve to discern the will of God, which at this moment is in the confines of seminary formation. May we continue to show them our encouragement and support in whatever form their process of discernment takes in their life.

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

3rd Annual CRESSON Catholic Community FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 8th and 9th

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH		SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH	
11am	Festival Grounds Open	11am	Festival Grounds Open
11am - 1pm	Charlene's School of Dance	12:30pm	Memorial Service Presented by Cresson American Legion
1pm - 4pm	Felix & The Hurricanes	1pm - 2pm	Charlene's School of Dance
5pm - 7pm	Strings Radio	2pm - 5pm	Rosie & the Jammers
8pm	Festival Grounds Close		Basket Raffle Drawing begins at 4pm

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Joyful Designs Jewelry/Holly Link • Jr. Worthington Crafts • K. Smith Creations • Knights of Columbus
Lang Real Estate and Tax Service • Lilly Mountain Alpacos/Tammy Crum • LuLaRoe • Mary's Catered Affairs
Mary Ann Zaffuto Sewing • Mary Berger Crafts • Mary Kay Cosmetics • Paparazzi Jewelry • Paula Baranik Crafts
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May They Rest In Peace

Sister Passes, Former Local Resident

Good Shepherd Sister Mary Holy Family (Florence Anita) Karl, passed away on June 8 at the Immaculate Heart Convent in Normandy, MO.

Sister Mary was born on October 25, 1922, on a dairy farm in South Fork. She had three brothers and three sisters. Her brother Albert lives in Florida. She celebrated her 65 jubilee with a Mass in 2013.

Sister Mary entered the Good Shepherd Sisters in Germantown, PA, in 1946, and professed her final vows on May 18, 1948.

For 40 years Sister Mary served as an infirmary aide, and for 30 of those years she was also in charge of the convent kitchen.

The Importance Of Self-Esteem

The following article is the copyrighted property of National Catholic Services, LLC (National Catholic), all rights reserved, and is republished here with National Catholic's permission. It originally appeared on the VIRTUS® Online website for continuing education for adults at www.virtus.org.

We who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm. —Hebrews 6: 18-19 It seems that low self-esteem seems to be the primary answer given as a root cause to most given problems that an adult may face. Bookstores are filled with guides, manuals, and how-to books focused on the subject. Now there are many books and articles centered on low self-esteem in children. Recently, several parents have approached me and asked questions about improving their child's self-esteem. In this article and the one that follows, I have listed some very practical information that will assist parents, teachers, and counselors in helping children to build up their self-esteem and allow them to have a solid foundation for a strong character. Through some of the following suggestions, you may find appropriate ways to assist your child grow up with positive self-esteem. What is self-esteem? Each person is specially created and uniquely loved by God. There is only one of us in the world, and we are all very special. Children are not born feeling good or bad about themselves. They learn this from what happens to them. Self-esteem is the pride that a person has in himself or herself. A person with high self-esteem feels worthwhile (good and capable). People with low self-esteem think they are not worth-while and that what they do is not important to others or to themselves. How we feel and think about ourselves and how children feel and think about themselves can affect our behavior and can change each day. It is important to listen to children and assess how they feel each day, and where these feelings might be coming from. Who are the important people in the lives your children? It is important to listen for clues that will tell you the kinds of relationships your children have with these people. Listen to them when they are involved in pretend play, games, arguments, or are just talking with other people. People who are important to children have a great influence upon the development of self-esteem in children.

What can you do to help build self-esteem?

Praise each child's success (even very small ones). Praise each child who tries hard.

- * Give sincere affection. Let children know that they are loved and wanted.
- * Show interest in each child's activities, projects, or problems.
- * Tell children what to do instead of what not to do. This prepares them for what to do.
- * Instead of: "Don't throw the ball," say: "Roll the ball on the floor."
- * Instead of: "Don't squeeze the puppy," say: "Hold the puppy gently."
- * Let children know that mistakes are a natural part of growing up. Everyone (including adults) makes mistakes.
- * Try to ignore temper tantrums and other negative behavior as much as possible.
- * Show appreciation when children cooperate, help you, say kind things to other children, obey the rules, and do other positive things.
- * Remember that learning new skills takes time and practice. Children do not learn new skills all at once.
- * Respond affectionately when children behave well. Tell children what you like about their behavior.
- * Let children know that you believe in them and expect them to do well.
- * Accept and respect each child's family and culture.
- * Provide activities that offer success to your daycare children.
- * When a child misbehaves, separate the misbehavior from the child. For example, say "I don't like it when you throw toys, but I still like you. I know you will do better tomorrow." Let the child know you believe in him or her.

Actions that May Lower Children's Self-Esteem

Try to avoid the following actions because they may lower children's self-esteem. This can be very harmful.

- * Expecting too much or too little from children.
- * Yelling at or criticizing children, especially in front of other people.
- * Criticizing children more often than praising or showing appreciation.
- * Calling children clumsy, thoughtless, stupid, lazy, etc.
- * Telling children who have made mistakes that they are failures.
- * Overprotecting or neglecting children.¹

¹ Taken from the National Network for Child Care - NNCC. Nuttall, P. (1991). "Self-esteem and children." (Family Day Care Facts series). Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts

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**.

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

Culinary Program Helps Former Inmates Achieve Success

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

CLEVELAND (CNS)

-- Joe Dawson is learning that there's a skill to cutting celery and it begins with how the chef's knife is held -- not by the handle but firmly above the sharpened blade.

Using a rocking motion, he carefully practices cutting long stalks into 1/4-inch pieces, making sure to keep a good grip so the cuts are clean and without strings.

It's Dawson's first day learning knife skills at the non-profit Edwins Leadership Restaurant Institute in Cleveland's Shaker Square, a vibrant mix of boutiques, banks and restaurants that bridges the city's largely poor east side with the monied eastern suburbs.

"It's challenging. It's challenging in a good way," Dawson, 44 and dressed in a traditional chef's white jacket, told Catholic News Service before the start of a mid-August shift at the French cuisine restaurant that trains former prison inmates for culinary careers.

Edwins -- short for education wins -- is a venture of Brandon Chrostowski, 38, a nonsense, hard-driving entrepreneur who saw a need to help people released from prison. Chrostowski explained to CNS that his undertaking is about giving people a second chance, like the one he received as an 18-year-old in his hometown of Detroit.

Chrostowski's story begins with his arrest for drug possession and fleeing police soon after high school graduation. He faced a 10-year prison sentence, but in court, the judge gave Chrostowski probation rather than time behind bars. He said the new chance he received is something that African-Americans and Latinos who enter the U.S. criminal justice system rarely get.

To a certain extent, he added, Edwins is rooted in the bib-

lical call for justice for people on society's margins. Chrostowski credited his grandmother for making sure he went to Mass on Sundays in Detroit after his arrest. He continues to practice the Catholic faith at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Cleveland with his wife, Catana, and their children, Leo, 3, and Lilly, 1.

Edwins welcomes students into its six-month program after thorough screening and an interview to determine their desire to succeed. Through August, 263 students will have completed the program with more than 95 percent finding employment and less than 2 percent recidivism.

