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Marian Celebration Comfort To Families, Moms And Children

Photos And Text By
Tony DeGol

As a mother of five, Janet Hoff knows children do not always listen to what their mom has to say.

That is when she puts her faith in another mother.

"I feel it is important to show them love, and mercy, and compassion, and to be there for them when they need me, but more importantly, asking that Mary is there for them when they are in need," said Hoff, who knows the power of the Blessed Mother from first-hand experience. "Mary has always been my comfort in times of loss, in times of sorrow. She has always been there guiding me. She has always been around my shoulder to comfort me."

Also a religious education instructor at Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown, Hoff often reminds her students that people can change their lives for the better if they trust in God and follow Mary.

The theme for the 2018 Family Marian Celebration was "Mary, Mother of the Church."

That does not just mean she is the mother of an institution, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak stressed, but the mother of us all. Hoff concurred.

She, her husband, and her son were among the hundreds who filled the pews of Saint Benedict Parish for the annual gathering on Sunday, September 30.

The event began with members of the clergy leading the Rosary, and Bishop Mark celebrated Mass.

"As followers and disciples we are all on a journey together, and I'm sure you would agree that we're all in good company

because the first of the disciples walks with us on this journey," stated the Bishop in his homily. "The Blessed Virgin Mary is there to help us more than you and I could ever imagine."

Mary had a great sense of direction and was good at giving direction, reminded the Bishop.

"She has a sense of direction that always points in one direction – it points to our Lord, Jesus Christ," he added. "The Blessed

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HONORING MARY: Hundreds of faithful attended the 2018 Family Marian Celebration on Sunday, September 30 at Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown including the Hoff family. Pictured next to a statue of the Blessed Mother are Timothy and Janet Hoff and their son, Timothy. The event included the recitation of the Rosary and Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak.



BONNIE PFEFFER AND RON STELLABOTTE

ARISE Renewal Initiative Introduced In Prison Systems

Photos And Text By
Tony DeGol

Just hours before visiting the Federal Correctional Institution in Loretto earlier this month, Ron Stellabotte and Bonnie Pfeffer knew the reception they would receive.

"When we walk into that chapel, these men – about 15 – they're going to come up, grab our hands, shake us, and say, 'thank you for being here,'" predicted Stellabotte. "It's really from the heart."

As members of the ARISE Together in Christ diocesan team, Stellabotte and Pfeffer are bringing the spiritual renewal opportunity to prison ministry.

They know that everyone deserves to have an encounter with the Lord, even the people society tends to ignore.

"I think they have something to strive for," remarked Pfeffer, a member of Saint Mark Parish in Altoona. "They want to turn their life around. They've made mistakes and they're going to find Jesus. He will forgive them. He'll be the love of their life. They just need to know that we are out there, we care for them, and we want to bring Christ to them."

The first season of ARISE Together in Christ is up and running in most parishes through-

(Continued On Page 6.)



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

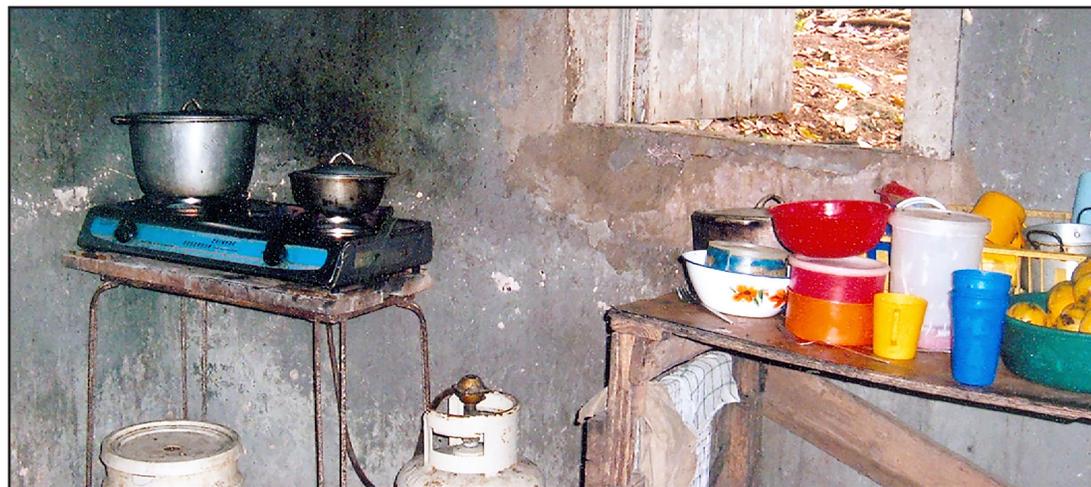
Course descriptions and registration forms online:

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



2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Making Christ A Home In Your Heart



A FAMILY KITCHEN IN MANDEVILLE, JAMAICA

100% of your gift supports 14 ministries like **Mandeville Diocese, Jamaica!**

“Humbled and Blessed!” These are words spoken often and by many in our diocese after experiencing a mission trip to our twin sister diocese—Mandeville, Jamaica, West Indies.

A story of Faith, Hope & Charity.

Located more than 1,608 miles away from Central Pennsylvania, the diocese’s ‘Twinning Project’ was first initiated in 1998. Twenty years later, the relationship continues as *parishioners turned missionaries* remain steadfast to aid our neighbors in need by helping with their hands in Jamaica or with their hearts here at home.

Jamaica is mostly rural and is the third poorest nation in the Caribbean. Health facilities, running water and public transportation are not readily available. Most children end their education after sixth grade. Sunday transportation is non-existent and it is not uncommon for the faithful to walk three or more miles one way to Mass.

Currently administering the sacraments and much-needed social services to nearly 7,000 Catholics are 17 diocesan priests, six brothers and 34 sisters. The diocese covers 1,300 square miles and pastors often have to travel several hours to preach the Gospel. Parish structures, especially housing for priests and religious, are limited as they often double as schools. With so much poverty, almost all are dependent upon the diocese for support. In turn, Mandeville counts on our diocese to help them.

To address their many needs, parishioners do short-term mission trips that provide hands-on support, such as building or repairing structures. Financial help comes from frequent collections taken by parishes and the diocesan-wide Ash Wednesday collection. The diocese’s catholic schools and religious education programs often step up to gather care packages of school, personal, and medical supplies.

Our Jamaican brothers and sisters are poor. But if you ask anyone who has personally experienced a mission trip or heard stories from a visiting priest at Mass, they will tell you that the parishioners, despite their poverty, are all ‘spirit-filled’ as they celebrate their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

As one mission-goer said, “I went there to help them and in turn they helped me. They are always grateful and giving. I felt humbled and blessed!”

*Partnering with the Diocese of Mandeville allows all in our diocese the opportunity to live as missionary disciples. Whether one experiences a mission trip first-hand, financially supports Mandeville collections, or simply keeps the poor in prayer; sustaining this relationship allows us to continue His works of Mercy by following his teaching. **Whatever you do for the least of your brothers that you do unto Me.***

Your gift to the Catholic Ministries Drive can be mailed to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, P.O. Box 409, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; placed in your parish offertory; or made online at www.dioceseaj.org. The Catholic Ministries Drive continues through Dec. 31, 2018 and all donations are tax deductible.

FORMING CLERGY AND LAITY

Adult Enrichment

Christian Initiation (RCIA)

Evangelization

Lay Ecclesial Ministry

Priests’ Vocations

Ongoing Formation of Priests and Deacons

NURTURING OUR YOUTH

Campus Ministry

Educating Youth

Sacramental Preparation

Youth Ministry

CARING FOR THE POOR AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Catholic Charities

Family Life

Fulton County Catholic Mission

Mandeville Diocese, Jamaica



In The Alleghenies

Bishop Carroll Begins Initial Phase Of Capital Campaign With Window Replacements



FIRST PHASE BEGINS: The initial phase of a \$1 Million goal to renovate Ebensburg Bishop Carroll Catholic High School has begun with installation of new windows on the west side of the school building. The new windows will aesthetically match the architecture of the school.

