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Students Pack 30,000 Meals At Annual SHYCON Event To Feed The Hungry

Photo And Text By
Tony DeGol

Abbey Krug and Paige McMullen went home from the recent SHYCON to a pantry and refrigerator packed with great food.

Whatever they ended up eating for dinner that night, their appetite to help those with nothing to eat was already satisfied.

Once again, high school students who participated in the 2018 Senior High Youth Conference had the opportunity to package 30,000 meals for the Rise Against Hunger organization. The food will feed people here in this country and around the world.

Members of Saint Augustine Parish in St. Augustine, Krug and McMullen walked away with a feeling of accomplishment.

“You hear a lot about third world countries and people struggling, but you don’t see it that much especially where we live around here,” Krug observed. “Whenever you get to do something physical to help that many people, it makes you feel really good.”

Added McMullen: “It feels so good to help someone, even if you can’t see them but, in your heart, you know you helped them.”

Alan Ninan, event facilitator



SHYCON 2018: A group of teens from Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish in Spring Mills poses with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak at the annual Senior High Youth Conference (SHYCON). Sponsored by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Office of Youth Ministry, the theme was “Strong and Courageous.”

tor for Rise Against Hunger, hopes the 850 teens who participated will use the power of social media to spread that powerful message.

“Having the opportunity to share that with others, the opportunity to experience that in their privilege of having food security, they can understand and empathize with those with food insecurity,” he said.

The meals, according to Ninan, will reach people in places like Nicaragua and South Africa. Even those struggling from

recent natural disasters in the United States may benefit.

Filled with mainly rice – the food packs may have seemed meager compared to the bounty most of us enjoy. The lesson behind the effort, however, was huge.

“It really helps you to know that you can do something either as a group or on your own,” mentioned Emma Servey, a member of Our Lady of Victory Parish in State College. “You can reach out in many ways no matter how small it seems.”

The theme for SHYCON 2018 was “Strong and Courageous.” Inspired by Scripture, the message to the youth was to never be frightened or disheartened because God walks with them.

Nationally-recognized speaker Paul J. Kim highlighted the theme in his keynote presentations.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak celebrated Mass for the students and spoke to the teenagers about where they are in life.

“You are bombarded with so much information, not all of

which is helpful or true,” the Bishop said. “And sometimes you can get stressed over the responsibilities that you have at home, in school, on a sports team, or other activities, organizations, and commitments you have made.”

There are situations and experiences in life that can make us feel nervous, disoriented, and afraid, continued Bishop Mark. How we respond is key.

“Things like nasty words, name-calling, revenge, and terroristic violence are not examples of strength or courage,” he reminded. “They are signs of weakness and insecurity. Unfortunately in our world, that’s how some people want to live. But you and I have been given the option of a better way. It’s an option, an invitation that is given to each of us by the Lord.”

The Bishop encouraged the youth to let others experience Jesus through them.

“I don’t know if you thought about it while you were packaging meals for hungry people that you will never encounter, but there is a very real possibility that they will encounter Jesus because of your efforts today,” he explained.

Sponsored by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Office of Youth Ministry, SHYCON was

(Continued on Page 14.)

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Campus Ministry Serves The Whole Person



CAMPUS MINISTRY: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak talks with students at Penn State University during a Campus Ministry visit in 2017.



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Campus Ministry offers students involvement in daily mass, music ministry, worship and volunteer service groups, and special projects like tending to the poor at home and abroad. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is especially important as they are seeking and accepting spirituality while experiencing significant life changes (vocations, lifestyle, and relationships).

Campus Ministry is an extra credit class to keep students active in their faith. It is also a lifelong scholarship that will go with them wherever their degree and the Lord takes them.

Your support will provide the activities necessary for Campus Ministry to bring the Gospel to life for college students in our area. Your dollars truly make an impact—allowing students to engage with Jesus through this welcoming and supportive ministry.

The Catholic Ministries Drive exists to serve the parishes and the people of our Diocese. The 14 ministries that benefit from your generosity rely on this annual campaign—as 100% of donations supports them directly. From sacramental preparation to our sister diocese in Jamaica, no single parish could accomplish all that that is offered. **'Making Christ a Home in Your Heart'** reminds all of us that at the center of our lives as Catholics is love. The Catholic Ministries Drive is a concrete way to live out your faith and to express your love to those in need of spiritual, physical, and emotional support.

Your gift can be mailed to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, P.O. Box 409, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648;

placed in your parish offertory; or made online at www.dioceseaj.org



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In The Alleghenies



WALK-A-THON SURPASSES GOAL: Our Lady of Victory Church Pastor, Father Neil Dadey and Principal Samantha Weakland (on far right) pose with students and parent-volunteers displaying the total funds raised for the school through the Walk-A-Thon. The Walk-A-Thon is the school's only mandatory fundraiser.



BIRTHDAY BAGS: As part of their classroom Our Lady of Victory Catholic School Day service project, OLVCS fifth graders, Thomas Rokita (left) and Mark Sicree decorate bags that will contain supplies that State College Food Bank clients can use to

Students Celebrate OLVCS Day

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School (OLVCS) students in State College raised over \$85,000 through their 2018 Walk-A-Thon. School families, businesses and individuals came together to raise the funds that will benefit the school. The event was held on October 5. The students also celebrated the day with prayer and service activities.

The 2018 T-shirt logo was inspired by this year's school theme, "Change the World with Kindness," and is based on a mural which hangs in the school. It was created by the fourth grade students under the guidance Heather McQueary, art teacher.

The OLVCS administrators were especially appreciative to all who donated their time, talent, and treasure for the day's events. