

The Catholic Register



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Deacons Celebrate 50 Years Of Permanent Diaconate

Photos And Text By
Tony DeGol

Being a deacon has changed Don Gibboney in many ways.

It has especially centered his life on service.

“Following that role of Christ the servant and ministering to those who are in need and taking that love of Christ wherever I go with me, it has become the main focus of my life since ordination,” concluded Deacon Gibboney.

Ordained in 2016 and appointed to diaconal service at Most Holy Trinity Parish in Huntingdon, he is engaged in Christian Initiation, outreach to nursing homes, training liturgical ministers, and more.

As he labors in the vineyard, he appreciates the support and encouragement from the faithful.

“It’s a real sign that, yes, this is making a difference and it is helping people in their relationship with Christ, so it means a lot to have the support of the parish and the support of the parishioners in my ministry,” he said.

Deacon Gibboney joined many of his brother deacons and their wives for a Mass in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the Permanent Diaconate in America on Monday, September 17 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacra-



FRATERNAL EMBRACE: Deacon Donald Gibboney (front) receives a hug from Deacon Kevin Nester during the Sign of Peace at the Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the Permanent Diaconate on Monday, September 17.

ment in Altoona.

There have been numerous articles and books about the diaconate in observance of the milestone, noted Bishop Mark L. Bartchak in his homily.

Pope Francis, he added, told deacons earlier this year that if they show that they are available to others, their ministry will be “evangelically fruitful.”

So what does that mean, the Bishop asked.

“One way to measure the fruitfulness of diaconal ministry is through the comments and observations of those who are served by the deacon,” he proposed.

The Bishop also encouraged deacons to ask themselves what grace and insight they receive

from a particular ministerial experience.

“That might sound self-serving, but it is important to know that if we lack the love, the faith, and the joy of being an ordained minister of the Church, we ought to find out as soon as possible what’s missing,” he said. “At the same time, it goes a long way in your realization every day that even the smallest experience can bring another person closer to the merciful love of Jesus Christ.”

It is evident that Deacon Jack Orlandi strives to bring the love and mercy of God to even those society tends to forget.

In diaconal service at Good Shepherd Parish in Port Matilda, he is also engaged in prison ministry.

“People ask me what the guys or ladies have done inside the prison,” commented Deacon Orlandi, who was ordained in 2009. “That’s not up to me to know. The state has already taken care of that. I’m there to bring the spirituality that they’re looking for.”

Besides prison ministry and parish ministry, some deacons are active in hospital ministry. Deacons also visit the homebound and nursing homes. They teach and conduct Bible study.

“We have deacons in this diocese who are involved in all of those ministries and then some,”

(Continued On Page 6.)

ARISE Leaders Commissioned

Photo And Text By
Tony DeGol

Just days from the start of the diocesan renewal initiative ARISE Together in Christ, two Catholics from two different towns shared one sense of optimism.

“We’re excited because it’s a new program,” admitted Mike Bradley, a member of Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg, where he is a small group leader for ARISE. “There’s a lot of energy. There’s a lot of people that are excited, curious, and I’m kind of anxious to find out who’s going to be in my small group and looking forward to this journey together in our faith.”

Mary Beth Schmidhamer, also a small group leader, loves opportunities like ARISE in her parish of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus in Altoona.

“We had a large turnout for leaders, so it has really worked out well,” she reported. “We started early and we’ve been taking all the steps along the way, and it’s really taking shape.”

Bradley and Schmidhamer were among the many ARISE coordinators, group leaders, and team members commissioned by Bishop Mark L.

(Continued on Page 10.)



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Adult Enrichment and
Lay Ecclesial Ministry

UPCOMING CLASS SCHEDULE
All Are Welcome!

These classes may be taken for continuing education hours

Old Testament

St. Rose of Lima, Altoona - Fr. Brian Saylor

Tuesdays: 6:30-8:30 PM

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

St. Patrick School Building, Johnstown - Fr. Peter Crowe

Wednesdays: 6:30-8:30 PM

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

Registration Fee: \$35/Book Fee \$30

Sacraments

Seton Suite, Cathedral, Altoona - Msgr. Robert Mazur

Mondays: 6:30-9:00 PM (2 1/2 hr. classes - 6 weeks)

January 7, 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11

St. Michael Church Hall, St. Michael - Fr. Timothy Grimme

Tuesdays: 6:30-8:30 PM (8 weeks)

January 8, 15, 22, 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26

Registration Fee: \$35/ Book Fee: \$30

Living Your Strengths Workshop

Family Life Office, Lilly - Msgr. Michael Becker

Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 PM

January 24, 31; February 7, 14, 21, 28; March 7

Registration and Material: \$70

For more information: (814) 381-2000 / mheinze@dioceseaj.org

Course descriptions and registration forms online:

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



YOUNG PRIESTS: Through the financial assistance and generosity of the faithful in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese, these young men were able to realize their dreams of becoming priests. Pictured at their ordination in 2016 (left to right) are: Father Matthew Reese, diocesan director of Vocations; Father Peter Crowe, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, and Father Jonathan Dickson. September 21, 2018



2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Making Christ A Home In Your Heart

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

Nurturing Our Youth

Campus Ministry, Educating Youth, Sacramental Preparation, Youth Ministry

100% of your gift supports 14 ministries like **Priests' Vocations!**

In 2017 two young men became priests. Today, there are four seminarians following Jesus' footsteps.

A story of Faith, Hope & Charity.

When Jonathan Dickson and Peter Crowe heard the words, "come follow me," they knew they would need some help to get in step with the Lord.

As young men who already had college degrees and were working in the business world, their first call to the priesthood was a cautious one. But, after much prayer and the support of others, the two men embraced the journey and both were ordained in May 2017—the first priests in our diocese ordained in six years.

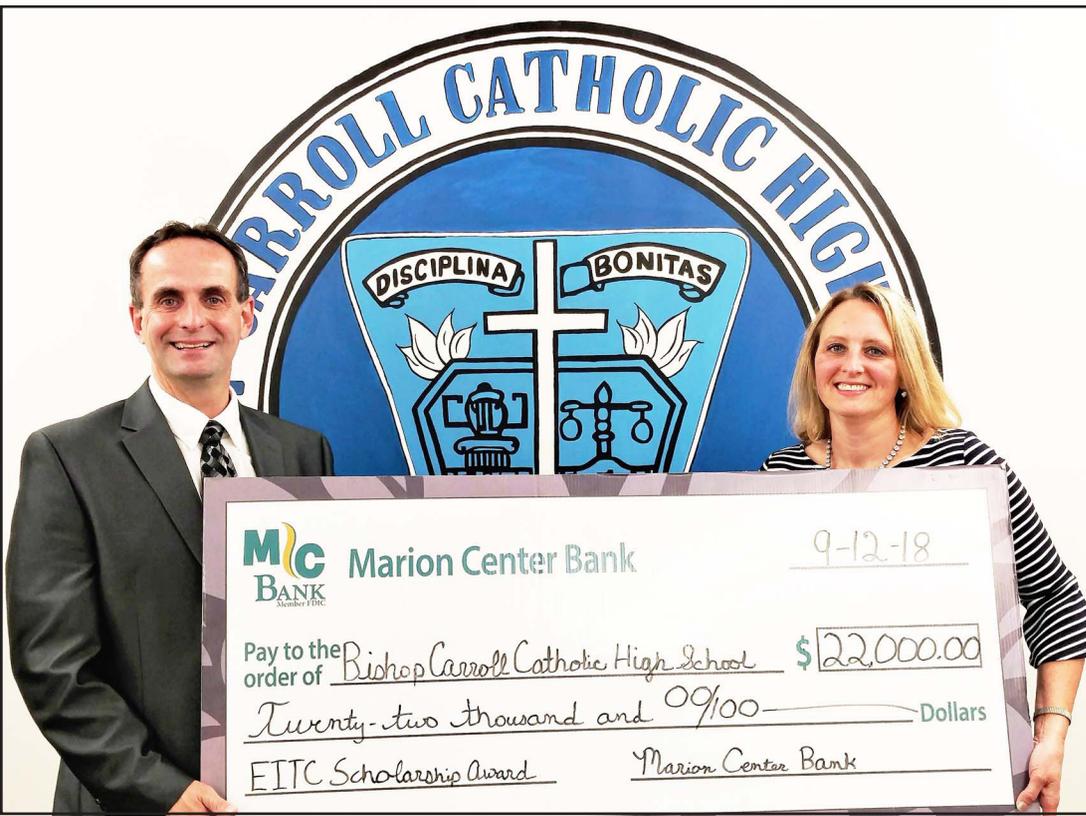
The path to becoming a priest is a lengthy one – many years of study and preparation—learning to preach the Gospel, conducting weddings and baptisms, visiting the sick and homebound, shouldering the pain of those grieving, and a litany of other on-call duties, sometimes requiring a 24/7 presence. The education to become an apostle of Christ is also a costly one. Seminary school has tuition and expenses like any college and to help ease their burden, the diocese offers support to young men seeking His call.

Your support will provide the spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral tools for these young men to learn and teach the greatest joys of following Jesus Christ.

Your gift can be mailed to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, P.O. Box 409, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; placed in your parish offertory; or made online at www.dioceseaj.org



In The Alleghenies



RECEIVES DONATION: George Karlheim, president of Marion Center Bank in Indiana, presents a \$22,000 donation to Lynn Weber, chief executive officer at Ebensburg Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, for need-based financial aid.

Bishop Carroll High School Receives Generous Donation

Ebensburg Bishop Carroll Catholic High School received a generous scholarship donation of \$22,000 from Marion Center Bank, headquartered in Indiana, PA. The gift was made through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC). Marion Center Bank President George Karlheim visited Bishop Carroll to deliver the

contribution to Lynn Weber, the school's CEO.

"We truly appreciate the support of Marion Center Bank," Weber said. "This generous gift will make a big impact for our students."

EITC donations provide need-based financial aid for families who wish to send their children to private and faith-

based schools. The program allows qualifying individuals and businesses to direct a portion of their state tax liability to Bishop Carroll.

To find out if you qualify as an individual or as a business owner, contact Mrs. Weber at Bishop Carroll at (814) 472-7500 x107.

Saint Benedict Mission

Saint Benedict Parish in Carrolltown, will conduct a parish mission titled: "The Church is the Ark of Salvation" from Friday, September 30 through Thursday, October 4. The parish is located at 100 Main Street, Carrolltown.

Father of Mercy Louis Giardiola, from in Auburn, Kentucky, will be the presenter.

The Fathers of Mercy hope to enrich the faith of all who attend to give them a clearer understanding of what the Church

teaches and why. The conferences are for those who are already devout, as well as those who may be doubtful.

For people who are not Catholic, or who are unclear about what it is that Catholics really believe, the parish mission is an exciting way to receive a clear presentation of the Catholic Faith. More information can be obtained by calling the parish at 814-344-6548.

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DEACON THOMAS E. BOLDIN

Deacon Thomas Boldin Honored

Deacon Thomas E. Boldin of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese has been honored as the 2018 Correction Chaplain of the Year. Deacon Boldin is assigned to Saint John The Evangelist Parish in Bellefonte and is the Facility Chaplaincy Program Director at Rockview Prison in Bellefonte.

A dairy farmer by trade, Deacon Boldin began working at SCI Rockview as the Farm manager in 1991. In less than a month he realized it was not just

a job, but a calling. Ordained a deacon in 2004, he shifted roles at SCI Rockview when he accepted the role of chaplain.

Deacon Boldin's chaplaincy work revolves around building effective relationships and achieving harmonious results for all. His collaborative leadership style provides ways for those on their faith journey, both inmates and staff, to improve attitudes and social skills and to take responsibility for the struggles in their lives.

HEALING MASS

Monday
October 8, 2018
7:00 pm
Fr. Bill Kiel
CELEBRANT

CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
For all in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing and those who support them.

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." *John 10:10*

ALL ARE WELCOME!
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Vocation View

By Father
Matthew ReeseDiocesan
Director Of
Vocations

Catholic Charities Aids Casualties Of Hurricane Florence

By Catholic News Service

RALEIGH, N.C. (CNS)

-- The Carolinas were hard hit with record rainfall and flooding rivers from tropical storm Florence since it made land-fall Sept. 14. And although the storm was downgraded from a hurricane to a Category 1 tropical storm, it still caused extensive water damage.

At least 24 people died in storm-related incidents, tens of thousands of homes were damaged and about 500,000 homes and businesses were still without power Sept. 17.

Prior to the storm, Catholic Charities of South Carolina was preparing to help those in need. Kelly Kaminski, director of disaster services for Catholic Charities, said the agency activated its Emergency Operations Center and disaster services team Sept. 10 and had been coordinating with county emergency management teams, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Catholic Charities USA.

It has been working with local partners to have water, cleaning supplies, baby items and other needed supplies readily available in areas along the coast.

Catholic Charities USA has set up its website donation page and text-to-give platform to help individuals and families impacted by Hurricane Florence. As it did in response to last year's hurricanes, the agency forwards 100 percent of funds raised to the local Catholic Charities agencies that serve the affected communities.

Those wishing to donate can text CCUSADISASTER to 71777 or call (800) 919-9338.

"We are praying for



CNS photo/Jonathan Drake, Reuters

RESCUE: Oliver Kelly, age 1, cries as he is carried off a sheriff's airboat in Leland, N.C., during his Sept. 17 rescue from rising floodwaters in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.

those affected by the storm," said Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA. "Unfortunately, those most impacted by natural disasters are the individuals and families who are already struggling to make ends meet.

"But thanks to the generosity of our donors, the most vulnerable have their immediate needs met and the long-term recovery support they need to rebuild their lives," she said in a statement.

Catholic Charities USA said its staff members are prepared to deploy to local agencies that may need additional support. Its mobile response unit also is standing by to be sent to the region. The vehicle can be packed with nonperishable food items, health and hygiene kits and bottled water, all of which are ready for distribution. A trailer connected to the vehicle contains a washer and dryer that will allow survivors to clean their clothes.

The mobile response unit also can be used as a field office.

Two charity organizations, Food for the Poor and Matthew 25, had teamed up and coordinated efforts with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh to distribute disaster relief supplies to the hardest hit areas.

Food for the Poor received three tractor-trailer loads of goods from Matthew 25: Ministries for the relief effort with water, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, paper towels and toilet paper to be distributed by Catholic Charities.

Daniel Altenau, director of communications and disaster services for Catholic Charities in Raleigh, said a disaster can be one of the most traumatic things a family can experience.

"We are working with local partner agencies to address the immediate needs of families across central and eastern North Carolina," he said.

Recently, I had a conversation with a missionary priest from Nigeria who has been ministering here in the United States and has been a priest for 31 years. The topic of the current sex abuse scandal came up and a question was asked of him, "What do you think needs to be done to correct the problems that have surfaced in this latest scandal?" He had a very interesting answer. He thought that new candidates for the priesthood should be taught more about human biology in terms of knowing how the body works, how the mind works, and how emotions work. Basically, from his perspective, he would say that we (people in general) need better sex education to understand the workings of this body we have been given by God.

I do agree with him in terms of needing a better understanding of how the totality of our bodies work especially in younger candidates for priesthood and religious life. Why? Our body's natural functioning can affect how we respond to temptations. Temptations can be greater or lesser based on the current state of our minds, bodies, and emotions. When we read the Gospel about the temptations of Jesus, we see that those temptations were not simply made in a vacuum. No, they were connected with some bodily appetite (want or need), for example -- after Jesus fasted, the devil tempted him to make bread out of a stone for food.

I know that some people reading this article will ridicule it by saying that this is an oversimplification of the problem and those who hurt children are sick and demented people. Yes, it is an oversimplification to believe that better sex education alone can change all our problems. No problem gets imbedded in society overnight. It takes generations of faults and failures. Therefore, it will take generations of the opposite to reverse the direction on the path on which society has been walking. Just ask yourself, and be honest, "Do my children truly understand how the human body works, biologically and psychologically and emotionally? Do they understand the moral implications of the choices they make today in regards to sexual interaction with someone else, beyond the simplistic fear of pregnancy?"

When someone presents himself as a candidate for seminary, a significant psychological assessment is done that includes the component of judging his current sexual development. If it is determined that he is too immature in his understanding of sexuality, then he will not be admitted to seminary. It does not matter what age a candidate is either. Some 18 year olds are amazingly more mature and knowledgeable about their own biological makeup than those who may be in their late 20's or 30's. Every person has to be evaluated individually today. Knowledge goes a long way. It may not solve the problems the Church faces, but we must start tackling these problems somewhere! Therefore, why not in the way we screen our applicants?

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

Pennsylvania Bishops: We Pledge Our Support for Independent Sex Abuse Survivors' Compensation Program

The Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania issued the following statement on Friday, September 21:

Since the release of the grand jury report on August 14, we the Catholic bishops of Pennsylvania have reflected deeply on the ugly record of clergy sexual abuse in our Commonwealth, and on times when Church leadership failed to protect our people over a period of decades.

We fully acknowledge that the Church sometimes failed the most vulnerable among us — children and young adults. We deeply regret the suffering of survivors and any decisions that failed to protect them.

As the Pennsylvania General Assembly returns for the fall legislative session, assuring the protection of children and help for survivors of sexual abuse should rightly be one of its top priorities. As various alternatives and programs are proposed, we will support all reasonable and constitutional efforts focused on helping survivors and their families on a path toward healing.

We recognize our responsibility to provide an opportunity for sexual abuse survivors whose cases are time-barred from pursuing civil claims to share their experiences, identify their abusers, and receive compensation to assist their healing and recovery.

To that end, we commit ourselves to creating or participating in an independent, voluntary program that will include a panel of qualified experts to review individual cases and determine financial assistance. We understand that this compensation program will require substantial fiscal commitment and all dioceses will be seriously impacted. We stress that it is most important for all experts serving on this panel to be independent of the influence of the Church or of any institution in which children may have been abused.

We believe such a program will expedite the process for survivors to present their cases to experienced, compassionate experts who will determine an outcome for each case in a swift, efficient manner. In doing so, the panel will

provide a resolution to survivors and allow them to avoid difficult and prolonged litigation. We believe an independent panel is the best option, considering a window or reviver of the statute of limitations will inevitably result in bankruptcy for dioceses. Bankruptcy would cripple the ability of a diocese to provide compensation and healing for survivors, while vastly reducing or eliminating social service programs that greatly benefit all Pennsylvanians by serving some of the most at-risk people in our communities.

We hope that as the program develops it will be open to any youth service organization, private or public, to opt into it to fulfill its obligations to survivors of abuse. We welcome legislative support for such a program.

We cannot undo the harm that childhood sexual abuse has caused, but in humility and repentance we hope the path forward offers a way toward healing for survivors and their families.

Assistance And Resources For Victims And Survivors

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 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.

Deacons Celebrate

(Continued From Page 1.)

stressed Deacon Michael Russo, director of the Permanent Diaconate. "They're bringing ideas to their pastors, they're bringing ideas to the Bishop and saying 'I think I'd like to try this or do this,' and that is what we are here for. We are here to see where the ministerial needs of the church are. Once we receive permission to go ahead in these ministries, we roll up our sleeves and begin to build them, and by doing so we are working in the trenches with the people."

The support of a deacon's spouse is critical in his formation and ministry.

"Many times the wife of a deacon is right on his arm assisting him in introducing new ministries and assisting him in growing other educational op-



ANNIVERSARY PHOTO: Bishop Mark L. Bartchack poses with deacons attending the Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the Permanent Diaconate. Bishop Mark thanked the deacons and their wives for their ministry and service to the Church of Altoona-Johnstown.

portunities in the parish," Deacon Russo added.

There are 36 deacons in Altoona-Johnstown, and vocations to the Permanent Diaconate are encouraging, Deacon Russo remarked. There are currently about 17 men in some stage of

formation.

"To have this 50th anniversary celebration is a tremendous milestone because it puts the vocation front and forward again," said Deacon Russo, adding that hopefully more people will ask

questions about the ministry of the Permanent Diaconate and seriously consider if God is calling them.

"In many cases, God is, and we have to listen very carefully for that call because He's calling us to be involved in the very

families that we gather around and worship with every single week," he reminded.

"Celebrating this 50th anniversary is a very good thing to do for all of us," Bishop Mark said. "It's a reminder that deacons are integral to the ministry and mission of the Church, especially in our Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown."

The observance, he continued, is also a reminder that we are called to walk with each other in our faith journey.

"Today we say to our deacons and their spouses and families who support them, thank you for your service," stated the Bishop. "Please know that all of us, through prayer and words of encouragement, wish to support you in your efforts for the good of God's people."

Campus Ministers

(Continued From Page 16.)

other. That to me is the whole purpose of campus ministry — to encourage that connection to Christ so that from now on, life makes sense."

During the commissioning ceremony, Bishop Mark reminded the ministers that to be effective in their ministry, they must be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct and strive to grow in holiness. He urged them to always bear in mind the words of Jesus: "This is my commandment, that you should love one another as I have loved you."

For Sprigler, being Catholic has always been a big part of his life, and he does not expect that to change.

He just applied to be part of the Knights of Columbus, and as he looks ahead to the next decade or so, he hopes to remain active in the Church by serving as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, lector, or usher.

"I'm happy to serve the Church in any way I can," he stressed. "It's a very core and central part of who I am, and I don't think it's something that I'll ever give up."

Synod To Show Young Catholics' Needs, Gifts

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Synod of Bishops will meet in October to try to look at the world and the Catholic Church through the eyes of teenagers and young adults and find ways to encourage their enthusiasm and dreams, help them sift through the possibilities life offers them to serve others and resist the temptations that come their way.

Pope Francis will preside over the synod, which is scheduled for Oct. 3-28 and will bring together more than 300 cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and lay experts, including young people.

In addition to their personal experience, synod participants will have at their disposal a working document that was based on: input from bishops' conferences, religious orders, offices of the Roman Curia and Catholic organizations; on-line survey open to anyone 16-29 years old; and a document prepared by more than 300 young people who met in Rome in March at the invitation of the pope.

But just to make sure, young voices are still ringing in their ears, Pope Francis has invited hundreds of young people to

join synod participants Oct. 6 in the Vatican audience hall for an evening of music and of young people talking about the search for their identity, hopes for their relationships and ideas for living a life of service and self-giving.

The theme for the synod is: "Young people, the faith and vocational discernment."

The synod is not focused on increasing vocations to the priesthood and religious life, although that obviously is one of the concerns the pope and participants will discuss.

The real topic is, in essence, the church, its present and its future.

Addressing the presynod gathering in March, Pope Francis said the church and its members must reach out, ask what God wants of them and continually find new ways to respond to the hopes and needs of the world's people.

Of course, he said, everyone must "keep an eye on the roots" of the church and preserve its essential teachings, but they also must find creative ways to share those teachings and reflect on how the Gospel responds to people's questions today.

Young people, he said, are the ones who can help the church fight "the logic of 'it's always been done this way,'" which he described as "a poison, a sweet

poison that tranquilizes the heart and leaves you anesthetized so you can't walk."

But to equip young people to take their rightful place in the church, church leaders must listen to them, be as honest as possible in responding to their questions and pass on to them the art of discernment.

Discernment, according to the synod working document, is a prayerful process that "leads us to recognize -- and become attuned with -- the action of the

Spirit in true spiritual obedience. In this way, it becomes openness to new things, courage to move outward and resistance to the temptation of reducing what is new to what we already know."

"Discernment is listening, first and foremost, that can also become a driver for our actions, the ability to be creatively faithful to the one single mission the church has always been entrusted with," the document said.

Bishop's Appointments & Announcements

Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown



REVEREND BERNARD F. GREGA, Family Parish in Colver, appointed to Senior Priest Status, effective September 24, 2018.