One graduate has opened a restaurant, and another runs a food truck. Others work at well-known restaurants. Students receive a stipend and program-provided housing at the "Edwins campus" nearby.

Chrostowski arrived in Cleveland 2008 after hearing that the city had the highest poverty rate in the country. He had worked for a decade learning the culinary trade under well-known mentors in New York, Chicago and France, and decided to bring to Ohio his dream to develop the best culinary school and best French restaurant in the country along with the desire to help others succeed. On Nov. 1, 2013, the restaurant opened.

A planned butcher shop, Chrostowski said, will include Edwins graduates while providing quality meats and healthy food at reasonable prices.

Several parishes collaborate with the program by collecting money, books, clothing and household items to help graduates re-establish their lives.

The program has been featured in an Oscar-nominated documentary short, "Knife Skills."

Dawson told CNS he likes greeting guests and making sure their needs are met.

"I knew customer service," he said, "but I had no idea how to really cater to someone and anticipate what they need before

they need it. It's how to become comfortable with the table, to listen to certain cues and just watch.

After being admitted into the program, students are required within a week or so to obtain state-issued identification card, a bank account, health insurance and a life plan. For many, it's the first time they have been able to accomplish so much in so little time.

When Dawson completes his training in November he will have a recommendation from the Edwins staff that he can carry to one of Cleveland's classy new restaurants or perhaps the new butcher shop. He wants to continue interacting with the people who come through the door.

Floods Continue To Wreak Havoc In Kerala

By Catholic News Service

COCHIN, India (CNS) --

The Catholic Church has joined relief efforts as unprecedented floods and landslides continue to wreak havoc in India's Kerala state, killing about 370 people within a week.

Ucanews.com reported that all 41 Catholic dioceses in the southern state have opened schools and other institutions to accommodate flood victims and are cooperating to send food, clothes and other relief materials to affected areas.

Nearly a million people were in temporary relief camps after incessant rain since Aug. 13 filled reservoirs of Kerala's 33 dams to the brim, forcing authorities to open sluices. This caused all 44 rivers to overflow and inundate homes, farms and roads and railways as floodwater gushed to the Arabian Sea on the state's western border.

Road and rail lines remain flooded in several parts and the state's main Kochi International Airport halted operations following the inundation of runways.

"It is an unprecedented



Photo By Dennis Sadowski

CULINARY CAREERS: Brandon Chrostowski, founder and CEO of Edwins Leadership and Restaurant Institute in Cleveland, demonstrates knife skills to student Cordell Miller of Cleveland.



CNS photo/Prakash Elamakkara, EPA

FLOODS: A makeshift shelter is seen Aug. 13 on the edge of Athirappally Falls in India's Kerala state. The Catholic Church has joined relief efforts as unprecedented floods and landslides continue to wreak havoc in Kerala, killing at least 75 people within a week.

situation in my lifetime," said 70-year-old Father Jose Plachickal, vicar general of Idukki Diocese, home to the state's biggest dam. "The roads to many parishes are blocked because of massive landslides and uprooted trees."

"Some relief camps are now isolated after roads were blocked by landslides," Father Thomas-Punamadathil told ucanews.com Aug. 20, adding that it was difficult to deliver food and water to those in the camps.

Others have joined early clean-up efforts to protect com-

munities from the risk of diseases and other health issues, he said.

Caritas India has 10 million Indian rupees (US\$145,000) to help the flood victims, said spokesman Jaimon Joseph.

On Aug. 19, Pope Francis urged the international community to assist those affected by the flooding.

He said the church was assisting with relief efforts and urged those gathered at the Vatican to pray for those who had died and those affected by the disaster.

Teen To Be Beatified As Martyr To Purity

By Jonathan Luxmoore
Catholic News Service

OXFORD, England (CNS) -- A 16-year-old peasant girl will be beatified as a martyr in Slovakia, seven decades after she was shot in front of her family for resisting rape by a drunken Soviet soldier.

Anna Kolaserova "embodies the faithful layperson living in their family, regularly receiving sacraments, praying the rosary and approaching God through good works. Her heroic testimony, drawn from a sincere spiritual life, is something every Catholic and believer can aspire to," Archbishop Bernard Bober of Kosice, Slovakia, told Catholic News Service.

"The story of 16-year-old Anna Kolesarova offers a strong message, of course, for the younger generation," he



ANNA KOLASEROVA

said. "Celebrating the divine grace which was present in her

life will enable us to gather the faithful, but also to reach the wider civil society," Archbishop Bober said. "Her story provides a spiritual response to today's nostalgia for purity. It's a message not confined to the younger generation, but one to move all faithful people.

"Servants of God who gave their lives for Christ in modern Slovak history were the victims of a totalitarian communist regime which suppressed religious freedom, and this will be the first layperson declared blessed," he added.

Kolaserova was born July 14, 1922, at Vysoka nad Uhom, near the present Slovak-Ukrainian border. When Kolaserova was 13 her mother died, so she took over household duties and regularly attended Mass and rosary services with her father and elder brother.

When the Red Army captured the village Nov. 22, 1944, witnesses said Kolaserova had donned her mother's black dress to disguise her youth; she took

refuge in the cellar. Asked to find food when a drunken soldier entered the house, Kolaserova broke free when he tried to rape her. She was shot twice through the head in front of her father and neighbors.

In a website statement, the Kosice Archdiocese said accounts of her testimony had been secretly gathered in the 1950s by Jesuit Father Michal Potocky. The statement said her grave had become a place of pilgrimage only after the 1989 collapse of communist rule.

In a pastoral letter, read in churches Aug. 19, the Slovak bishops' conference said Kolaserova had been "fully aware,

despite her young age" of what awaited her, and had instinctively "followed the voice of conscience" rather than "having time to think and philosophize."

"Today, the temptations against purity are much greater than before -- they weigh on the young soul from every direction, via the internet and media," the letter said.

"We are tempted to ignore or succumb to manifestations of our imperfect human nature and the fragilities which characterize us as sinful people. In the light of faith, however, we are called to observe limits and boundaries, to be greater and more persistent."

Defend Religious Freedom, But Remain Tolerant Of Others

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Catholic legislators must defend religious freedom around the globe, but they must take care to ensure they do not fall into the trap of showing disrespect toward or intolerance of other religions while doing so, Pope Francis said.

The pope met Aug. 22 with participants in the annual meeting of the International Catholic Legislators Network and the group's "freedom summit."

According to the group's website, the network began in 2010 "as an independent and nonpartisan international initiative to bring together practicing Catholics and other Christians in elected office on a regular basis for faith formation, education and fellowship."

Pope Francis told participants that the Christian politician is called "to try, with humility and courage, to be a witness" to Christian values and to propose and support legislation in line with a Christian vision of society and of the human person.

The situation of Christians and other religious minorities in some parts of the world has "tragically worsened" due to "intolerant, aggressive and violent positions" even in countries that claim to recognize the free-

dom of religion, he said.