Generous support from alumni and donors has allowed Ebensburg Bishop Carroll Catholic School to launch the first phase of a \$1 Million renovation project.

Jerry Stephens, chairman of the Capital Campaign Committee, has been working closely with CEO Lynn Weber and Bishop Carroll's facilities staff on the project.

Glass Erectors of Dubois has been contracted for the first phase of a facilities improvement campaign to replace the windows on the west side of the school building.

"The first phase goal is \$1 million. We have a little more than \$500,000 in pledge commitments and payments fulfilled to complete this portion of the windows," Stephens said. "The west side of the building, which alumni and students know as the 200 wing, receives the brunt of the weather and is a priority area for the campaign. While some of the original windows remain, temporary improvements were made in the past in certain spots. We are excited to get started on a more permanent solution."

Weber shared that the windows will be energy efficient and include an operable com-

ponent, letting natural light and fresh air into the building, while also maintaining heat during the winter. The windows also aesthetically match the architecture of the school.

"This project is long overdue and I am thrilled that it's getting started. Along with the board of trustees and our faculty and staff, I am grateful for the dedication and commitment from our loyal alumni, donors and friends," Weber said.

According to Stephens, phase one will also include renovations to the facade at the front of the building; the addition of upgraded security features throughout the building; and new windows throughout the facility. Currently three additional phases are planned, but Stephens said plans and the timeline are intentionally flexible to accommodate funding.

"We are delighted with the response we've received so far from alumni and friends of BC," he said. "We received a generous matching gift from an anonymous alumnus along with other significant pledges and gifts. As the fundraising piece moves forward the committee will work with the board and the administration to make decisions about next steps for renovations."

The alumni will play a large role, said Stephens.

"Bishop Carroll has graduated generations of students and our alumni are dedicated to its continued success," he said. "We are seeking alumni representatives from individual classes to assist in our efforts to engage as many graduates as possible and to reach the strong base of supporters in our local parishes and the community."

Weber adds, "We are committed to putting our faith in the future by investing in our facility to better serve our students for many years to come." Anyone interested in getting involved as a volunteer can contact Lynn Weber at Bishop Carroll at 814-472-7500 and they will be directed to a member of the campaign committee.

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100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: Anita Barkley is greeted by Father Mark Reid on her 100th birthday at a reception held in her honor on September 11. Father Reid is administrator at Most Holy Trinity Parish in Huntingdon. Anita, a member of the parish, enjoyed the party with her faith community following the Saturday evening Mass.

Pontifical Mission Society World Mission Sunday

October 20-21, 2018

We celebrate this day of remembering

the revitalizing mission

at the heart of our Christian faith

is to bring the Gospel to all!



"Through Youth To The World: Voices for Mission."

Pope Francis explains that

"life is a mission."

"Each one of us is called to reflect on this fact:

'I am a mission on this Earth;

that is the reason why I am here in this World.'

(The Joy of the Gospel)

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Our Global Family

By Carolyn Woo

A Plea From The Brokenhearted

trust and the questioning of the church as an effective, and even to some, a necessary institution.

We must be humble enough to accept that some people who criticize or leave the church are not those who do not care, who do not seek God or who are overtaken with worldly priorities. They may actually care deeply about their journey to and with God but simply do not know where to place the failures and hypocrisies they have witnessed. We can choose to welcome them as a call to greater holiness.

To the clergy, believe it or not, we the laypeople are not looking for the perfect clergy who do not make mistakes. We rally for those of you who know you can make mistakes, who are aware of your weaknesses, who will seek guidance and assistance, and who will turn to us as we have turned to you in the name of Christ for forgiveness, the currency for hope and healing.

We want to hear from you what has gone awry, what was painful, how to be better together and invite you to hear the same from us. You need to trust that we love the church as much as you do because you have taught us that the church is established by Christ to celebrate his presence and carry out his ministry of love. Peter asked, "To whom shall we go?" Well, the answer is no other place.

But it will no longer be enough to speak to us through statements from the diocesan offices of communication, in

bishops' letters, through new policies and procedures to protect youth or even in the Masses and prayers for healing. We ask you, bishops and clergy, to come into our midst, to invite dialogue, to engage: an act that entails beholding each other face to face, listening, exchanging viewpoints, empathy and finding new paths together.

"We must be humble enough to accept that some people who criticize or leave the church are not those who do not care, who do not seek God or who are overtaken with worldly priorities. They may actually care deeply."

--Carolyn Woo

Jesus came into the world because physical presence in the flesh is how he wished to be known and how he wishes to know us. Presence is the precursor to understanding that makes it possible for friendship and ultimately intimacy. Without intimacy, how can we be family? And how can we be church, the body of Christ, without being family?

May the grace of God start our engines.

Vocation View



By Father Matthew Reese

Diocesan Director Of Vocations

I had the privilege to return to my college seminary, the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, for their Annual Alumni Day gathering. I graduated from that seminary 20 years ago before going on to Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, for Major Seminary. As you can imagine, returning after 20 years, many memories were triggered by the senses that evoke a feeling of nostalgia. Something else is evoked as well – memories of the struggles of early discernment.

No one who pledges to live a life as a priest or religious ever really completes their discernment of how to carry out God's call, but discernment itself changes over time as one matures in the spiritual life and in the ministry. I can certainly say that how I discerned God's call when I was an 18 year old freshman in College Seminary is vastly different from discerning how to live God's call now as a 42 year old priest with 16 years of service in the Church.

Another trip I recently took was to Saint Mark's College Seminary in Erie, Pennsylvania, to visit our newest seminarian as part of my duties as Diocesan Director of Vocations. I spent time praying with the community and having dinner with them. I was asked several questions by the seminarians that began with one of these phrases: "How do you know...?" or "Have you ever experienced...?" etc. I pondered this conversation and remembered being like them - a young man searching for answers. It made me internally ask the question, "Do we as priests and religious truly understand the role of mentorship as it relates to discernment?"

All the formal training is necessary for a young man or young woman to undergo so that they have the necessary foundation on which to build their lives and carry out their vocations. Mentors, true friends, who can help them by explaining things to them and by guiding and by nurturing them are just as necessary. Never did I imagine 20 years ago, when I was asking questions about discernment, that I would be sitting at a table with young college seminarians being the one answering those same questions. Truly God is good!

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

There Are Many Benefits To Setting Boundaries

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Are Boundaries Really That Important?

If you've ever asked "why do I need to establish boundaries in my work/ministry?", you wouldn't be the first. As a caring adults, many of us merely wish to nurture and guide children and, at first, boundaries can seem like they are an impediment to our roles.

However, there are many benefits to setting boundaries—here are just a few:

You are teaching children by example what appropriate relationships with adults look like. If children are made uncomfortable by another adult, they may understand that adult is "crossing a line" because of adults like you who made them always feel safe, respected, and listened to.

You are protecting yourself as well as them. By adhering to boundaries, you are preventing others from questioning unclear situations or motives. For example, by leaving doors open when you talk to

a child one-on-one, or avoiding talking to youth via private message on social media, you can avoid even the misconception of impropriety.

Parents know you are taking good care of their children. As parents observe you showing appropriate affection to their children, keeping them informed of any challenges or issues, and prioritizing a child's safety, they'll know that you are on the same team when it comes to their children.

When situations get sticky, boundaries are reliable places to draw lines. Most of us have experienced situations where we are unsure what to do (e.g. a child becoming overly attached; a co-worker repeatedly going against child protection best practices, etc.). When we are in the midst of a very tangible challenge, boundaries are a great starting place for figuring out how to handle the situation.

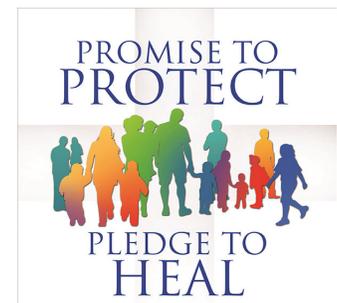
Ultimately, boundaries act as fences to protect children and to uphold healthy, nurturing relationships

with caring adults. Rather than viewing them as restrictions, boundaries enable us to be freer as a mentor, teacher, or coach who can make a lasting positive impact on children.

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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.



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**.

Assistance And Resources For Victims And Survivors

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.

Marian Celebration (Continued From Page 1.)

Virgin Mary is so credible and so real because she listened to, and she acted on God's direction in her life before she started directing others."

One of the manifestations of the way that Mary listened and acted according to God's direction was in relationship with her husband, Joseph.

"She did not boss him around, telling him what to do," the Bishop reminded. "She did not cause him to give up his free will. But what is so credible and so real about the interaction between Mary and Joseph is that they listened to each other. They shared their thoughts, their dreams, their worries, and their problems with each other and they worked through them together, and when they acted, they acted together always cooperating with the directions revealed to them by God."

Whether we are married, single, ordained, or religious, Mary's example is a model for all to consider, Bishop Mark offered.



PRAYING: Terrie Nesbella, a member of Saint Clare of Assisi Parish in Johnstown, prays the Rosary during the annual Marian Celebration on Sunday, September 30 at Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown.

"None of us can find the way to the Kingdom of Heaven on our own," he said. "All of us

need support and direction on that journey."

The Marian Celebration is a tradition that dates back more than half a century. Formerly called the "Rosary Rally," it was once held at the Cambria County War Memorial in Johnstown.

Groups represented at the 2018 Marian Celebration included the Altoona-Johnstown Curia of the Legion of Mary, the Benedictine Oblates, the Knights of Columbus, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

"It is important to realize that Mary is the Mother of God, and we can go to her as our direct link to Jesus," commented Evelyn Mrsnik, a Saint Benedict parishioner and one of the lead organizers of the celebration.

No argument from Hoff on that statement.

"She has been such a role model," she admitted. "I can relate to her. She was human, and she chose the role she took. She has been my inspiration and my strength."

A powerful statement from one mother about the ultimate mother.

ARISE Ministry (Continued From Page 1.)

out the diocese. The renewal initiative is also happening in Catholic schools, religious education programs, college campus ministry, and pastoral ministry.

And, yes, prison ministry.

That's because we seek renewal throughout the entire diocese, emphasized Carmelite Community of the Word Sister Linda LaMagna, diocesan ARISE coordinator.

She said the ARISE prayer invites all of us to ARISE, and reminds that the Lord is doing something new in our lives and in our churches.

"That's why we don't want to limit it to people who may embrace it in our parishes, but we want it to spread out to anywhere people are gathering to worship or to experience Christ," she stressed. "In those places, we want them to experience what is happening in the diocesan Church so we feel a unity and a oneness."

Stellabotte, a member of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Hollidaysburg, has been active in prison ministry for about five years. He believes ARISE can change the faith life of men and women serving time for their crimes.

"What's so beautiful about ARISE is that we are actually reading the Scriptures and saying 'this is what it means to me - not anybody else - but to me, how I interpret that,'" he said. "And that is so beautiful because it really gives the people the opportunity to sit down and talk with Christ."

Prisoners will see what God has to offer, added Pfeffer, who has been engaged in prison ministry for about a year.

"I know they look at us as an example of how we love Christ, and that we're willing to give our time for them, and they're willing to share their encounters with us," she commented.

Stellabotte sees this effort in terms of multi-level marketing.

"One person gets another person, those two get two," he said. "We're hoping our 15 get 15. We'll have 30, then we'll have 60."

ARISE is a non-threatening opportunity for those who have

been away from their Catholic faith to come home, Stellabotte reflected.

As he and Pfeffer continue their great work, they pray for success and realize that they are at the right place at the right time.

"I think God has chosen us to spread His word," concluded Pfeffer. "He puts us where He wants us to be. He wants us to bring others to Him."

Sister Linda LaMagna, CCW, diocesan coordinator for ARISE Together in Christ, is offering weekly reflections for ARISE throughout the season on Proclaim! The show airs every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on WATM ABC 23. The reflections are also on the diocesan website and Facebook page.

Festival Of Praise October 22



DEACON MICHAEL ANNA

A Festival of Praise will take place in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:00 PM on Monday, October 22. The festival will feature Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and joyful praise and worship music led by the Cathedral prayer group music ministry.

Deacon Michael Anna will share Scripture and a homily. Deacon Anna works as a chaplain at UPMC Altoona as well as serving as a deacon in his home parish, Saint Bernard's in Hastings.

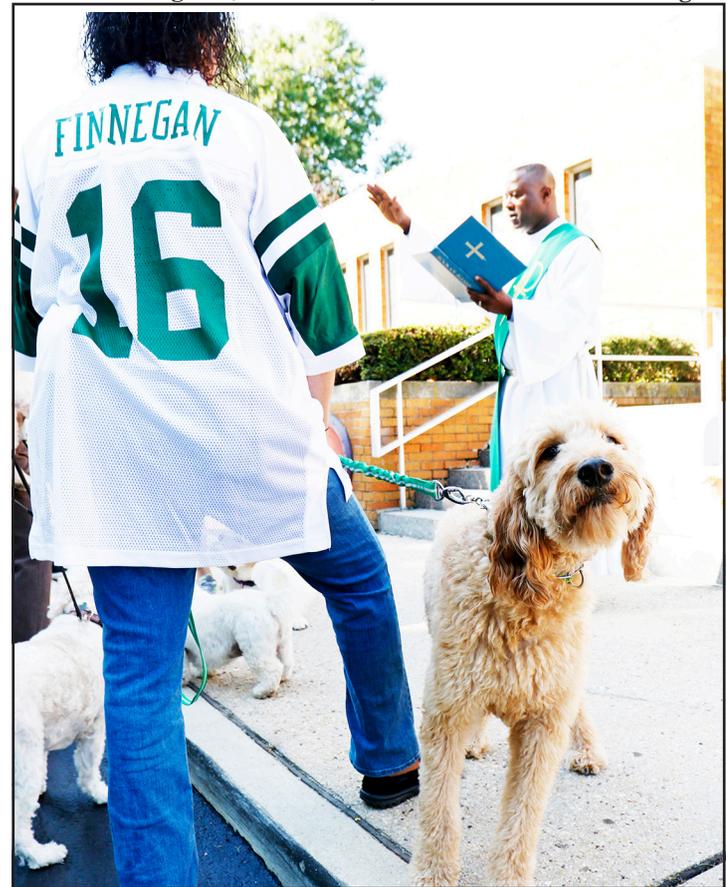
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ANNIVERSARY: The Folk Choir at Most Holy Trinity Church in Huntingdon celebrated its 40 anniversary as part of the Music Ministry. Members of the group pictured (left to right) are: First row--Reese Zurybida, guitarist; Terry Gaudlip, cantor; Carole Lang, cantor; Denise Hearn, keyboardist; Susan Benton, Joyce Robison, seated, charter member; Audrey Houck, Maddie Hopsicker, and Donna Engleberger, guitarist, cantor. Second row--Anita Roseborough, guitarist, director, cantor; Kathy Evangeliste, cantor; Mike Kissell, Juanita Kissell, Peggy DeMar, charter member; Pat Chaundy, Mary Kay Dubetz, and Linda Taylo. Third row-- Matt Hearn, Jim Oscar, Gloria Oscar, Bob Roseborough, Harry Lang, Bill Benton, Rick Kalos, Francis (Buzz) Royer, and Dick Taylor. Absent from the photo are: Mary Beth and Scott Fye, Jim Hayden, Kat Hopsicker, guitarist; Jamie Bennett, Mackenzie Hearn, Bethany Hearn, Madison Hearn, Jean Workerger



(CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)

PET BLESSING: Shaggy, an Irish setter owned by Tseyed Finnegan, looks away as Deacon Jean Cantave prays during a pet blessing September 30 at Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Greenlawn, N.Y. The service was held in advance of the October 4 feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron of animals.

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If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip line 17 on page 3.

Educators

(Continued from Page 16.)



HONORED: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak presents an Apple Clock to Julie Dodson for 25 years of service to diocesan education. The presentation took place at the annual Diocesan Education In-Service held at Altoona Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School. Jimmy Casas, CEO and President of J Casas and Associates, delivered the keynote address: "Creating A Culture of Excellence."



PATRIOTIC ROSARY: The seventh annual Patriotic Rosary will be prayed at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 20 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. Sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will preside and various public officials will be on hand. The gathering will include Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to join in praying for wisdom for elected officials and divine guidance in our choices on Election Day. Refreshments will follow at the Cathedral's main entrance.

YEARS OF SERVICE: Longevity Awards were presented at the annual Diocesan Education In-Service held at Altoona Bishop Guilfoyle High School. Pictured (left to right) are: Front row--Margaret Beck and Robin McMullen (30 Years); Julie Dodson (25 Years); and Theresa Burba (35 Years). Back row--Robin Zavada (35 Years); Michelle Rivetti and Lorie Ratchford (25 Years); Bishop Mark L. Bartchak; Jamie Sherry and Kimberly Zedack (25 Years); and Jo-Ann Semko, diocesan director of Education.



MASTER CATECHISTS: Lori Holloway and Gloria Demi were honored for achieving Master Catechist status. Pictured (left to right) are: Jo-Ann Semko, diocesan director of Education; Holloway, Demi, and Bishop Mark L. Bartchak. The presentation took place at the annual Diocesan Education In-Service held at Altoona Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School.

How can you be a part of \$HYCON 2018?

Senior High Youth Conference (\$HYCON) Sunday, October 28, 2018

Please—Help us help others!!

Your monetary donation will help purchase kits for our high school youth that are attending \$HYCON to pack meals for those who might otherwise go hungry!

LEND A HELPING HAND!!
EVERY DONATION HELPS!
Possible giving levels:



Make checks payable to:
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
Helping Hands Project
933 S. Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Would you be willing to
LEND A HELPING HAND to those in need??

This is a great opportunity for individuals, groups and businesses to participate in this Corporal Work of Mercy and help our youth to live it!!

Anyone "lending a helping hand" by making a donation will be recognized on a banner At \$HYCON and in the program for the day.

For more information, or to make a donation, contact Francine Swope, Diocesan Youth Ministry Office at (814)317-2646 or by email at fswope@dioceseaj.org



RISE AGAINST HUNGER!!

Saint Michael Basilica, School Celebrate Patron Saint And First Responders At A Mass

Photo And Text By
Tony DeGol

Most dads would love having their sons follow in their footsteps.

So one can only imagine the pride Scott Eckenrode, chief of the Loretto Community Volunteer Fire Company, must feel.

"I have two sons, one wants to be a fireman, one wants to be a police officer," Eckenrode admitted with a beaming smile.

One could also imagine the pride his sons – both students at Saint Michael School in Loretto – felt as they watched their father be recognized and receive a special blessing during a Mass in celebration of their school's patron.

The Eckenrode boys and their classmates were on hand for a Liturgy on Saturday, September 29 at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel. The parish and school family gathered to observe the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels.

"This Mass is rather special," acknowledged the Very Reverend John Byrnes, Rector of the Basilica and Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. "Tonight is all about Michael's love for Jesus. Tonight is all about Michael's care for us. Tonight is all about those who live out Michael's courage and protection of us in our world today."

Father Byrnes reminded the Loretto faithful that their first pastor, the Prince-Priest and Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin, chose Michael the Archangel as the parish patron and placed parish families under his care.

"Father Gallitzin wanted our parish to be a place of prayer," he continued. "That is the job of an angel – to pray. Angels are always attentive in prayer before God."

Saint Michael can inspire us to be curious and search for beauty, Father Byrnes offered. Michael is also a warrior against evil and a protector.

"That's why Saint Michael was chosen as the patron saint



SPECIAL MASS: In celebration of the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel and Saint Michael School in Loretto came together for a Mass on Saturday, September 29. During the Liturgy, the Rector of the Basilica, the Very Reverend John Byrnes, offered a special blessing to emergency responders. Pictured with some of the school children are Father Byrnes and Principal Renee Phister. Also pictured in the back row (left to right): Patrick McCauley, Mariah Kline, Sarah Byrnes, Scott Eckenrode, and Ed Phister, all emergency responders.

of firefighters, police officers, medical workers, first responders – all of those who serve in a time of crisis," he added. "When the alarm sounds, they have to make a quick and difficult decision, and so tonight we offer them special help from God. Tonight we offer you first responders who have graced us with your presence

our prayers and our respect and thanks for your protection of us."

Eckenrode and other emergency responders came forward as Father Byrnes offered them a special blessing and the congregation affirmed them with applause.

Although that support is ap-

preciated, Eckenrode explained that emergency responders do not seek acknowledgement or thanks. They simply want to help people.

Eckenrode, a native of Loretto and alum of Saint Michael School, also pointed out the lesson his service offers his sons. He

coaches their baseball team, and often the alarm sounds at that time or during a family dinner.

"The boys know I'm going to help somebody," he said. "They know if nobody shows up, the situation could be a lot worse. They understand that."

Renee Phister, principal of Saint Michael School, wants the school children to realize the sacrifices some people make for others.

"What better way than to honor our volunteer firefighters and our EMS personnel from here in our own community?," posed Phister. "Many of the ones we honored today have children in our school. It is an important thing to show from generation to generation the importance of helping others."

Students came away from the Mass inspired by the emergency responders and the legacy of Saint Michael the Archangel.

Noted eighth grader JoAnna Hoover, "It makes me want to go and teach younger students about all that Saint Michael has done for us and everything Saint Michael has offered our church, our school, everything."

SHYCON 2018 Will Be held On Sunday, October 28

SHYCON (Senior High Youth Convention) 2018 will be held at Saint Francis University on Sunday, October 28. Teens interested in attending the event should contact their parish director of Religious Education, Catholic High School Principal or chaplain by October 15.

The theme for this year is "Strong and Courageous," which is inspired by Scripture. *I command you to be strong and courageous! Do not fear for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

"This passage teaches us that if you're doing it with God in your heart, with good intentions, you can be strong and courageous because God is constantly with you," said Francine

Swope, diocesan coordinator of Youth Ministry, Religious Education, and Sacramental Preparation.

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

For the third consecutive year, students will be rolling up their sleeves for the Rise Against Hunger organization. They will pack over 30,000 meals—mostly rice and beans—that will feed the hungry here in the United States and other countries.

"The kids always seem to have fun putting on hair nets and packing the meals," said Swope.

Sunday Mass

Broadcast Live From
The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Altoona

10:00 a.m. WFBG radio, 1290 AM

Sunday Mass

Broadcast Live From
The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Altoona

10:00 a.m. WFBG radio, 1290 AM

Australian Bishop Apologizes To Young People For Shameful Acts

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Australian Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney used his speech at the Synod of Bishops to formally apologize to young people for all the ways the Catholic Church and its members have harmed them or let them down.

In the presence of Pope Francis, he apologized Oct. 4 "for the shameful deeds of some priests, religious and lay-people, perpetrated upon you or other young people just like you, and the terrible damage that has done."

He apologized "for the failure of too many bishops and others to respond appropriately when abuse was identified, and to do all in their power to keep you safe; and for the damage thus done to the church's credibility and to your trust."

Later, at the synod briefing for the press, Paolo Ruffini, prefect of the Dicastery for Communication, said several of the 25 bishops who spoke that morning asked young people to forgive the church and its members. Some spoke specifically of cases of clerical sexual abuse, he said, while others asked forgiveness for not welcoming migrants -- most of whom are young -- or for trying to "tame" young people rather than recognize their energy and enthusiasm as a gift.

Chiara Giaccardi, an Italian professor of sociology working with the synod, told



CNS photo/Vatican Media

YOUNG PEOPLE SYNOD: Pope Francis attends a session of the Synod of Bishops on young people, the faith and vocational discernment at the Vatican Oct. 4.

reporters "at least five or six" of the 25 speeches "emphasized asking forgiveness in a strong way." Most of those, she said, mentioned "the church's lack of living its mandate fully."

The synod's communication plan is to have a few participants share each day their reflections on what was said in the hall. But the Vatican is not releasing a list of the bishops who speak during each session, is not publishing summaries of the talks and is not referring to anyone by name during the briefings.

Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro, secretary of the synod's information commission, told reporters the gathering "is not a parliament, but a place of discernment" where everyone is

free to speak openly, "knowing that what they say will remain inside the hall."

Still, Ruffini said, each bishop is free to talk to anyone about his own speech to the assembly.

Archbishop Fisher's office shared the text of his speech.

In addition to apologizing for the church's failures with clerical sexual abuse, the archbishop also apologized for the ways in which the church had failed to "introduce you to the person of Jesus Christ, his saving word and his plan for your life."

"And for the times when you were searching for your sexual, ethnic or spiritual identity and needed a moral compass, but found church people unsympathetic or ambiguous: I apologize," he said.

The Catholic Church, Archbishop Fisher said, often "sold you short" by not challenging young people to live up to their baptismal call to holiness, by offering them "unbeautiful or unwelcoming liturgies" and by not sharing with them church traditions such as the sacrament of reconciliation, pilgrimages and eucharistic adoration.

He apologized for "poor preaching, catechesis or spiritual direction" that failed to inspire conversion and for families, dioceses and religious orders that adopted a "contraceptive men-

talities" that did not even try to give birth to new vocations.

In addition to his apology, the Sydney archbishop pleaded

October 24th Is World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on October 21. The theme for this year's celebration is: "Through Youth To The World: Voices for Mission."

World Mission Sunday is a day set aside for the Catholic Church throughout the world to publicly renew its commitment to the missionary movement.

It was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1926 as the day of prayer and celebrations for missions. It is held the next to the last Sunday of October every year.

Together as children of God

He apologized "for the failure of too many bishops and others to respond appropriately when abuse was identified, and to do all in their power to keep you safe; and for the damage thus done to the church's credibility and to your trust."

--Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Sydney

with young people: "Never give up on Jesus because of our failures. Never give up on the church that you can help make more faithful. Never give up on the world that, with Christ and the church's help, you can make a better place."

in every corner of the globe, we become voices for mission, and bring the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the world.

Pope Francis reminds us in his book "The Joy of the Gospel" that "life is a mission. Each one of us is called to reflect on this fact: I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I live in this world!"

In a world where so much divides us, World Mission Sunday rejoices in our unity as children of God, His missionaries.

Coming Up On Proclaim!

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

October 21 -- Ron Stellabotte and Bonnie Pfeffer, members of the ARISE Together in Christ diocesan team, discuss how the renewal is unfolding in prison ministry.

October 28 -- Kaylee Schall and Sarah Farabaugh, students at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebersburg, share their outstanding experiences with diocesan youth ministry programs.

**SAINT MICHAEL
HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**
presents the

**Annual
Arts & Crafts
Show and Sale**

Our Lady of Loretto Community Hall

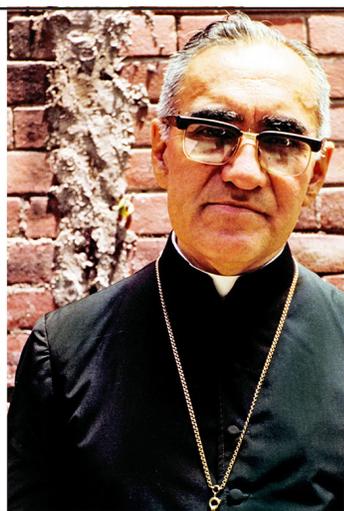
October 20 – 10 am to 4 pm

October 21 – 10 am to 3 pm

New Saints Offer Youth A Road Map To Holiness



POPE PAUL VI



FATHER OSCAR ROMERO

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Catholic Church has its share of young saints who gave witness through their lives that

holiness can be attained even at a young age.

Others, like Blesseds Paul VI and Oscar Romero, show that the path to holiness begins early. The two were declared saints during the Synod of Bishops on young

people and discernment.

Although Pope Paul VI is best remembered for seeing the Second Vatican Council through to its end and helping implement its far-reaching reforms, his journey toward holiness began much earlier in life, said Father Claudio Zanardini, rector of the Basilica di Santa Maria delle Grazie in the northern Italian province of Brescia, where Blessed Paul VI celebrated his first Mass May 30, 1920.

"We here in Brescia are trying -- at Pope Francis' request -- to make Paul VI's younger years more known. That is, how he lived his time of vocational discernment and his formation so that he can become a model for young people who are on their own path of formation," Father Zanardini told Catholic News Service Sept. 27.

Born Giovanni Battista Montini in 1897, the future pope and his brothers would

attend youth meetings organized by the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Brescia.

Blessed Paul's relationship with his family as well as a "deep sense of prayerfulness and an acute involvement in the social issues of his time were one of the legacies of his parents and brothers," Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila told CNS Sept. 25.

"The family atmosphere centered on faith and the common good prepared him to be a discerning person: listening to God's word and the world; being at home in the solitude of prayer, which gave him the most profound experience of communion and the decisiveness to pursue a discerned choice," Cardinal Tagle said.

Father Zanardini told CNS that Blessed Paul's canonization would be "a beautiful sign that he truly is a pope who still has much to say" to young men and women today.

Blessed Paul VI was also remembered as a strong leader who was close to Catholics who suffered persecution, including the archbishop of San Salvador who will be declared a saint along with him: Blessed Oscar Romero.

While visiting the pope on June 21, 1978, Blessed Romero wrote in his diary that Blessed Paul encouraged him to "proceed with courage, with patience, with strength, with hope."

Born in Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador, Blessed Romero entered a minor seminary at the age of 13. During his years of priestly ministry, young Romero served the poor and the suffering of his country.

In 1977, Blessed Paul VI appointed him to lead the archdiocese of San Salvador during a tumultuous time when priests and religious who stood with the poor were targeted by right-wing paramilitary groups aligned with the government.

Italian Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, the postulator of the Salvadoran archbishop's cause, told CNS that Blessed Romero's canonization is a "great opportunity to rediscover the primacy of love that must characterize, energize and excite today's

generations, today's young people."

Salvadoran Mercy Sister Ana Maria Pineda, associate professor of religious studies at California's University of Santa Clara, told CNS that her students see in Blessed Romero "the best of what they hope for in church leaders" and identify with his humanity as a person with both "gifts and limitations."

It was Archbishop Romero's determination "to overcome his limitations in order to follow God's call that the students most identify and find encouragement for themselves in their own struggles and challenges," she said.

Priesthood Sunday Honored October 28

The USA Council of Serra International will honor the priesthood in the United States and the world on Sunday, October 28. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood.

Priesthood Sunday is a day when people can show their support for vocations. It is a day the entire community can join in the work and joy, that is a special ministry of local Serra Club organizations, that promote and foster vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life.

White Mass At Saint Clement Church

Saint Clement Parish in Johnstown will celebrate its Third Annual White Mass for Healthcare Workers at the 4:00 p.m. Vigil on Saturday, October 20. Persons in the healthcare field, either professionally or caring for a loved one at home, are asked to wear a white shirt, lab coat, etc. to be recognized by Father William E. Rosenbaum, pastor. There will be a special blessing of hands with Holy oil, and a collection for Windber Hospice and Pet Therapy Ministry.

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).

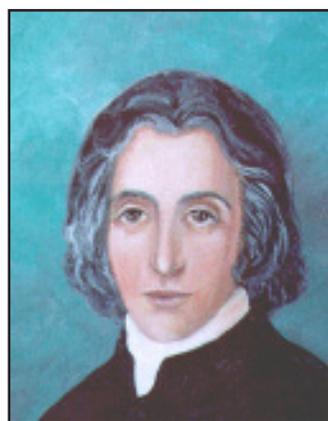
May Christ's saving work continue to the end of the ages, and may we feel a more urgent call to work for the salvation of every creature. We pray this, as did your priest Demetrius Gallitzin, through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,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

A Prince In The Service Of The Great King



Saint Peter School In Somerset Is All About Family



It's a typical Friday morning Mass at Saint Peter's. Sixth graders file in, each paired up with their "prayer partner" from Kindergarten, gently helping them fold their hands and bless

themselves with holy water and throughout Mass gently guiding them to sit and kneel and sing songs with the occasional motions to their favorite praise songs. This year is extra-special as the sixth graders were the first

Kindergarten class at St. Peter School.

The school's theme this year, an extension of the diocesan "Christ is R.I.C.H in Me" initiative is "With His Gifts, TOGETHER we are R.I.C.H in Christ" with an emphasis on the gifts and talents that God gives each person to use for His good so that we can be Christ to each other.

"Saint Peter's School is probably our most important parish ministry. It provides the spiritual, academic, physical and personal skills that will serve these great young people for a lifetime, Saint Peter's is a wonderful place!" says Father Daniel O'Neill, pastor of Saint Peter's for the past nine years. Thanks to Fr. O'Neill and his predecessor, Monsignor Samuel Tomaselli, the school has had the prayerful and financial support of the St. Peter's Parish family over the last 57 years.

Principal Jill Harris, says there is long history of family commitment to Saint Peter School. "Fifty-seven years ago, families took it upon themselves to build and provide a Catholic school at Saint Peter's. People have told me stories of parishioners travelling around Somerset County selling boat raffle tickets just to help get the school built. That is the legacy of commitment that we try and honor each day in our school." Along with the commitment of their families, Mrs. Harris also attributes the success of the school to the dedication of its faculty and staff. "They are the spirit of excellence and strength of faith that touches not only the souls of our students but those of everyone who enters the school."

Father O'Neill comments on his personal feelings for the school, "it is always a pleasure to visit the school and interact with the students. Sometimes I answer questions or we talk about sports or we just talk together. Spending time with these wonderful young people is always special to me." Of special fondness for Father O'Neill is the weekly

school Mass that he celebrates with students even when he is not feeling well, "The high point of my week is the Friday School Liturgy. The singing is awesome and I can't believe how well even the younger students can read. It is a special time for me."

Harris comments on Father O'Neill's presence as well, "The kids know how much the weekly Mass means to Father and how, despite how bad he is feeling, he hardly ever misses this time with them. We have watched him suffer through health issues and still find time and energy to celebrate Mass. His dedication and love for the school is inspiring and we are blessed to have him."

Saint Peter School is always looking for ways to reach out to those in need to teach students how to be responsible and caring members of their community. Of note is their involvement with the "Turn the Town Teal" ribbons, outreach to the local nursing home, a yearly Winter Carnival and morning snack cart that donates all its proceeds to Saint Peter's sister in Porus, Jamaica.

Some partnerships and community involvement include educational programming from the local police for the D.A.R.E. Program, Junior Achievement, The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts annual Elementary Arts Show, Somerset Drug Free Coalition's "Red Ribbon Campaign," Newspapers in Education, the annual Diocesan Vocations Contest,

the Somerset County SCRABBLE Tournament, Appalachia Intermediate Unit 08 Interscholastic Reading Competition and the Diocesan Forensics Program.

This year the school continues its tradition of "The Corporal Works of Mercy Rummage Sale" encouraging children to give of themselves to benefit others. This year the sale will benefit the Mobile Food Bank as well as a school family facing a serious medical situation. "One of our first graders was diagnosed with a serious form of leukemia just a week ago and within days after hearing the devastating news, many asked if we could donate some of our funds to this student's family. There was an immediate feeling of a family pulling together for one of its own and it could not be contained."

The school is also participating in the Diocesan "Faith Family" initiative this year and it has strengthened the school in a new and exciting way. The kickoff took place August 30th and was recently featured on "Proclaim." "The 'Faith Families' have been a way of taking the relationships once reserved for our sixth graders with their Prayer Partners to growing relationships with each other across all grade levels," remarks Harris, "It has been such a great fit for our school and another example of how God continues to bless our school."



FAITH FAMILY: The purple "Faith Family" gets to know each other and shows off their Faith Family poster

Who We Are:

Saint Peter School opened its doors on September 18, 1961, to students in grades 1-4. Lovingly built by the parish families under the leadership of the original parish pastor, Father Albert Gartland, the school was staffed by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Grades 5 & 6 were added in subsequent years. Most recently, Kindergarten was added in the fall of 2012. Saint Peter School enrolls students from five surrounding school districts and three area parishes. Fully accredited with the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Saint Peter's has a full time faculty of seven teachers and one administrator as well as five part time staff members.

Our Mission Statement: "The mission of Saint Peter School is to first spread the Good News. By providing an educational and spiritual environment rich in knowledge and

experiences, students will be empowered to achieve academic, social, physical and spiritual excellence. Our mission is to create lifelong learners that are guided by their faith and commitment to "be the good" and "do good" throughout their lives. We model the Master Teacher, Jesus, by encouraging students to challenge themselves academically and to follow their faith in all of their life's decisions."

Current Enrollment:

100 students in Grades K-6

Leadership:

Father Daniel O'Neill – Pastor

Jill Harris – Principal

433 West Church St. Somerset, PA 15501

814-445-6662

www.stpetersschoolsomerset.com



RICH KICKOFF: St. Peter School gathers for its "R.I.C.H" kickoff on September 20th wearing their diocesan shirts!

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle

Canon Of The Gospels/ Church Archives



Q. Luke's Gospel begins, "Several biographies of Christ have already been written." Why, then, are there only four Gospels in the New Testament, and how were they chosen? (Charlottesville, Virginia)

A. First, just a comment on your quote from the opening verse of Luke. The text you offer comes from an edition called the Living Bible. I prefer instead the New American Bible (used by the Catholic Church at liturgies), which translates that same line as follows: "Many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us."

The difficulty I have with version you are quoting is that the four canonical Gospels are not really "biographies" in the contemporary sense of that word. They mention very little, for example, about the early life of Jesus and have varying views on the exact sequence of events during Christ's public life.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John can more properly be seen as statements of faith -- narratives of some of the actions and sayings of Jesus to convey the writers' conviction that Christ was indeed the Messiah.

While it is true that many accounts regarding Jesus were circulated in the early church and became the subject of discussion and debate, by about the year 180, Irenaeus, bishop of Lyon in Gaul, noted that there were four and only four authoritative Gospels -- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. This reflected a growing consensus among Christian scholars, and only those four versions were commonly considered as proper for liturgical use. Following the Protestant Reformation that same Catholic canon of the Gospels was reaffirmed at the Council of Trent in 1546.

Some of the common characteristics of the four Gospels declared to be canonical were a

central focus on Jesus as savior and divine Son of God (not just an enlightened teacher, as some of the apocryphal versions had it) and the inclusion of the Passion narrative.

Q. Among its general findings, the Pennsylvania grand jury stated that canon law requires each diocese to maintain a "secret archive" to which only the bishop has the key. Is that true and, if so, what is the purpose of such an "archive"? (West Sand Lake, New York)

A. The canons to which you refer (Code of Canon Law, Nos. 489-90), after detailing the requirements for diocesan record keeping, provide that a separate "secret" file should be maintained, to which "only the bishop is to have the key."

Commonly, records of parishioners' complaints against priests would be kept in such a confidential file -- including such matters as alcohol issues, disputes over parish finances or sexual misconduct. (Not unlike the way businesses keep sensitive and private personnel files regarding such matters as the disciplining or firing of a particular employee.)