REVEREND CHRISTOPHER LEMME, TOR, Pastor of Saint Augustine Parish in St. Augustine and Saint Monica Parish in Chest Springs, appointed Pastor of Holy Family Parish in Colver, effective September 24, 2018.

REVEREND DAVID R. RIZZO, In Residence at Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg, appointed Administrator of Saint Augustine Parish in St. Augustine and Saint Monica Parish in Chest Springs, effective September 24, 2018.

Baltimore School Will Be Named After Founder of Religious Community

By Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- A new Catholic elementary school in the Archdiocese of Baltimore will honor Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first religious community of women of African descent, and opened the first Catholic school in the United States for black children.

Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori said Sept. 4 that the school will be called the "Mother Mary Lange Catholic School."

In April, the archdiocese announced plans for the first new K-8 school in the city in nearly six decades. The school was initially to be named after the late Cardinal William H. Keeler, former archbishop of Baltimore, but that plan changed after the Pennsylvania grand jury's report

detailed what it described as his "criminal inaction" against an abusive priest when he was a bishop of Harrisburg.

In an Aug. 14 statement, Archbishop Lori said: "As a result of today's painful revelations about the cardinal's failures to protect children while serving as bishop of Harrisburg, it is no longer the plan of the archdiocese to name the proposed new Catholic school in Baltimore after Cardinal Keeler."

The new school's current name will not be the first time a school in the Baltimore Archdiocese has been named after Mother Lange. In 2005, three Baltimore parish schools were consolidated and reopened as Mother Mary Lange Catholic School, but it closed in 2010.

The Vatican is currently reviewing Mother Lange's sainthood cause. In general, canonization requires confirmation of two miracles attributed to her intercession.



(CNS photo/courtesy Archdiocese of Baltimore)

RENDERING: This is a rendering of the proposed new Catholic elementary school in Baltimore that will honor the name of Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, foundress of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, which was the first religious community of women of African descent, and the first Catholic school in the United States for black children. The Vatican is reviewing Mother Lange's cause for canonization.

"The Oblate Sisters of Providence considers it a great honor and tribute to have this new city Catholic School named in honor of Mother Mary Lange," said Oblate Sister Rita Michelle Proctor, the order's superior general in a statement. According to the news release announc-

ing the new school, the final \$2 million of a goal of \$18.6 million must be raised before construction begins.

Camille Brown, associate superintendent of schools, and Msgr. Richard J. Bozzelli, pastor of St. Bernardine Parish, led a consultation team about naming the new school. A petition with 359 signatures promoting the name of Mother Lange was

forwarded to Archbishop Lori.

"One can't tell the history of the Catholic school system in this country without mentioning Mother Mary Lange," Archbishop Lori said. "She was a visionary woman of deep faith and recognized the life-changing role of education in the lives of children, most especially those living on society's margins."

Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

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

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

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

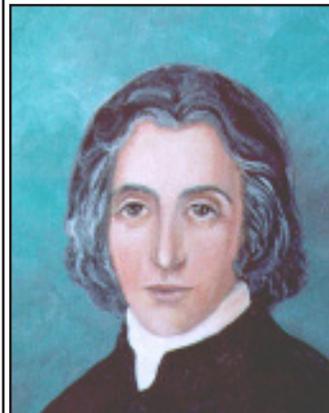
May Christ's saving work continue to the end of the ages, and may we feel a more urgent call to work for the salvation of every creature. We pray this, as did your priest Demetrius Gallitzin, through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,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

+ + +

Kindly send information about favors granted to:

**The Cause for the Servant of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
Diocese Of Altoona - Johnstown
927 South Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg PA 16648**

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Sunday, September 30 to Thursday, October 4

Schedule & Topics

SUNDAY September 30: **Confessions** - 6:00 PM
CONFERENCE - 7:00 PM - The Four Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven & Hell
BENEDICTION - Following Conference - Confessions To Follow.

MONDAY October 1: **Confessions** 6:00 PM
EUCCHARIST - 7:00 PM (Conference - Homily) The Prodigal Son - Reconciliation
Confessions to Follow

TUESDAY October 2: **Confessions** - 6:00 PM
CONFERENCE - 7:00 PM - The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist
BENEDICTION - Following Conference - Confessions To Follow

WEDNESDAY October 3: **Confession** 6:00 PM
CONFERENCE 7:00 PM - The Eucharistic Culture of Eternal Life vs. The Anti-Eucharistic Culture of Death
BENEDICTION - Following Conference
Confessions To Follow

THURSDAY October 4: **Confessions** - 6:00 PM
EUCCHARIST - 7:00 PM (Homily - Conference) Our Lady Mother of God and The Mother of the Church
CLOSING OF MISSION

SOCIAL IN CHURCH HALL
Conference with School Children - Day and Time To Be Announced

History Of Papacy Should Be Read With Critical Eye

By Brian T. Olszewski
Catholic News Service

Early in "Absolute Power," Paul Collins says 1799 "was probably the lowest point in the history of the papacy." What follows is a look at Catholic history as shaped by world affairs, the institution of the papacy and its power, and how the successors of St. Peter from the early 19th century through Pope Francis have used that power.

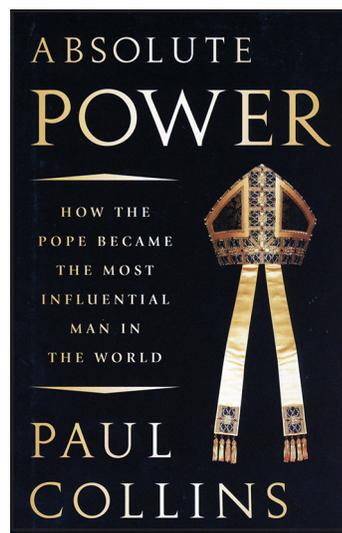
The abundance of scholarship and detail in this work gives the reader an education that should move them to do further study. Collins differentiates between hard power and soft power. He sees soft power as a diplomatic approach in which the Vatican enters into situations where, for example, it can promote peace between warring nations.

Collins is adamant in his opposition to the centralization of power in the papacy, focusing much of his commentary on what he sees as the need for decentralization of papal power.

Collins' profiles of each pope are engaging, but readers, beware. His profiles are more than facts about and circumstances surrounding the men and the times during which they led. Each is subject to Collins' views about the popes. Thus, one is advised to read other sources to obtain a fuller understanding of each pope and his pontificate.

This is particularly true when it comes to the author's examination of St. John Paul II. The chapter's title, "The Polish Colossus," indicates how harsh his treatment of that pope is.

What is surprising and disappointing is that in a book filled with citations of many writers to support his work, citations are lacking when Collins makes such claims as: "(Cardi-



BOOK READ REQUIRES A CRITICAL APPROACH

nal Karol) Wojtyla (the future Pope John Paul) was also suspicious of *ecclesia simper* (sic) *reformanda* (the church in constant need of reform), and he disliked the notion of a pilgrim church, an image of people on a journey of discovery. Wojtyla was firmly convinced that the church had arrived and was already perfect." Or: "He stamped his idiosyncratic interpretation of Vatican II on the church and never hesitated to suppress dissent from it. One might wonder whether the viciousness of the attacks is due, to some degree, to the author's book, "Papal Power," being the subject of an investigation by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith between 1997 and 2001 -- a fact Collins acknowledges.

There is certainly value in reading some of what Collins has to offer. He places the service and impact of the popes in a historical, universal context. While some might find merit in his views about the popes and how power in the church should be distributed, they are reminded that they are just that -- his views.