While defending religious freedom is part of the obligation to promote the common good, Pope Francis cautioned the legislators about the rhetoric and actions they use to do so. There is "the real danger of combating extremism and intolerance with just as much extremism and intolerance, including in attitudes and words," he said.

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).

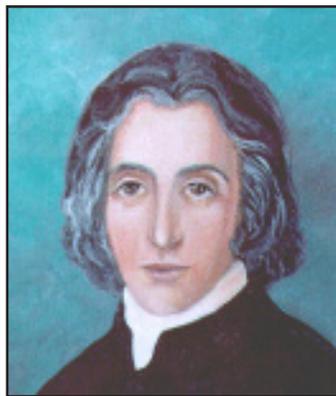
May Christ's saving work continue to the end of the ages, and may we feel a more urgent call to work for the salvation of every creature. We pray this, as did your priest Demetrius Gallitzin, through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,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

+ + +

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CONFIRMATION CLASS: Members of the Confirmation class at Saint Joseph Parish in Renovo pictured (left to right) are: Front row--Deacon Calvin Young, Father Joseph Orr, administrator; Emma Williams, Isabella Hale, Elizabeth Bottorf, Elliot Nesbitt, Emma Persun, Sarah Rathmell, and Alison Heiser, DRE. Back row: Raymond Messner, Joey Rizzo, Garrett Hamberger, Bishop Bartchak, Gabriel Janerella, Benjamin Probert, Autumn Dershem, and Tammy Nesbitt, DRE.



NANTY GLO CELEBRATIONS: Members of the Saint Mary Parish, Nanty Glo First Communion and Confirmation classes pictured (left to right) are: First Row: Alivia Rok, Stella Lanzendorfer, Bella Anderson, and Kirsten Williamson. Second row: Noah Ray, Kaiden Palko, McKenna Miller, Lauren Grata, Paige Alexander, Madison Vasilko, Christopher Scott, and Jacob Simmons. Back row: Father Leonard Voytek pastor; John George Elementary Religion Coordinator; and Tina Grata Second Grade Catechist. Confirmation class members pictured (left to right) are: First row: Marlee Howard, Madison Watroba, Lauryn McCullough, Marlee Mason, Marion Grata, and Jenna Hoover. Second row: Jessica Frank, Brandon Frank, Massi Rodkey, Derek Delosh, Andrew Watroba, and James Lightner.



Nuncio, Bishops Deeply Committed To Facing Clerical Sex Abuse

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The U.S. bishops are "deeply committed" to facing the reality of clerical sexual abuse and the history of covering it up, said the Vatican nuncio to the United States.

"All of us bishops, priests and members of the church must find a real response to the problem. Just a juridical or organizational response will not be enough to avoid evil," said the nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre.

The archbishop made the comments at a news conference in Rimini, Italy. Responding to reporters, Archbishop Pierre said he would have to be "very discreet" in talking about the crisis that began unfolding in June with the news that a church investigation found credible allegations that now-Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick abused a minor.

That was followed by a series of revelations about sexual harassment and misconduct in some seminaries and, especially, with the release in August of a Pennsylvania grand jury report about decades of abuse and cover-ups in six dioceses.

In his formal talk to the "Rimini Meeting," the archbishop focused on the human search for happiness and how every Christian has an obligation to be a credible witness to the truth that happiness is found in experiencing God's love and striving to live according to God's will.

The "encounter with Christ happens in and through the church," the archbishop said. "There is an ecclesial dimension to the encounter. The pope

calls the whole church to accept its responsibility for facilitating this personal experience of Jesus, who fills life with joy."

Departing from his prepared text, Archbishop Pierre told the Communion and Liberation members: "We must never stand outside the church to judge her; we are the church."

A longtime Vatican diplomat who served in Haiti, Uganda and Mexico before being named nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Pierre said that "no matter the country or nationality, no matter the wealth or poverty, many people are searching for happiness -- for that which corresponds to the deepest longings of the human heart.

People try "to cope with our sin, weaknesses and inadequacies by filling our lives with things we think will satisfy us," he said. "For some people it is alcohol, drugs and pornography; for others it is wealth, power and the desire for human respect. We will take anything we can to help us feel better, but in the end, it doesn't satisfy."

The responsibility of the church and of each of its members, he said, is to find a way to offer people the possibility of encountering Christ so that their sins can be forgiven, and they can know true joy.

"Pope Francis calls us to move from a pastoral plan of self-preservation to one of intense missionary activity, capable of meeting the deepest needs of the human heart," the archbishop said. "His election at this point in history is truly providential because, with it, the church received a pastor who will push her to be a church of encounter, of mercy and witness, engaged in reality."

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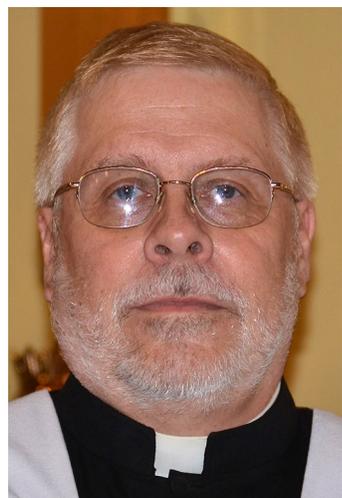
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Michael Pleva

Year: 2nd Theology
Seminary: Saint Vincent
Seminary, Latrobe
Home Parish: Holy Rosary,
Altoona



Mark Groeger

Year: 2nd Theology
Seminary: Saint Vincent
Seminary, Latrobe
Home Parish: Saint Andrew,
Johnstown



Brian Norris

Year: 1st Theology
Seminary: Saint Mary's
Seminary, Baltimore
Home Parish: Saint Mary,
Hollidaysburg



Justin Treon

Year: 2nd Pre-Theology
Seminary: Saint Vincent
Seminary, Latrobe
Home Parish: Saint Aloysius,
Cresson



Jacob Gindhart

Year: 3rd College
Seminary: Saint Mark's
College Seminary, Erie
Home Parish: Queen of Peace,
Patton

Seminarians

(Continued From Page 1.)

you learn in seminary and use it to further the people of God toward the Heavenly Kingdom.”

For Groeger, his summer months at Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Bellefonte and Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish in Spring Mills were a great opportunity for him to continue to meet people throughout the diocese and gain hands-on experience.

“I got to do a multitude of things,” he recalled. “It was an amazing experience of what the daily life of a priest is. There is only so much we can learn in the seminary setting, and we have the opportunity in the summer to experience pieces of being a pastor that seminary can't teach us.”

Seminarian Brian Norris is in his first year of Theology at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore.

Justin Treon is beginning his second year of Pre-Theology at Saint Vincent Seminary.

Both spent their summer at the Institute for Priestly Formation in Nebraska – Norris as a participant, Treon as a worker.

“It was great,” commented Norris, a member of Saint Mary Parish in Hollidaysburg. “I learned a lot about my spiritual life. It gave me some more tools

for prayer and how central it is for discernment and the life of a seminarian.”