By categorizing this file as "secret," the church does not stipulate that no one else but the bishop may ever see it. Other senior diocesan staff members, for example, may from time to time need to access such a file with the bishop's permission; and, in the case of sexual abuse of minors, several states have now subpoenaed such diocesan files.

Recently, Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger requested the Albany, New York, district attorney to review all of the diocese's records relative to how each complaint of sexual abuse has been handled. The U.S. bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, issued in 2002, provides that dioceses "are to report an allegation of sexual abuse of a person who is a minor to public authorities," but no such requirement was in effect universally during prior



Faith At Home

By Laura Kelly Fanucci

A Month To Pray, Respect And Remember

stories, buried for decades, are wounds that can burst open with unexpected emotion.

Generations past often endured the added burdens of secrecy and shame. Doctors who whisked away their babies before they could hold them. Spouses who never spoke of the stillbirth. Relatives who told them to forget about the miscarriage, move on and try again.

"At least now people are talking about it," they tell me, dabbing at eyes welled with fresh sorrow. "No one helped me. No one cared."

Facing the pain of the bereaved is daunting for all of us. Even after writing a book on miscarriage for Catholic couples, I still hesitate each time I pen a sympathy card or wait in line after a funeral. What can I possibly say?

But October reminds me to serve with the simplest acts of love: respect, pray and re-

What surprised me most was not that she had carried her grief quietly for half a century.

Not that she could tell me exactly how old her babies would be today. Not that her bright eyes brimmed with tears as she shared her story with a stranger.

What shocked me was that after we finished talking, I looked up to find another woman waiting to speak to me about her own losses. Then another behind her. And another. And another.

After speaking and writing publicly about infertility, miscarriage and infant loss, I have gotten used to the fact -- indeed, the grace -- that whenever one shares a story, others come forward to tell their own.

But I still carry the memory of that first night, in a parish not far from mine, where woman after woman waited to share their same silent sorrow.

Each one taught me how the heaviest stories are made lighter when we carry them together. We sat and talked for nearly an hour. Nothing was fixed by our conversation or tears, but we left lighter.

"Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ," wrote St. Paul (Gal 6:2). The same exhortation holds true for us today, especially this month.

As Catholics, our call to family life -- within our own families and the wider body of Christ -- commands us to carry out these works of mercy. To comfort the sorrowful. To pray for the living and the dead.

October is Respect Life Month. it's also Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month and the month of the rosary.

A perfect time to take up our call to pray for those who are grieving the loss of life at its very beginning.

Even those at the end of their earthly life, the wise ones who have learned much from their length of days, still carry the weight of this grief. Their

member. To be the church that reaches out with mercy, honors each life lost and continues to care for the bereaved.

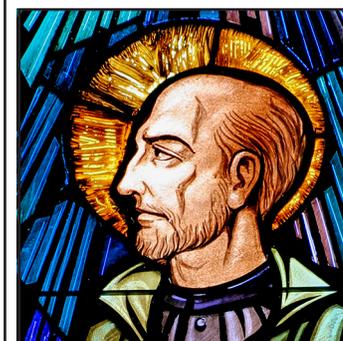
When people ask me what to say to someone in their life who has lost a child, I offer four simple phrases, the four I fall back on every time. "I'm so sorry. I love you. I'm here for you. You and your child will not be forgotten."

This is how we grow into greater compassion for those who mourn. Respect the depth of their grief, pray for their healing and remember their pain over time.

"I have thought about my babies every day since," the last woman in line told me that night. Bent over a walker, she leaned forward with a shaky whisper. "Every day since."

I cannot forget her words. I hope you will remember, too.

Fanucci is a mother, writer and director of a project on vocation at the Collegeville Institute in Collegeville, Minnesota. She is the author of several books, including "Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting," and blogs at www.motheringspirit.com.



John de Brebeuf
1593-1649
October 19

Born in Normandy in 1593, John entered the Jesuits in 1617 and was ordained in 1622. Despite having tuberculosis, he went as a missionary to New France (Canada) in 1625. He had little success among the Huron Indians, and returned briefly to France when Canada became English. But in 1633 he undertook a second mission and lived with the Hurons for 15 years, producing the first Huron dictionary. In 1649, he and Jesuit Father Gabriel Lalemant were captured in a raid by Iroquois warriors. After indescribable tortures, John died March 16 and Gabriel March 17. They are among the eight Jesuit North American martyrs, the patron saints of Canada and North America whose joint U.S. feast is October 19.

Now Showing

“Life Itself” (Amazon/Stage 6)



Pretentiousness and sentimentality weigh down this drama from writer-director Dan Fogelman. It’s a collection of interlocking, intergenerational stories that begins with a couple (Oscar Isaac and Olivia Wilde) happily expecting the arrival

of a daughter, then follows the baby’s life as both a child (Kya Kruse) and a grown-up (Olivia Cooke) and links her destiny to that of a Spanish family (parents Sergio Peris-Mencheta and Laia Costa and son Alex Monner) through a fateful visit they pay to her native New York. Along the way, director Dan Fogelman, includes a few plot developments with which even some adult viewers may be uncomfortable. Brief scenes of suicide and accidental death with gore, mature themes including abortion, drug use, a premarital situation, an ambivalent treatment of marriage, a few uses of profanity, a couple of milder oaths, pervasive rough and much crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

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MOUNT HONORS MERCY SISTERS: As part of Mercy Week 2018, Mount Aloysius College students gathered to celebrate and honor the Sisters of Mercy who founded the school in 1853. Among the sisters honored included those sitting at the table. They pictured (left to right) are: Mercy Sisters Giuseppe DaBella, Evangelista Strohmiere, Eric Marie Setlock, and M. Benedict Joseph Watters.

Mount Aloysius College Honors Founding Sisters of Mercy

Mount Aloysius College, one of 16 colleges in the United States serving under the auspices of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, celebrated Mercy Week Friday, September 21 through 29 with more than 20 events. The week was marked by time-honored Mercy traditions inspired by 188 years of service throughout the world.

Mount Aloysius College, founded in 1853, celebrated the Mercy heritage that began in Dublin, Ireland, on September 24, 1827 when Catherine McAuley first opened the doors of her House of Mercy to the public on Baggot Street in Dublin.

Executive Director of Mission Integration and Community Outreach Christina Koren noted that, “The College’s marking of Mercy Week honors its institutional commitment to creating a welcoming environment where students develop personally and intellectually. Each day during Mercy Week is devoted to illustrating -- through engagement in service and specific programs -- our commitment to the College’s core values and the charism of the remarkable Sisters of Mercy all over the world.”

Mercy Week events included a trip to New York and the Great Irish Fair at Coney Is-

land, International Day of Peace Prayer Service, Justice Activities, Mercy Etiquette Lunch, Mercy Sister Jubilee Presentation, a community partner service open house, and more.

Mercy Week closed with an All Campus Liturgy held on September 27.

The roots of Mount Aloysius College extend to a small community of Mercy Sisters that

arrived in Pittsburgh in 1843. By 1845 they had established a religious community in Chicago, and came to Loretto in 1848.

There they built a school in a tinner’s shop, which was the forerunner of Saint Aloysius Academy in 1853. It was moved to its present site in 1897 and in 1939 Mount Aloysius Junior College was established.



CANDIDACY: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak formally accepted Mark Komula as a candidate for the Permanent Diaconate during a Mass on Saturday, September 29 at Saint Peter Parish in Somerset -- Komula’s parish. He and his wife, Janis, are the parents of two adult children. Komula is in case management with the Bedford-Somerset Developmental and Behavioral Health Services. Also pictured is Deacon Michael Russo (right), director of the Permanent Diaconate.

Vatican Observatory Is Preparing For Public Stargazing Tour

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- When people ask why the Vatican has an observatory, one Jesuit priest says it's because it cannot afford a particle accelerator.

The nerdy quip by the Vatican Observatory's vice director, Jesuit Father Paul Mueller, has become his signature response to people's inevitable surprise when they discover that popes have stockpiled telescopes, and the church does not oppose science -- even if it won't buy a 16-mile long, multibillion-dollar particle accelerator.