CURSILLO WEEKENDS: The Altoona-Johnstown Cursillo held men's and women's retreats on consecutive weekends at Saint Ann's Retreat Center in Ebensburg. Participating in the women's retreat pictured (left to right) are: First row--Mary Jo McConnell, Tia Burget, Amy Gresh, Deacon Scott Little, spiritual advisor; Judy Burns, Lidnsey Hankinson, and Dawn Svirsko. Second row--Betty Dennis, Debbie Menser, Mary Ann Zanghi, Rita Halverson, Amy Livingston, Mary Molnar, Kathie Spargo, and Janine Anna. Third row--Patti Hankinson, Mary Ann Shoemaker, Gale Bala, Mary Ann Sigrist, Barb Bundy, Sandy Langerholc, Roseann Bennett, Theresa Mellot, Janine Campbell, and Julie Sagaities. Absent from the photo is Monsignor Michael Becker, spiritual advisor. Participating in the men's retreat pictured (left to right) are: First row--Richard Falvo, Cristian Ridilla, Stan Popich, Father Allen Zeth, spiritual advisor; Mike Wagner, Rick Messina and Terry Curfman. Second row--Ralph DeMarco, Erik Younkens, and Doug Puchko. Third row--Nelson Lowes, Ray Becker, Denny Previte, Len LaPlaca, Matt Hoffman, Bernie Golojch, and Ron Delano. Fourth row--Mike Blaisdell, Tom Deskevich, John Kuzmiak, Ken St. Clair, Sean O'Dowd, and John Fontana. Absent from the photo are: Carmelite Community of the Word Sister Celeste Ciesielka, and Sister of Saint Ann Letizia, spiritual advisors.



K OF C DONATION: The Knights of Columbus Laurel Highlands Chapter presented "Cuddles for Kids" founder Conner Hagins with a donation for \$500. Pictured from (left to right) are: George Ferrante, representative from the Father Ian Mravintz Council No. 10409 and past grand knight; Conner Hagins; Dennis Pingatore, representative from the Father Ian Mravintz Council No. 10409 and current grand knight; and Anthony Ream; president of the Laurel Highlands Chapter of the K of C. For more on CFK, visit <http://www.cuddlesforkids.net/>

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Human Rights Must Extend to The Unborn, Says Speaker

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948 in the wake of the atrocities of World War II, is the foundation of religious liberty worldwide and also covers the rights of nonbelievers.

A leading scholar suggested in a Sept. 20 talk that although the landmark document doesn't mention this, its demand for respect for human dignity should even extend to the unborn.

"Think of how some people treat the unborn child," Robert George, a professor of jurisprudence at Princeton University and a former chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, told an audience at The Catholic University of America. "Well, the unborn child isn't far enough in its development, so we can treat the unborn child as inferior.

"So we have to fight against that temptation all the time. ... We need to be able to see the fundamental worth in all humanity of anybody," he continued. "The homeless person under the bridge. The disabled person, the mentally disturbed person, the person whose mental illness may result in his being very offensive, even involved in criminality of some sort. ... Still, they have an unerasable human

dignity."

He also thinks the rights mentioned in the document should cover the full expression of religious freedom.

"The right to religious freedom is not merely the right to private worship. ... It's much more than that. It's the right to witness for one's faith in public as well as in private," George explained, and also means the right to bring religious beliefs "into the public square a to compete with those who have their differences."

The declaration, adopted Dec. 10, 1948, is a way "to make a statement of common ground, according to George. "And not just a least common denominator sort of approach, but to make a profound statement of the dignity of the human person, the profound inherent and equal dignity of the human person, and an affirmation of the rights that human beings have a, simply in virtue of their humanity."

"At least in theory," he said, the declaration affirms that "human beings, simply in virtue of their humanity, have a profound inherent dignity and certain basic fundamental natural or, to use the language of the declaration, human rights. Rights that are not the gifts of kinds, or chieftains, or parliaments, or presidents, or governor or prime ministers."

But it doesn't address, he said, "the next obvious question: From where do those rights originate?"



MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALIST: Senior Jason Thomas of Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg has been honored as a 2019 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. The select group represents only 1% of all U.S. High School Students. Thomas said he has worked hard to improve in writing, math, and test-taking skills. "Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy has helped me so much in this regard," he said. "I have had great teachers throughout my high school career who have pushed me to be the best student I could be. Their efforts helped to create the student I am today." Thomas plans to study Civil Engineering in college.

From those in faith traditions, "the answer is God. God-given rights, founded upon God's will," George said. "But the declaration doesn't get into that. There was no consensus on that."

He praised how novel the idea of universal human rights was at the time.



ECUMENICAL PRAYER: Saint Matthew Parish in Tyrone will host an ecumenical prayer service and recitation of the Rosary for peace at noon on Saturday, October 13. The event will take place at the City Hotel Park located at 10th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. All faiths are welcome to attend. Sarah Zakrwski, a senior at Altoona Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School organized a public square Rosary in 2017 as part of the Fatima Centennial. "Last year went so well that we had to continue it this year," said Zakrwski. "Our nation is in great need of public prayer, repentance, and conversion."

"Everyone likes to think they're superior," George observed, but the document "reflects an understanding that nope, as a matter of fact, the strong are not superior to the weak, the brilliant are not supe-

rior to those who are less intelligent or cognitively disabled, the beautiful are not superior to those who are not so pretty, not so handsome. We're equal."

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&

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Sunday, September 30, 2018 **11:00 AM to ???**

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SUMMER GATHERING: The permanent diaconate community gathered for its annual summer picnic at Saint Michael Parish Pavilion in Saint Michael.

ARISE Leaders Commissioned

(Continued From Page 1.)

Bartchak during a Mass on Sunday, September 23 at the Immaculate Conception Chapel at Saint Francis University in Loretto.

"I am truly in awe of you who are here for this gathering," the Bishop said. "The response across the diocese has been truly amazing, and the anticipation of people in their desire to participate in ARISE Together in Christ is growing as we get closer to the start-up date."

Season one of ARISE begins in most parishes the week of October 7.

The heart of the initiative involves faith sharing among individuals throughout a series of small group gatherings.

At least 85 percent of parishes in Altoona-Johnstown are participating – a statistic deemed very impressive by RENEW International, which offers the ARISE program.

The pastoral and spiritual renewal effort will also be carried out in Catholic schools, religious education programs, college campus ministry programs, prison ministry, and pastoral care.

"I'm sure that all of you would agree that this opportunity for us to come together to share our faith with each other could not come at a better time, when we are faced with so many challenges in our diocese and throughout the Church," Bishop Mark offered.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, reminded the Bishop.

"So during the ARISE Together in Christ process in our small groups, we are journeying together along the way, with the Lord Jesus always present before us," he continued. "During the ARISE Together in Christ process in our small groups, we have the opportunity to share the truth, which includes honest questions and answers about our Catholic faith. And during the ARISE Together in Christ process in our small groups, we encounter in each other the life that we share in Christ."

Milissa Else is the director

of pastoral services for RENEW International. She traveled to Loretto to attend the Mass of Commissioning.

"What a wonderful day to join together here in a Liturgy to help us launch this season of faith sharing," she observed. "It was so amazing in church to hear the thunderous sound of everyone's voice in unison as we pray together as we move forward with faith sharing in this diocese."

Echoed Bradley: "It has been a long time since I've been at a Mass with that much energy and that much participation."

The Lord will be present to all who gather in small groups for faith sharing opportunities, assured Bishop Mark.

"Thank you for being part of this opportunity and gift from God," he said. "Please know that I continue to pray for you and for everyone who is participating and all those who will be impacted one by one as they hear from you and the others what is going on in this journey of faith."

Sister Linda LaMagna, CCW, diocesan coordinator for ARISE Together in Christ, will offer weekly reflections for ARISE beginning on Sunday, October 7 on Proclaim! The show airs every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on WATM ABC 23. Sister Linda's reflections will also be posted on the Diocesan website and Facebook page.



Sister Linda LaMagna, C.C.W.



READY FOR ARISE: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak greets a gentleman following the Mass of Commissioning for ARISE Together in Christ leaders on Sunday, September 23 as Milissa Else looks on. Else is the director of pastoral services at RENEW International, which offers the ARISE program.

RICH Program Launched

(Continued From Page 11.)

"This is an awesome experience for all of us – especially today joining with the other schools in the quadrant – just to make our Catholicity more aware within our own school and within the diocese," added Saint Benedict Principal Jeff Maucieri.

"By doing a kickoff like this and showing our unity, it's more memorable," observed Phister. "The students will remember the lessons they have learned here to-

day as they are taught these things throughout the school year."

If social media is any indication, students loved the gathering.

A post about the event soared on the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Facebook page, and there was no shortage of encouraging feedback.

"My daughter loved this," stated Lisa Smith. "Especially the music. She was soooo excited for this. Thanks for doing it."

Posted Ann Kochara Scholzen: "My children enjoyed this so

much! Thank you all."

Amanda Wills Zaliznock commented: "My son loved every minute of this 'field trip.' He came home and told us all about it and loved the music and the guitar!! Thank you sooo much for putting this program together for our children."

Added Donna Yokitis: "Our grandson really enjoyed the program today. Thank you so much. Blessings."

And with a thumbs-up emoji, Rose Wolf Beiswenger posted: "Very nice. Great for the children."



SEA OF RED: Wearing red "Christ is RICH in Me" T-shirts, students from the five Catholic elementary schools in the Prince Gallitzin quadrant gathered to launch the RICH initiative -- Respect, Integrity, Courage, and Humility.

Students Receive Powerful Message In Respect, Integrity, Courage And Humility During Launching Of RICH Program

Photos And Text By
Tony DeGol

The words from that catchy old Mac Davis song sum it up well.

“Oh Lord, it’s hard to be humble when you’re perfect in every way.”

The fact is, humility can be a challenge for any of us on life’s journey – even children.

“Sometimes we can get very prideful,” reminded Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Malachi Van Tassell. “We have gifts and talents, and we can strut our stuff and tell everybody how wonderful we are, but sometimes it’s better to take the lower place and let somebody else go first.”

Continued Father Malachi: “If you’re in line in the cafeteria and there’s one piece of chocolate cake left, and you love chocolate cake, you give it to somebody else. That’s humility.”

That simple example was just one part of an overall powerful message for Catholic elementary school students in the Prince Gallitzin quadrant on Thursday, September 20.

All Saints School in Cresson, Holy Name School in Ebensburg, Northern Cambria Catholic School in Nicktown, Saint Benedict School in Carrolltown, and Saint Michael School in Loretto gathered to launch the RICH program, a new initiative in all Catholic schools in the diocese this academic year.

RICH is an acronym for Respect, Integrity, Courage, and Humility.

As schools kickoff the program, Saint Michael principal Renee Phister invited fellow quadrant schools to Loretto for an assembly highlighting the qualities of RICH.

Father Malachi, president of Saint Francis University in Loretto, was the keynote speaker. Prior to his comments, Third Order Regular Franciscan Brothers Rufino Corona and Stephen Waruszewski, shared



EDUCATING AND ENTERTAINING: Third Order Regular Franciscan Brothers Rufino Corona (right) and Stephen Waruszewski sang, prayed, and highlighted saints who embody the RICH characteristics during an assembly with students.

songs, prayer, and the stories of saints whose lives embody the RICH characteristics.

Saint Mother Teresa is an example of Respect, they told their captive audience – all sporting red “Christ is RICH in Me” T-shirts.

“The big thing about Mother Teresa is she is famous for caring for the poor and needy,” said Brother Stephen. “She respected those in need.”

Saint Nicholas, he continued, is a model of Integrity – a big word for some.

“The best way I can explain it is being who God wants you to be – being true to yourself and acting well,” Brother Stephen noted.

When one thinks of Courage, Saint Joan of Arc comes to mind, remarked Brother Rufino.

“She was a young teenage girl from a small town in France, and she felt God calling her into battle,” he informed the students.

Saint Francis of Assisi, Brother Rufino said, is an example of Humility.

“Francis was humble in just leaving everything aside and completely following God,” he added.

Father Malachi shared a secret with the kids. Student athletes at Saint Francis often complain about the demands their coaches make on them in

training and practices. When the athletes succeed, however, they love their coach.

“The point is – when you’re training for a race, when you’re training to be a person of integ-

ity and discipline, it’s hard and it’s not always fun, but when you win the prize, you’re glad you practiced really hard,” he stressed. “That is the Catholic Church and its moral code. The Catholic Church has a moral code that we follow not because it’s easy, but because we want to be good Catholics who get to Heaven.”

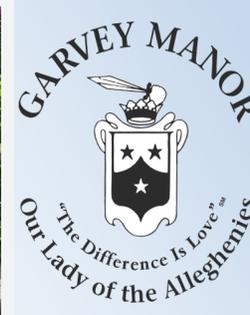
Throughout the year, each school will offer various activities to spotlight the RICH program.

“I think students need to be taught these important values, and I think that it just reminds each of us daily – by the RICH in Christ program – to stress these and to be the people Jesus wants us to be,” said Theresa Burba, principal of Northern Cambria Catholic School.

(Continued On Page 10.)

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Spotlight On Schools

Pastor Says Our Lady of Victory School Is A Ministry

“When it comes to Catholic education in our diocese, our school like Jesus says, ‘is (a) light of the word; a city set on a hill,’” says Father Neil Dadey, pastor of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in State College. “This is because our teachers, staff administration, and families are dedicated to Our Lady of Victory Catholic School (OLVCS). It is a ministry, not just a school.”

Samantha Weakland, OLVCS principal, says following Christ is central. “We are dedicated to provide excellent academics and also well-rounded students who can work together, lead, and follow the teachings of Christ. We see this pay off in the success of our grads beyond OLVCS, that is in high school.

Others notice the solid foundations of the students. “It is clear that the teachers of OLVCS have instilled a solid foundation of work ethic, responsibility, kindness and respect,” says Richard Ciambotti, Saint Joseph’s Catholic Academy’s Social Studies teacher.

This all carries over to a variety of extra-curricular activities.

“I find that OLVCS athletes have a good foundation on what it takes to be a team and how helping one another helps them get better both individually and collectively,” says Saint Joseph Catholic Acad-

Who We Are:

In 1963 Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in conjunction with OLVCS Preschool has been providing quality education. OLVCS includes kindergarten through 8th grade and is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The preschool offers preschool programming for children 2.5 years through pre-kindergarten and has earned a PA Keystone Stars designation.

In addition to sacramental preparation and state-of-the technology to support instruction, OLVCS offers PIAA athletic programs, an active fine arts program with theater, forensics, choir, band, string ensembles, a school garden, and academic enrichment. In the 2017-2018 school year, over 85% of the middle schools students participated in at least one extracurricular activity.

Current Enrollment:

Preschool: 85

K to 8th grade: 310

Leadership:

Father Neil Dadey: Pastor

Samantha Weakland: Principal

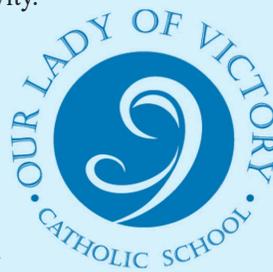
Dawn Lorenz, Ph.D.: Preschool Director

Contact Information:

800 Westerly Park, State College, PA 16801

814-238-1592

www.olvcatholicsschool.org



(Page content provided by Kathryn Peters)

emy (SJCA) cross country/track and field Head Coach, Jayson Jackson. OLVCS students were essential to SJCA Girls Cross Country team’s back-to-back State Championship wins.

“Their level of commitment to their sport and their teammates is unparalleled,” says Ciambotti who is also the SJCA Boys Basketball coach and assistant athletic director. “This

fall season we have six PIAA teams competing and all of them have at least one OLVCS grad serving as a team captain.”

In addition, OLVCS graduates are vital members of the SJCA Fine Arts program. Many have lead roles in spring musical and acapella group. Their paintings and drawings have been showcased at the SJCA Art Show.



FAITH FAMILY MARSHMALLOW CHALLENGE: While working together to build the tallest tower, Faith Family members experience the importance of a well-functioning team and the value of each team member.

Faith Families Work

“I just love it when I’m walking down the hall and a kindergarten and a middle school student have a conversation, call each other by name, and have a genuine concern for each other,” says Samantha Weakland, principal. “That community feel is what Faith Families do for us.”

Since 2016 The Faith Families Program has been a favorite collaborative learning activity for the students. Each family is a

group of students, in kindergarten through 8th grade with two students from each grade.

They meet once a month and participate in team building activities, prayer services, and other activities.

By design, older students are responsible for ensuring that younger students are active and engaged into a Faith Family gathering.



CHRISTMAS ANGELS: Faith Family members worked together to create a “Kindergarten-sized angel” with butcher paper, markers, glitter and paint.



RICH: Faith Family members work together to complete the first lesson of RICH, a faith-based leadership program spearheaded by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Office of Education.

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle

Jesus After The Resurrection/Civil Marriage Question

Q. Did the resurrected Jesus have a human body? (Carrollton, Georgia)

A. It is a fundamental truth of Christianity that Jesus rose from the dead in his physical body. (This differs from the doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses, who hold that the post-resurrection Christ was spiritual, not physical.) Christians believe that the Jesus who appeared to more than 500 witnesses after Easter (1 Cor 15:6) was not a ghost but was actually there -- walking, talking, even eating.

When Jesus showed himself to the disciples in the Upper Room on Easter Sunday night, they were at first terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. But he said to them, "Why are you troubled?

... Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have" (Lk 24:38-39).

Seeing them still amazed, Jesus asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish, which he then ate in front of them (Lk 24:41-42). A week later, still bearing the wounds of the crucifixion, Jesus appeared to Thomas and said, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side" (Jn 20:27).

At the same time, though, it needs to be said that Christ's post-resurrection body was somewhat different than his physical body on earth, since it was now glorified -- incorruptible and free of suffering, a

promise of what our own bodies will be like in heaven.

He could enter closed rooms, for example, even though the door was locked (Jn 20:19), and he was able to disappear, as he did when he vanished from the sight of the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:31); and, of course, he was able to ascend into heaven (Acts 1:9).

Q. My sister married in the Catholic Church while very young. After a couple of years, that marriage fell apart and eventually she received an annulment from the Catholic tribunal. After a few years, she met a divorced man who had been married previously in the Catholic Church and she married him in a civil ceremony.

Over 30 years have now passed, and they stopped having conjugal relations some years ago. Because of multiple social, financial and health issues, they still live under the same roof -- although in separate rooms.

My sister wants to come back to the church and receive the sacraments. The family has met with two priests and received two different opinions. The first priest indicated that she cannot receive the sacraments unless she divorces.

The second one said that, since there is no expectation of further sexual relations (they would continue to maintain a brother-sister relationship), she can receive the sacrament of reconciliation and then holy Communion. Please let me know the church's position. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)

A. I would agree with the second priest. In fact, Pope (now St.) John Paul II provided for such a circumstance in his 1981 apostolic exhortation "Familiaris Consortio," saying that "reconciliation in the sacrament of penance, which would open the way to the Eucharist" can be granted "when, for serious reasons, such as for example the children's upbringing, a man and a woman cannot satisfy the obligation to separate, they (quoting from a homily he had given a year earlier) 'take on themselves the duty to live in complete continence.'"

Marian Celebration Planned

The annual Marian Celebration will be held at 3:00 PM on Sunday, September 30 at Saint Benedict Church in Johnstown.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will lead recitation of the Rosary and celebrate Mass. The theme will be: Mary, Mother of the Church.

According to Evelyn

Mrsnik, "it's important to realize that Mary is the Mother of God and we can go to her as our direct link to Jesus. I want to keep the love and devotion of Mary alive in our faith tradition." Evelyn is the chairperson and contact person for the event.



MARIAN CELEBRATION: A woman prays before a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary following the 2017 Marian Celebration at Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown.



Blessed Mary of Jesus

1560-1640

FEAST September 13

Born in Spain, María Lopez de Rivas was brought up by her paternal grandparents. She had a Jesuit spiritual director, and at 17 entered the Discalced Carmelites. Despite concerns about her health, she professed vows in 1578 after being championed by St. Teresa of Avila. In her long, productive life as a Carmelite, she served more than once as mistress of novices, subprioress and prioress. St. Teresa recognized the inner strength of Sister Mary of Jesus, who had special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was beatified in 1976.

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Now Showing

Unbroken: Path To Redemption, Faith-filled Flick



“Unbroken: Path to Redemption” (Pure Flix)

More artful than many faith-motivated movies, this sequel and conversion story continues the biography of Olympic runner-turned-war-hero Louie Zamperini (likable Samuel Hunt). Having survived the downing of his plane over the Pacific, a long period adrift at sea and torturous captivity by the Japanese, events related in the 2014 original, helmed by Angelina Jolie, Air Force bombardier Zamperini returns home, goes on the road to sell war bonds and falls for a cheerful and devout Florida native (Merritt Patterson). But all the while he is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Though his wife is patient and his older brother (Bobby Campo) helpful, it will take no one less a personage than the Rev. Billy Graham (played by his grandson Will) to straighten things out. But director Harold Cronk’s drama -- adapted, like its predecessor, from Laura Hillenbrand’s 2010 best-seller -- is both appealing in its promotion of faith and forgiveness and suitable for a wide audience. Mature themes, scenes of domestic violence, a vague scatological reference. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents.

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

DA Vindicates Fort Wayne Bishop

By Catholic News Service

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (CNS) -- The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend welcomed findings by a Pennsylvania district attorney that cleared Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of wrongdoing after an allegation of misconduct was made against him.

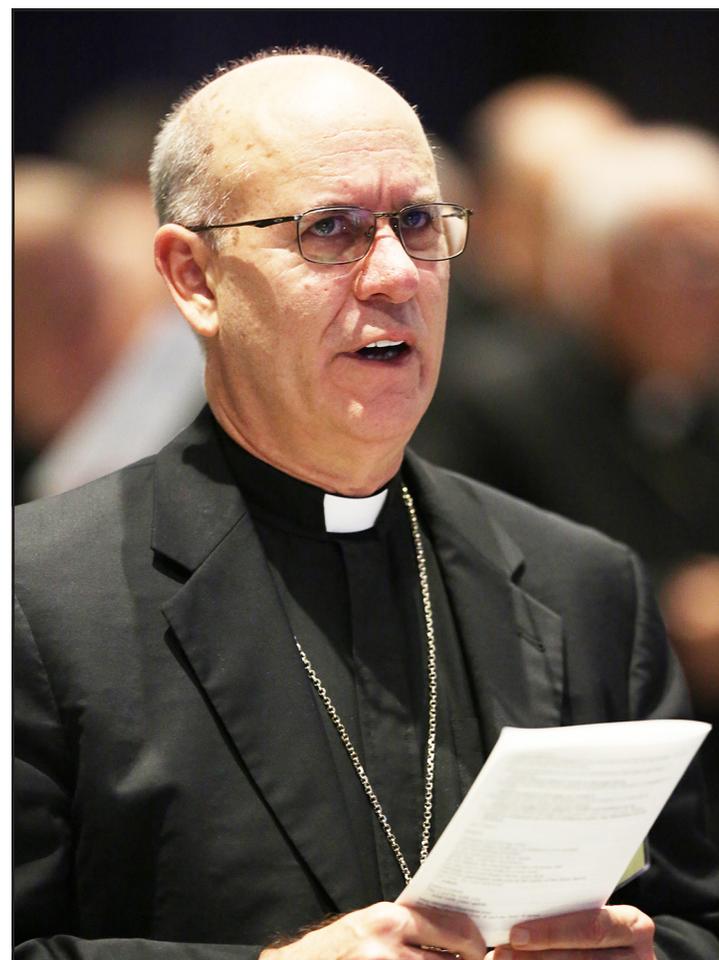
District Attorney Fran Chardo of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, announced Sept. 13 that “a full investigation” by his office found no evidence that Bishop Rhoades ever engaged in “a criminal or otherwise improper relationship” with a now-deceased man.

Chardo said that he believed the original report was the result of an honest, mistaken recollection, the news website PennLive reported. But the DA also said the claim has brought “significant” harm to the bishop.

Bishop Rhoades, who has headed the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese since 2010, “adamantly” denied the allegation Sept. 6 in a statement from his diocese.

After Chardo’s announcement, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend said that “while it is important that allegations be brought forward, it’s equally important for due process to take place.”