Treon, a parishioner at Saint Aloysius in Cresson, spent his time at IPF shopping for food for meals and picking up faculty and staff at the airport, but there was also time for spirituality.

“We were encouraged to take time throughout the day to pray,” he said, adding that he also served as a sacristan for Masses.

All five seminarians are welcoming the start of this new academic year.

“I'm so excited,” Pleva remarked. “I'm looking forward

to growing closer to God and being strengthened by His will in my life.”

Added Norris: “I'm ready to go! I'm pretty excited to get back and see all the guys from last year.”

The newest seminarian has advice for other young men considering a call to the priesthood.

“I think the biggest thing is to stay open and not just with your mind, but with your heart,” Gindhart recommended. “I always said I was open, but until I really opened my heart to Christ I was never comfortable taking that leap.”

Birth Of Mary Celebration

Saint Catherine of Siena Shrine on Old Route 22 in Duncansville, will hold the 37th Annual Birth of Mary Celebration 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 the 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. Participants should bring a lawn chair.

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

Gindhart credited daily Mass and regular Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament with helping him in his discernment process.

“I think the biggest thing to remember is that God is not going to call you to something that He is not going to give you the strength to overcome,” he continued. “When you do trust Him and you give your heart fully to

Him, there will be a peace about that. Stay close to Christ and continue to grow in your faith in as many ways as you can, and He'll lead you to where you're supposed to be.”

That resolve from Gindhart, the drummer and pianist, is undoubtedly music to God's ears.



Queen of Archangels Annual Parish Novena to St. Michael Sept. 21-29

SCHEDULE OF LITURGIES

[All Liturgies are at the Church in Clarence, except 7:30AM Sunday]

Friday, Sept. 21 – 8AM Mass, 7PM Holy Hour with Eucharistic Procession (Weather Permitting) with Novena Devotions

Saturday, Sept. 22 – 4:30PM Mass with Devotions

Sunday, Sept. 23 – 7:30AM Mass [Chapel in Snow Shoe], 10AM Mass with Devotions [Church in Clarence]

Monday, Sept. 24 – 8AM Mass, 7PM Holy Hour with Devotions

Tuesday, Sept. 25 – 8AM Mass, 7PM Holy Hour with Devotions

Wednesday, Sept. 26 – 8AM Mass, 7PM Holy Hour with Devotions

Thursday, Sept. 27 – 8AM Mass, 7PM Holy Hour with Devotions

Friday, Sept. 28 – 8AM Mass, 7PM Holy Hour with Devotions

Saturday, Sept. 29 – 4:30PM Mass with Devotions & Eucharistic Procession

NOTE: Religious articles will be sold in the church basement to be blessed at the end of devotions each day.

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.

The Road To The Permanent Diaconate

The National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States proposes three separate but integral paths that constitute a unified diocesan formation program for Permanent Deacons. They are: aspirant, candidate, and post-ordination. In order to comply with these guidelines, the Formation Process for Permanent Deacons of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown entails a discernment process of five to seven years which includes formation in four areas: academic, human, pastoral and spiritual life.

The Office of the Permanent Diaconate in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese was established in 1981 with Rev. Robert J. Kelly as the director. The first class of deacon candidates, assembled in 1982, consisted of five men who had begun training separately at various stages over a period of about ten years. Following the completion of their formal formation process, they were ordained to the Permanent

Diaconate on June 1, 1985.

In 1987 Father Kelly developed an ongoing diaconate formation program for our diocese and took steps to identify those who would be discerning a vocation to the permanent diaconate. Rev. Leonard E. Voytek was subsequently appointed Vocation Director and under his direction, in September 1988, the second group of candidates began the diaconate formation process.

Deacon Michael L. Russo, the current Director for the Office of the Permanent Diaconate is responsible for the final formation of candidates, the ongoing formation of the ordained permanent deacons as well as assisting with the placement and monitoring of the ministries of deacons in the diocese.

Deacons in the diocese serve in hospitals, nursing homes, prisons and campus ministry. They minister to the home bound, the sick and to many other ministries for those in need. Currently 32 deacons are serving in 35 parishes in the diocese, five deacons are ministering in prisons and some are serving in campus ministry. Requirements For An Applicant

The most basic requirement is that an applicant has "the heart of a servant". The deacon is called to serve in the manner of Jesus. He is first and foremost a Christian man in his usual employment and lifestyle, trained and formed by additional study and prayer and graced by the Sacrament of Holy Orders for a special ministry to the community.

The Role Of Wives

Since the wife's consent is required for her husband to enter the program and to be ordained, it is essential that she have a thorough understanding of the extent

of her spouse's commitment and of her role and the sacrifices she may be asked to make in supporting his ministry as an ordained deacon. She should be ready to accompany, if possible and encourage her husband during formation and in his ministry after ordination.

To learn more about the Permanent Diaconate, contact Deacon Michael Russo, director at michael.russo@atlanticbb.net or (814) 241-0576.



(CNS photo/pool)

AMERICAN HERO PASSES: U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., laughs alongside then-New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan and Barack Obama during the 2008 Alfred E. Smith dinner in New York. McCain, whose more than three-decade career in the Senate irreversibly impacted the tenor of Washington, died Aug. 25 at age 81. His body will lie in state in the US Capitol the week of Aug. 27, an honor given to few statesmen. (CNS photo/pool)

Founder Of 'Catholic Online' Sentenced To 21 Months In Jail For Tax Evasion

By Catholic News Service

FRESNO, Calif. (CNS) -- U.S. District Judge Dale A. Drozd on Aug. 13 sentenced Michael Galloway, owner and operator of the Catholic Online website, to 21 months in prison for tax evasion, according to an announcement by U.S. Attorney McGregor W. Scott.

Galloway, 63, of Bakersfield, was ordered to surrender to serve his sentence beginning Nov. 14.

On March 21, a jury in Fresno returned a guilty verdict, convicting Galloway on four counts of tax evasion. According to court documents, the Catholic media entrepreneur generated revenue by selling advertising and hosting to faith-based businesses.

Galloway's 26-year-old media enterprise Catholic Online carries international, national and local news, finance, health, family, arts and entertainment features, columns, features on saints, an assortment of videos on faith and other topics, Scripture readings, as well as Catholic Church news from Catholic News Agency/EWTN and other

sources. It includes a portal called Catholic Online Singles. It also carries advertising and promotes pilgrimages and other Catholic tours.

The site says it has "unique users" numbering 150,000 daily and 4 million monthly and has 2.5 million followers on Facebook.

"No matter what the source of income, all income is taxable," said Tara Sullivan, special agent in charge with the IRS Criminal Investigation division. "Mr. Galloway received income from many sources, however, he failed to disclose his true income to the IRS. This sentence should send a clear message: Tax evasion is a violation of federal law and can have severe consequences that can result in jail time.

For tax years 2003 through 2006, Galloway improperly deducted personal expenses as business expenses, including his homeowner's association fees for his personal residence, car payments and insurance, utilities and cable service for his personal residence, tile work, and personal legal fees.

For the four charged years,

Galloway reported an income of \$13,241 (2003); \$28,846 (2004); \$60,438 (2005); and \$23,053 (2006), according to court documents. During this time he owned a 4,600-square-foot residence on a golf course in Bakersfield that he had purchased for \$850,000. He made mortgage payments those years totaling \$81,943 (2003); \$78,694 (2004); \$79,372 (2005); and \$80,411 (2006).

"For the four years in question, these figures amounted to a claim by the defendant that he earned only \$4,702 and yet was able to make \$320,420 in mortgage payments," the documents said.

Cumulatively, he under-reported his and his spouse's taxable income during those years by at least \$671,755, resulting in an additional tax due and owing of over \$102,000, according to the IRS.

The jury also found that he falsely claimed to IRS agents during a 2010 interview that he made his mortgage payments from cash that he had saved over 40 years. The jury found that this statement was an attempt to evade income tax.

Adult Classes

(Continued From Page 1.)

life with different jobs and experiences. For it to be united with just the belief in Jesus Christ is what impressed me the most.”

Cubbison’s endorsement is certainly gratifying to Deacon Michael Russo, coordinator of the diocese’s Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry.

When he took over the program several years ago, Deacon Russo knew the time was right to take the course offerings to a new level of excellence.

“We have examined every single course that we have taught over the years, we have rewritten them, and we’ve updated all of the materials so that every single thing is current, and we’ve had tremendous success throughout the diocese and it continues to grow,” he stated.

A new series of Lay Ecclesial Ministry classes for the fall season will begin in early September.

Adult Enrichment is for the person who wants to just take a class to enrich his or her faith, Deacon Russo explained. Those engaged in Lay Ecclesial Ministry will take a two year series of classes.

“At the end, they receive basic certification, which enables them to go back to their parish and lead Bible study, prayer groups, and other opportunities,” he noted.

The diocese also offers a Third Year Track, Deacon Russo continued, for those who complete the Lay Ecclesial Ministry program and want to dig deeper in a special area such as Canon Law, Hospital Ministry, or Christian Initiation.

Among the course offerings is Heart of Faith, which gives an in-depth education on the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

“I was surprised to find out that many people were not too aware of the new Catechism, so we developed a course so they can understand the document and how important it is to our faith,” Deacon Russo said.

Heart of Faith is considered an introductory course.

An example of a more in-depth course would be Sacred Scripture Revisited. A Patrology course is also offered, which is the history of the Church fathers and how they put together the dogma that we believe as Christians today.

Judy Wahl of Sacred Heart Parish in Altoona received her Lay Ecclesial Ministry certification in 2015. Among the classes she took were Heart of Faith, Old Testament, New Testament, the Sacraments, and Bible History.

“They’re doable,” she said of the courses. “They are not time consuming. What they ask you to do from week to week is doable for the average person. They’re realistic.”

Most classes are held once a week for an average of eight weeks.

“I’m better with Scripture,” Wahl concluded from her participation in the classes. “I can open the Bible now, and I have more background knowledge. It has helped deepen my faith, and I can see God working in my life.”

The expertise of the instructors is also another selling point for the program.

Teachers include priests, deacons, religious, and laity, and all instructors are prepared to answer whatever questions students would raise in class.

“One of the big things I try to do is connect the material to things that people already know – modern things,” stated instructor Father Brian Saylor, Pastor of Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Altoona. “For instance, I take a passage from Scripture and ask how this would apply today.”

Father Saylor is currently teaching Old Testament. He is also the instructor for an Ecclesiology class with candidates for the permanent diaconate. In the past, he has taught Heart of Faith, New Testament, and Prayer and Spirituality.

“I just try to do it in a very friendly way,” he said of his teaching style. “I try to inject humor. I try to be as open as I can to (the students’) questions and things they might want. I think anyone would benefit, especially with Old Testament and New Testament because they are so foundational to our beliefs and understanding.”

Prices for each class are

about \$55 to \$75 plus the cost of books.

It is a bargain, Deacon Russo pointed out, because the quality of the courses matches the quality of the same or similar classes at a university or seminary. At a university level, a student would pay substantially more.

For a complete schedule of classes and registration information, visit the Adult Enrichment

and/or Lay Ecclesial Ministry sections of the diocesan website at dioceseaj.org. More information is available through the Office of Adult Enrichment/Lay Ecclesial Ministry at (814) 361-2000.

No one should feel intimidated – even those who have been away from a classroom for a while.

Byzantine Priest Attacked Prior To Mass, Police Classify It As Hate Crime

By **Kaura Ieraci**
Catholic News Service

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. (CNS) -- The priest who was attacked by an unknown assailant in the sacristy of St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Parish in Merrillville Aug. 20 was admitted to the hospital two days later, where he continues to recover from the assault and resulting trauma.

Bishop Milan Lach of the Byzantine Ruthenian Eparchy of Parma in Ohio shared an update on Father Basil Hutsko in a letter read at all weekend services throughout the eparchy Aug. 25-26.

Bishop Lach read the letter personally to members of the northwest Indian parish after the evening Divine Liturgy, Aug. 25.

Father Hutsko, 64, was assaulted as he prepared to celebrate morning Divine Liturgy. The assailant came up behind him, threw him to the ground and beat his head against the sacristy floor. The priest lost consciousness and never saw his assailant.

Father Hutsko told investigators his attacker said, “This is for all the kids,” which they believe was a reference to the recent revelations in Pennsylvania of clergy sex abuse in the Catholic Church.

The Merrillville Police Department classified the attack as a hate crime and referred the case to the FBI, which is conducting the investigation. No suspects had been arrested as of Aug. 27.

“Clergy conduct, including that of bishops, underlying the

sex abuse scandal is inexcusable and, as a bishop of the church, I do not condone the church’s failure to properly address and respond to allegations of sexual abuse,” he said.

“Nevertheless, neither the underlying immoral behavior nor the church’s inadequate response justifies the attack on Father Basil. The violence against Father Basil was reprehensible,” he said.

“In 2004, a woman accused Father Basil of abusing her when she was a child,” the bishop’s letter said. “This abuse allegedly occurred between 1979 and 1983. The eparchy, assisted by a retired FBI agent, promptly investigated the allegations.”

He said the eparchy’s independent review board concluded “on the basis of that investigation, that the allegations were not substantiated due to insufficient evidence.”

“Father Basil, therefore, should not be deemed guilty of any allegations, and he remains a priest in good standing in the Eparchy of Parma,” the bishop said.

Bishop Lach, who came from Slovakia to serve in the eparchy in June 2017, said he only

“Our classes are structured so that you’re not going to be given reams of homework to take home, and you’re not going to be given difficult exams to sit and sweat over,” Deacon Russo said. “Our purpose, our mission is to bring the Church to the level of the class that we have.”

learned of the allegation after the attack.

Michael Hlebasko told Horizons, the newspaper of the Eparchy of Parma, that the bishop’s initiative “to communicate and be transparent with all of us here in the parish is good.”

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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

Pope: Abuse Victims Cannot Be Silenced

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- "No effort must be spared" to prevent future cases of clerical sexual abuse and "to prevent the possibility of their being covered up," Pope Francis said in a letter addressed "to the people of God."