Eleven Jesuit astronomers live, work and pray together year-round as they conduct top-notch research either at the modern Mount Graham International Observatory in Arizona or at their historic headquarters on the grounds of the papal summer villa and gardens in Castel Gandolfo near Rome.

"Science is part of our life; for us there is no conflict, no tension" with their Catholic faith and religious vocation, said Father Mueller, a U.S. priest who has degrees in physics, history, philosophy and theology and a doctorate in the history and philosophy of science.

He spoke to Catholic News Service Sept. 30 during a Vatican-led tour of the observatory's facilities at the papal villa.

Reporters were treated to a full tour of the four observatory domes and telescopes housed in two separate buildings -- one being the papal summer residence itself with a stunning view of Lake Albano below and the other being a newly refurbished building nestled within the wooded gardens.

The recently renovated facility houses the now fully restored Carte du Ciel (Celestial Map) telescope from 1891, a Schmidt telescope from 1957 and a new exhibit showcasing a number of historical scientific instruments, artifacts and meteorites from the observatory's collections.

The plan is to open the unique space to the public starting in the summer 2019 with visits organized by the Vatican Museums.

Father Mueller said one idea would be to have groups tour the



(CNS photo/Paul Haring)

ZEISS TELESCOPE: Jesuit Father Gabriele Gionti, an astronomer, talks about a 1935 Zeiss telescope during a tour for media representatives of the Vatican observatory at the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, September 28.

villa's garden, have dinner and then open one of the observatory domes for a night of stargazing. The Vatican Museums already organize special tours of the papal villa and gardens at Castel Gandolfo.

The observatory traces its origins back to an observational tower erected at the Vatican by Pope Gregory XIII in 1578 in preparation for reforming the Western calendar. Pope Leo XIII formally established the Vatican Observatory -- placed on a hillside behind the dome of St. Peter's Basilica -- in 1891 as a visible sign of the church's centuries-old support for science.

The pope's main observatory, now entrusted to the Jesuits, was eventually moved to the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo in 1935. Two observational domes were built on the top of the pope's summer villa to house two Zeiss telescopes purchased that year.

The Carte du Ciel telescope was moved in 1942 from the Leonine Tower in Vatican City to the papal villa and, in 1957, it was joined by a Schmidt wide-angle telescope that Pope Pius XII purchased with his own money as a gift to the observatory, astronomer Jesuit Father Gabriele Gionti told reporters.

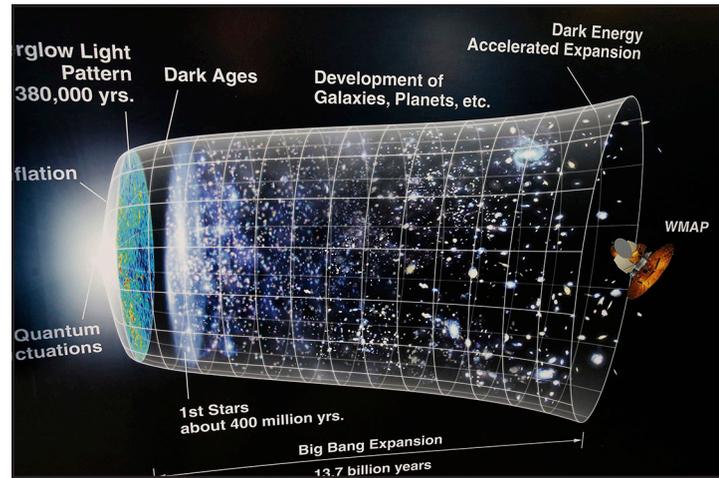
The Jesuit observatory staff

set up a second research center in Tucson, Arizona, in 1981 after Italian skies got too bright for nighttime observation. And in 1993, in collaboration with Steward Observatory, they completed the construction of the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope on Mount Graham -- considered one of the best astronomical sites in the continental United States.

Visitors who participate in next year's sky-watching tour at the papal gardens are expected to use what Father Mueller called "the jewel" of their observatory -- the Carte du Ciel telescope. It was purchased after Italian astronomer and meteorologist, Barnabite Father Francesco Denza, easily convinced Pope Leo in the late 1800s to let the Holy See take part in an international survey of the night sky.

A space systems consultant engineer and associate member of the observatory, Claudio Costa, oversaw the telescope's recent restoration. He was the last person to use the historic telescope before it fell into disuse in the 1980s and he was the first to use it after restorers got it fully functioning again.

Soon, the staff hopes it will be the public's turn to peek through this piece of history and



(CNS photo/Paul Haring)

THE UNIVERSE: A display showing the development of the universe is seen at the Vatican observatory at the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, September 28.

view the heavens in a whole new way.

"When we use the telescopes to examine the heavens, that's a kind of worship," Father Mueller said.

Science, he said, is searching for the truth, which exists in

"two books: the book of Scripture and the book of nature."

While people may struggle to make sense of what they see, in the end, the priest said, "the truth is one, (the books) cannot disagree because God is the author of both books."



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Educators Honored With Longevity Awards At Annual In-Service

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

Sometimes a teacher deserves more than just an apple.

Janice Noonan is celebrating her 40th anniversary of teaching at Holy Name School in Ebensburg, and she has already received her reward.

"I think the greatest memory has been several students that I had the privilege of teaching have become teachers, and they are now teachers within our diocese," she stated. "To me, that's the greatest gift."

In an age when being with the same employer or remaining in the same profession for 40 months might be considered impressive, imagine a commitment of 40 years.

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown recognized 51 educators celebrating milestone years of service in Catholic education and two individuals who reached Master Catechist status during the annual diocesan educator in-service on Friday, September 21 at Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School in Altoona.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak celebrated Mass and then presented the honorees with small gifts to mark their achievement.

Besides Noonan, four other educators observed their 40th anniversary; two celebrated 35 years; three reached the 30 year mark; and five hit their 25th anni-



40 YEARS OF SERVICE: Five educators were honored for 40 years of service to the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese at the Annual In-Service held for educators at Altoona Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School. Pictured from (left to right) are: Front row--Karen Haupt, Melanie Helsel, and Carol Litzinger of Holy Trinity Catholic School in Altoona/Hollidaysburg. Back row--Jo-Ann Semko, Diocesan director of Education; Bishop Mark L. Bartchak; Steven Wilson, Saint Patrick School in Newry; and Janice Noonan, Holy Name School in Ebensburg.

versary. Teachers and principals were also recognized for five, ten, 15, and 20 years of service.

For Noonan, this 40 year milestone certainly makes the grade.

"I'm also a graduate of Holy Name, so 48 years of my life have been spent at Holy Name, and it's definitely at my heart," she reflected.

Noonan and other Catholic school educators often consider what they do a vocation, rather than a job.

"Catholic schools are smaller, they are very family oriented, the whole school itself is family, and we get to be creative," observed Robin Zavada, a teacher at All Saints School in Cresson. "We get to have so much one-

"Catholic schools are smaller, they are very family oriented, the whole school itself is family, and we get to be creative."

--Robin Zavada

on-one time with our students. That's why we became teachers."

Zavada celebrated 35 years in the classroom.

"There has never been a day when I got up and said 'I don't want to go to work,'" stressed Carol Litzinger, another 40th anniversary honoree. "I would never leave the Catholic schools to go to the public schools because I love it there,"

Litzinger taught at the former Saint John the Evangelist School in Altoona, and now teaches at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Altoona.

Bishop Mark acknowledged the contributions of all educators in our Catholic schools and encouraged their mission as teachers.

In his homily, he highlighted the words of Saint Paul, who said the work of teaching should help holy ones obtain unity and knowledge of the Lord.

"And that knowledge is not just academic, but a personal awareness of the individual person of Jesus Christ," he mentioned. "I don't know how often we reflect on that role every time we get up in the morning, but as we teach others, because of our faith, we are supposed to be presenting the image of Christ to those who are learning from us."

(Additional Photos On Page 8.)

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