“The result of this investigation underscores the importance of allow appropriate authorities to determine credibility of accusations before the reputation



BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

of any individual is impugned in the court of public opinion,” the diocese said.

Chardo called the accusation “a case of a public airing of mere speculation of impropriety with no foundation,” PennLive reported. He said the leaking of the allegation “did unnecessary harm” and was a “disservice to actual victims of sexual abuse.”

“It has also caused significant and unnecessary harm to Bishop Rhoades,” Chardo said.

The allegation stemmed from a 1990 trip to Puerto Rico in which Bishop Rhoades agreed to take along a young man who been paroled from the Dauphin County Prison. The man asked Bishop Rhoades if he could join him so he could visit his grandmother.

Bishop Rhoades maintained that the trip evolved as an extension of his work in prison ministry. The man died in 1996.

Coming Up On Proclaim!

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

October 7 -- On this Respect Life Sunday, LaToya Bicko of Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown explains her evolution from pro-choice to pro-life.

October 14 -- During this month of the Rosary, Lynn Lubinsky discusses a special Rosary making ministry at Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown.



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Pre-Med Student Views His SHYCON Experience As Invaluable In His Personal Development

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

Tim Morris is considering becoming an eye doctor.

He thinks the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has the perfect vision for inspiring youth.

"When you're in high school and trying to figure out how to deal with things in your life, those speakers at SHYCON never fail to address problems that you have and even your friends have," recalled Morris, a graduate of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg. "I took that advice that they gave me, and I used it."

Now studying Biology/Pre-Medicine and Business at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, he has fond memories of his SHYCON experiences.

"I loved it so much that I joined the planning team so that I could be part of it and try to help spread the same knowledge that I received from it," Morris added. "It was so awesome to be able to go to SHYCON with your friends so that you would have a good time at the games together, but then also feel more comfortable when it came to listening to speakers."

SHYCON 2018 – open to students in grades 9-12 – will be held on Sunday, October 28 at Saint Francis University in Loretto.

This year's theme will be "Strong and Courageous," which is inspired by Scripture.

I command you be strong and courageous! Do not fear or be discouraged for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

"I think in today's world where there is so much conflict, it's causing some young people to be afraid to step out and speak about their beliefs and speak about what's right," offered Francine Swope, diocesan coordinator of Youth Ministry, Religious Education, and Sacramental Preparation. "This passage teaches us that if you're doing it with God in your heart, with the right intentions, you can be strong and courageous because God is constantly with you."

The keynote presenter will be Paul J. Kim, an internationally-known speaker who uses beatboxing, comedy, and inspirational talks to share his message.

A group of local teens who

participated in a recent National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis experienced Kim's dynamic presentation and encouraged Swope to bring him here.

Once again, SHYCON attendees will have the opportunity to make a difference around the world. For the third consecutive year, students will roll up their sleeves for the Rise Against Hunger organization.

Students will package 30,000 meals – mostly rice and beans – that will feed the hungry here in the United States and other countries.

"The kids seem to enjoy it, and we do think it's an important contribution," Swope said.



PAUL J. KIM

"Walking the walk really makes a difference for these kids. It makes the day even more special for them."

Swope is welcoming contributions to help offset the costs of the project.

In addition to the meal packaging and Kim's keynote presentation, another highlight of the day will be Mass with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak.

Swope sees SHYCON as a wonderful opportunity for high school students from throughout the diocese.

"One of the biggest benefits is for these kids to realize the Church is bigger than their parish," she mentioned. "It's a chance for them to come together. It's important for them to see the bigger Church."

Teens interested in attending SHYCON 2018 must register through their parish director of



FEEDING THE HUNGRY: Students packed meals at SHYCON 2017 for the Rise Against Hunger organization. Participants at SHYCON 2018 will once again package food to feed the hungry around the world. This year's theme will be "Strong and Courageous," which is inspired by Scripture.

Religious Education or Catholic high school principal or chaplain by October 15.

Promised Morris: "If you go to SHYCON, I guarantee you will

gain something from that day – whether it be a better relationship with God or just a reaffirmation that you are already on the right path."

Seeing is believing, according to this possible future eye doctor.

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Campus Ministry Keeps Students Engaged In Their Faith

Photo And Text By
Tony DeGol

It is no secret that the Catholic Church is working hard to keep young adults in the pews.

If everyone in that age group was like Patrick Sprigler, the effort would likely be a lot easier.

A resident of Columbus, Ohio, and sophomore at Saint Francis University in Loretto, Sprigler has made the choice to stay engaged in his Catholic faith through active participation in SFU campus ministry.

It is a decision that has yielded many blessings.

“Coming from out of state and not knowing anyone here was a big change,” recalled Sprigler of his arrival at SFU last year. “Campus Ministry allowed me not to reinvent myself, but to project myself in a different fashion.”

The Physician Assistant major credits his engagement in campus ministry with the many friends he has made, including some of the Franciscan friars.

Sprigler is involved in the university’s Peer Ministry program, which aims to build community as students – especially freshmen – transition from home to school.

The outstanding campus ministry programs offered at colleges and universities



COMMISSIONING: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak commissioned campus ministers from colleges and universities throughout the diocese during a Mass on Wednesday, September 12 at Saint Francis University in Loretto. Pictured, front row (left to right): Becca LaBar, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown; Megan Deter, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown; and LaDonna McCrary, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Second row: Andre McCarville, Penn State Altoona; Benedictine Father David Griffin, Penn State University; Lisa Baer, Juniata College; Amy Kanich, Mount Aloysius College; Chris Koren, Mount Aloysius College; Christopher Klopp, Lock Haven University; Paul Girardi, Saint Francis University; and Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Malachi Van Tassell, President of Saint Francis University. Third row: Third Order Regular Franciscan Brother Stephen Waruszewski, Saint Francis University; Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Joe Lehman, Saint Francis University; Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Christopher Dobson, Saint Francis University; Benedictine Father Matthew Laffey, Penn State University; Bishop Mark; Monsignor Michael Becker, diocesan coordinator of Campus Ministry; and Third Order Regular Franciscan Brother Rufino Corona, Saint Francis University.

throughout the diocese were celebrated on Wednesday, September 12 when Bishop Mark L. Bartchak commissioned campus ministers during a special Liturgy. The Mass was celebrated at the Immaculate Conception Chapel at Saint Francis University.

Third Order Regular Franciscan Brother Stephen Waruszewski is a campus minister at SFU.

“It is a place for them to grow in their faith,” he said. “When students come to college, they’re leaving home, and they’re making adult

decisions. This is a great opportunity for them to make a choice of faith on their own.”

Campus ministry offers opportunities for students to continue their faith journey while in school, added Paul Girardi, associate director of campus ministry at Saint Francis.

“We were all made for relationships, and campus ministry is very relational, so students have an opportunity to meet other young people of faith and walk with them on their journey,” he said.

All faith-based clubs at

SFU are under the campus ministry umbrella.

“We’re constantly engaging one another here on campus, and you’re meeting people from other faith traditions and the commonalities really bring us together,” Girardi observed.

Not far from Saint Francis University, Mount Aloysius College in Cresson strives to carry on the Catholic tradition in the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy.

“We understand that spiritual development is crucial to a student’s academic success,”

said Chris Koren, executive director of Mission Integration and Community Engagement. “At Mount Aloysius, we’re equipped to handle that area of growth through our different programs, initiatives, and services that we offer to any student.”

Mount Aloysius Campus Minister Amy Kanich pointed out that about 80 percent of students start to question their faith when they enter college, according to recent statistics.

“What we do is a variety of programs that allows them to explore their faith on their own,” she mentioned.

Among those programs are retreats, workshops, and Bible studies.

Being a part of campus ministry is wonderful, but Andre McCarville, campus minister at Penn State Altoona, yearns for students to take a deeper step.

“That’s really where the benefit lies – when they have the encounter with Christ, that life-changing moment when they know they want to follow Him and they know their life has meaning and purpose,” he said. “That changes your vision, that changes the way you see what you’re going to do with your life, it changes the way you see each other and how we’re supposed to interact with each

(Continued On Page 6.)

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