"I acknowledge once more the suffering endured by many minors due to sexual abuse, the abuse of power and the abuse of conscience perpetrated by a significant number of clerics and consecrated persons," the pope wrote in the letter dated and released Aug. 20.

The letter was published less than a week after the release of a Pennsylvania grand jury report on decades of clerical sexual abuse and cover-ups in six dioceses. The report spoke of credible allegations against 301 priests in cases involving more than 1,000 children.

"The heart-wrenching pain of these victims, which cries out to heaven, was long ignored, kept quiet or silenced," Pope Francis said. "But their outcry was more powerful than all the measures meant to silence them."

"The pain of the victims and their families is also our pain," he said, "and so it is urgent that we once more reaffirm our commitment to ensure the protection of minors and of vulnerable adults."

In his letter, Pope Francis insisted all Catholics must be involved in the effort to accompany victims, to strengthen safeguarding measures and to

end a culture where abuse is covered up.

While the letter called all Catholics to prayer and fasting, it does not change any current policies or offer specific new norms.

It did, however, insist that "clericalism" has been a key part of the problem and said the involvement of the laity will be crucial to addressing the crime and scandal.

"Clericalism, whether fostered by priests themselves or by lay persons, leads to a split in the ecclesial body that supports and helps to perpetuate many of the evils that we are condemning today," Pope Francis said. "To say 'no' to abuse is to say an emphatic 'no' to all forms of clericalism."

"With shame and repentance, we acknowledge as an ecclesial community that we were not where we should have been, that we did not act in a timely manner, realizing the magnitude and the gravity of the damage done to so many lives," he wrote.

"We showed no care for the little ones," Pope Francis said. "We abandoned them."

"Looking back to the past, no effort to beg pardon and to seek to repair the harm done will ever be sufficient," he said. "Looking ahead to the future, no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated."

Recognizing the safeguarding policies that have been adopted in various parts of the world as well as pledges of "zero

tolerance" for abusive clerics, Pope Francis also acknowledged that "we have delayed in applying these actions and sanctions that are so necessary, yet I am confident that they will help to guarantee a greater culture of care in the present and future."

As members of the church, he said, all Catholics should "beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others."

Pope Francis also asked Catholics to pray and to fast so that they would be able to hear "the hushed pain" of abuse survivors.

He called for "a fasting that can make us hunger and thirst for justice and impel us to walk in the truth, supporting all the judicial measures that may be necessary. A fasting that shakes us up and leads us to be committed in truth and charity with all men and women of good will, and with society in general, to combating all forms of the abuse of power, sexual abuse and the abuse of conscience."

In Washington, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said by opening his letter with these words of St. Paul, "If one part suffers, all parts suffer with it," Pope Francis "shows that he is writing to all of us as a pastor, a pastor who knows how deeply sin destroys lives."

In a statement issued late Aug. 20, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston responded in particular to these words from the pope: "Penance and prayer will help us to open our eyes and our hearts to other people's sufferings and to overcome the thirst for power and possessions that are so often the root of those evils."

"These words must provoke action -- especially by the bishops," Cardinal DiNardo said. "We bishops need to -- and we must -- practice with all humility such prayer and penance."

The pope is inviting "all the faithful" to "join in prayer and fasting as a way to help foster conversion and genuine change of life wherever it is needed, even in the shepherds of the church. Cardinal DiNardo said he too, extends that invitation to all Catholics.



Amid The Fray

By Greg Erlandson

Letter To An Angry Friend

My friend, thank you for writing.

You have every right to be angry. The recent revelations about sexual abuses and what Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo calls the "grave moral failures of judgment on the part of church leaders" are tremendously disheartening.

In terms of scale, the revelations about Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, now resigned from the College of Cardinals, and the grand jury report on six dioceses in Pennsylvania are dwarfed by the revelations of sexual abuse by clergy that came out in 2002 and its aftermath.

But many people have said what you told me: This feels worse. The wounds from earlier scandals have not fully healed, and the recent revelations have a kind of multiplier effect: Our anger becomes cumulative. Our patience even shorter. Our sense of betrayal larger.

In many ways the "clergy sexual abuse" crisis has always been a "trust in leaders" crisis. Priests moved around. Cover-ups and lies. Now a shepherd who was a predator, and allegations that others knew and did nothing.

I find it hopeful, however, that bishops are speaking out. Bishops from Albany, Fort Worth, Pensacola-Tallahassee, Oklahoma City and Anchorage are releasing their own statements expressing shame and calling for investigations.

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal DiNardo, has committed himself and the church to "pursue the many questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick's conduct to the full extent of its authority." Because the real authority to investigate and punish bishops resides in Rome, he adds that where the author-

ity of the Catholic conference is limited, "the conference will advocate with those who do have the authority."

Bishops are speaking up, but I am not sure how many Catholics are hearing them. The secular press pays little attention, and there are fewer diocesan news outlets these days. Bishops are having a harder time getting their voices heard.

Meanwhile, when the Boston scandals broke in 2002, social media was in its infancy. Today, social media is driving a great deal of the anger and frustration, and all sorts of accusations are floating about that confuse and dishearten people further.

You are right that we need a thorough cleansing of the church. My hope is that this is an opportunity for purification and renewal. This great institution we once called holy mother church cared for her children. Today our mother is grievously weakened by self-inflicted wounds.

For purification to take place, we need saints, not programs. We need exemplars, not platitudes. We need leaders who model the faith, not just CEOs.

One thousand years ago, St. Peter Damian faced sexual abuses far worse than anything we have seen. He challenged both bishops and priests. He challenged popes. We need to pray for our church, pray for her purification, and our own.

I find these words of St. Bridget of Sweden particularly powerful:

"Show me the way and make me ready to follow it. It is dangerous to delay, yet perilous to go forward. Answer my petition and show me the way. ... Give peace, O Lord, to my heart!"

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle

Washing Of The Hands At Mass

Q. One of the parishes that we sometimes attend does not have the "lavabo" (the washing of hands) during Mass. The priest has been asked about it, and he simply says that we don't do it at this parish. But isn't the lavabo a standard part of every Mass? (It's done everywhere else that I've been.) (Albany, New York)

A. Yes, you are right: The lavabo is, in fact, a standard part of every Mass and has been so since the fourth century. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal -- the "rulebook" for celebrating the liturgy -- says: "Then the priest washes his hands at the side of the altar, a rite in which the desire for interior purification finds expression" (No. 76). No option, as you see, is offered for skipping this prayer and ritual action.

From time to time, I have heard a rationale offered for

eliminating the lavabo -- namely, that the gesture stems from the days when loaves of baked eucharistic bread were carried to the altar at the offertory and the priest needed to cleanse his hands of crumbs before proceeding with the sacred eucharistic prayer.

Since premade hosts are now used instead, this argument runs, the washing of the fingers has become unnecessary and obsolete. It may sound like a plausible argument, but it has the disadvantage of being wrong: Far from being just a practical and physical washing, the gesture has always been more about the interior need of the priest for purification.

Many churchgoers may not know the prayer the priest is saying at that moment -- since it is inaudible -- but the words are these: "Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."

Q. One of the beatitudes in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is "Blessed are the poor in spirit." Does that mean those simple-minded people who don't ask any questions? (Lake Monticello, Virginia)

A. I like it when people ask me about the beatitudes because I don't think we focus enough on them. They are central to the lives of those who would try to follow Jesus.

If you were to ask Christians to name the Ten Commandments, most of us could list them; but if you asked those same Christians to list the Eight Beatitudes, we might not do as well. And yet the beatitudes are really the "Christian commandments."

Most of the Ten Commandments given to Moses directed people what not to do -- a sort of "least common denominator"; but the beatitudes tell us instead, in a positive way, what we should be spending our time doing -- acting as peacemakers, showing mercy, hungering for justice, etc.

But to answer your question: No, to be poor in spirit does not mean to be simple-minded and unquestioning. It means not being attached to a lavish lifestyle and material wealth as the goal of human existence; but even more, it signifies an attitude -- a conscious awareness of our need for God. We didn't create ourselves, nor do we sustain ourselves in being. God does that.

Once, some years ago, someone asked Billy Graham, with regard to this particular beatitude, "Shouldn't we strive to be rich in spirit, not poor?" And Graham suggested substituting in the text the word "humble" in place of "poor." We must not be self-satisfied or proud of heart, he said, but instead recognize our own dependency, our weaknesses and our need for God's continual forgiveness.

For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola

Scandal: What's A Catholic To Do?



The charges leveled against a former cardinal, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, are sickening and almost unbearable to read. It's horrible enough that former seminarians allege he invited them to a beach house with the certainty that he was always inviting one extra who would have to share his bed.

Most shocking, by far, is the fact that as these horrors were supposedly happening, he rose to the pinnacle of power in the U.S. Catholic Church, and indeed the worldwide church, while rumors of his alleged misconduct crept around him like a noxious weed, ignored by those commissioned to mind the garden.

What's a Catholic to do?

Of course, it's not just a Catholic issue. Less than two years ago, a recording came to light of the man who subsequently was elected president of the U.S. making comments about the ease with which his celebrity permitted him to assault women.

Again, reading the experiences that many, many women claim to have had at the hands of Harvey Weinstein is enough to keep you up at night.

Sexual predation knows no religious, secular or national barriers.

Again, what's a Catholic to do?

The first thing is to thank God for a free press. I'm old enough to remember the initial reports of clerical sex abuse. The movie "Spotlight" dramatically illustrated how journalists for The Boston Globe doggedly sought the truth about the abuse and subsequent cover-ups in the Archdiocese of Boston.

I recall firsthand the reaction then of some priests and

higher-ups I knew. They felt the press was unfairly targeting the church with sensational reporting.

But would we ever get to the whole truth without investigations by an independent press? The second thing I would like to see is more lay involvement in governance of the church, especially more participation in decision-making by women. Should half the Catholics in the pews be mere spectators as the boys make the decisions? How healthy is that for an organization of any kind?

Third, we all must examine our own role. When have we been afraid to speak truth to power? Ultimately, sexual predation is a game of power.

When I was a young Jesuit volunteer in a native community in the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, a nun warned us about a certain priest who was coming to visit our boarding school who was "handsy."

Many years later, the sexual abuse discovered there was so grave that the Diocese of Fairbanks was plunged into bankruptcy and a subsequent bishop, who was nowhere near the diocese when the abuse took place, made an apology tour of all native villages.

What did those who heard that nun's advice do? Did we make inquiries? Did we raise our voices? Later, we heard that sisters had spoken up and were ignored by the powers that be. It just seemed keeping your head down was the way we lived back then.

And now?

It's tough to stand up to power. But power, and our unwillingness to risk our safe place in the system, is what allows abuse of every kind.



Emily de Rodat

1787-1852

FEAST

SEPTEMBER 19

Described by one French contemporary as "a saint, but a headstrong saint," Emily was brought up by her grandmother. From the age of 17 she practiced charitable works and entered three different convents but did not stay in any of them. With support from Abbe Marty, in 1815 she opened a free school to teach poor children at Villefranche-de-Rouergue; the Congregation of the Holy Family and 38 additional foundations grew from this first one. Mother Emily, outwardly dour and intensely prayerful, led her congregation for 30 years.

Now Showing

'Meg' Silly But Entertaining Summer Movie



"The Meg" (Warner Bros.)
 A silly yet entertaining summer popcorn movie, a cross between "Jaws" and "Jurassic Park," directed by Jon Turteltaub from the eponymous 1997 novel by Steve Alten. A deep-sea diver (Jason Stratham) is called out of retirement for an emergency rescue mission of the crew of a mini-submarine at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, piloted by his ex-wife (Jessica McNamee). With the help of an oceanographer (Li Bingbing), the mission is a success, but it releases the eponymous monster shark, which heads to the surface to feast on humanity. Despite a good deal of humor, the creature's rampages will prove too scary for younger viewers. Perilous scenes of shark attacks, some gore, brief sexual banter, and a handful of profane and crude oaths. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



BIBLE SCHOOL: Saint Francis of Assisi parish in Johnstown held a Vacation Bible School in July. The theme of the camp was "Jesus 24/7." Conventual Franciscan Father Anthony Francis Spilka is the pastor.

Parishes Sought To Establish Safe Environment Committees

The Office of Child and Youth Protection is seeking parishes interested in establishing a 'Safe Environment Parish Committee' within their parish in conjunction with the diocesan-wide safe environment initiative.

We are asking parishes to commit to having a volunteer group of parishioners to ensure best practices implemented for the protection of youth and vulnerable populations.

Objectives include and not

limited to: monitoring volunteers who have contact with minors, parish leadership and staff have the proper clearances and trainings; physical assessments of all parish properties for any liability concerns and to be intentional of knowing how to report child abuse and neglect, what resources are available to support to victims, survivors and families of abuse.

By hosting a parish safe environment committee, it will allow the parish to monitor, educate, evaluate and review events for accountability and safety



for all.

For any parish that would like to enroll in this pilot year of establishing safe environment committees, please contact Cindy O'Connor, the Director of Child and Youth Protection for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown at (814) 695-5579, extension 2621 or by email at coconnor@dioceseaj.org.

Coming Up On Proclaim!

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

September 9 -- On this Grandparents Day, Gary and Lois Fischer, members of Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish in Ashville, and some of their grandchildren, talk about their special relationship.

September 16 -- Jennifer Mallet, new Head of School at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg, shares her vision for the school.



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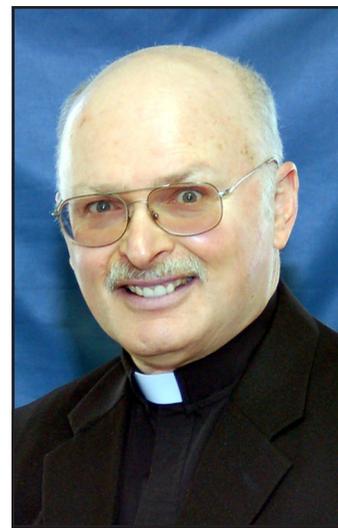
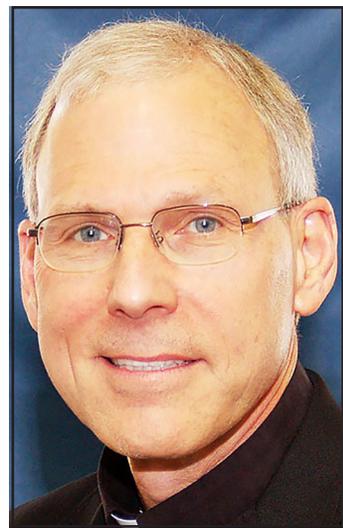
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11 a.m. - Noon WATM - TV ABC Channel 23

Proclaim!

10:30 a.m.

A half - hour of local Church news and features



FATHER MARK BEGLY

FATHER JOSEPH FLEMING

FATHER LEONARD VOYTEK

FATHER DANIEL O'NEILL

FATHER LUBIMIR J STRECOK

Altoona-Johnstown Diocese Announces New Deanery Structure

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has announced a new deanery structure designed to better support the eight-county region.

The diocese will now be configured into five deaneries instead of the eight deaneries that had existed in Altoona-Johnstown for many years.

The Altoona Deanery now includes the 11 Altoona parishes and all other parishes in Blair County. The Very Reverend

Lubomir Strecok, VF, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Altoona and administrator of Saint Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish in Altoona has assumed the role of Dean.

The 14 Johnstown parishes and various parishes near the city now make up the Johnstown Deanery. The Dean is the Very Reverend Mark Begly, VF, pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Johnstown and Saint Michael Parish in Johnstown. The new

Prince Gallitzin Deanery includes close to two dozen parishes located throughout the central and northern parts of Cambria County. The Very Reverend Leonard Voytek, VF, pastor of Saint Mary Parish in Nanty Glo, is Dean.

All parishes in Centre and Clinton Counties and most of Huntingdon County now make up the Northern Deanery with the Very Reverend Joseph Fleming, VF, pastor of Saint Catherine of

Siena Parish in Mount Union and Saint Mary Parish in Shade Gap, taking on the role of Dean.

The Very Reverend Daniel O'Neill, VF, is Dean of the Southern Deanery, which includes all parishes in Somerset, Bedford, and Fulton Counties, and one Huntingdon County Parish.

Besides parishes, each deanery also includes entities such as regional Catholic elementary/middle schools, independent Catholic high schools, Catholic colleges/Catholic campus ministry programs, hospitals, nursing

homes, and state and federal correctional institutions.

For a list of parishes and other entities in each deanery, please visit the diocesan website at dioceseaj.org.

Each dean receives the title "Very Reverend" and has the initials VF after his name, which stand for Vicar Forane – another name for Dean.

A dean provides liturgical, social, and administrative leadership and links the faith communities of his deanery with the larger Church of Altoona-Johnstown.



Photo By Jordan Heinlein

10TH ANNIVERSARY: Bishop Mark Bartchak accepts a check from the Religious Education class at Transfiguration Parish in Johnstown to help our sister diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. The check was presented as part of the 10th Anniversary celebration of Transfiguration as a parish on August 19. Father Robert Hall, pastor, concelebrated the Mass along with the Bishop. Deacon Michael Russo assisted. The Mass intention was for Bishop Bartchak's mother, Rosemary Bartchak-Shay, who passed away this year. A breakfast followed the Mass, which gave the parishioners an opportunity to meet the Bishop personally and snap some photos. The parish presented Bishop Mark with a number of gifts to mark the celebration of the special anniversary Mass.

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Fulton County Mission Continues Back To School Tradition

By **Bruce A. Tomaselli**
Catholic Register

Backpacks, pencils, notebooks and crayons are routine items for children as they begin a new school year.

It's also routine that there are parents that find it economically difficult to provide their children with these school supplies.

For the past 27 years the Fulton County Catholic Mission in McConnellsburg has fulfilled those needs.

"The people of the county continue to be so generous," said Carmelite Community of the Word Sister Margie Monahan who has seen all 27 of the School Supply Distributions. Sister Margie has been living and working at the Fulton County Mission for 29 years and is continually thankful to the public response to the Backpack Distribution.

Carmelite Community of the Word Sister Martha Barbulla has been at the Mission for the past 20 years. "Sister Margie is the primary mover for the school supply collection and distribution," said Sister Martha. "The people of the area have supported us very well."

In fact, Sister Margie said this is the most school supplies they have ever collected. The big item is the backpack with binders, paper, calculators, pencils, etc. in them. "We prepared

609 backpacks this year. Over 400 persons came on the day of the distribution which was held on Friday, August 17 in Saint Stephen Church hall. We divided 209 more bags among the three area school districts. We have just eight left and I'm sure they will go too."

Sister Margie said all of this doesn't happen unless there are good volunteers and she said Angie Zinobile is one of the good ones. She organizes a group of volunteers that pre-pack the backpacks a few days before the distribution. "She's a Prince Gallitzin Award winner and she does so much for the parish," sister Margie said with admiration.

Donations to aid the students come from a lot of places. "The Salvation Army, churches, private donors, organizations, and businesses all contribute heavily," said Sister Margie. "We order the backpacks from New Jersey. They are a heavy grade of material and come in a spectrum of colors." The Mission and volunteers begin collecting supplies in early spring.

For parents that have several kids to prepare, school supplies become very expensive, said Sister Margie. "It's ecumenical and we don't turn anyone away. One woman with six children told me she would never be able to afford school supplies for all of them. This program makes it possible. People are sincerely

grateful for the school supplies."

The day of the distribution volunteers stand at the tables to ensure that the supplies taken are age appropriate.

"We've been very blessed this year with the large amount of donations," Sister Margie reiterated with admiration for her local community. Sister said they also get calls from teachers suggesting additional students that need help. With no public transportation in the rural county not everyone can get to the distribution.

"We could not do this program without additional help. I really love this ministry," she said. "And we enjoy the people of the area."

The Fulton County Mission serves residents throughout the county. Based at Saint Stephen Parish in McConnellsburg, the Mission offers assistance with rent, utilities, and fuel. It also provides for personal needs such as food and clothing.

Saint Stephen Parish is the only Catholic church in Fulton County. The Mission itself was established in 1988 and staffed by the Carmelite Community of the Word Sisters from the beginning.

Saint Stephen Parish was established by Father Benedict Wolf on October 1, 1962 and he welcomed the Carmelite Sisters to the new Fulton County Mission.



BACKPACK DISTRIBUTION: Carmelite Community of the Word Sister Margie Monahan (above) of the Fulton County Mission, helps with the Annual School Supply Distribution at Saint Stephen Parish in McConnellsburg. (below) students lineup to collect supplies to begin the new school year.



The Catholic Register

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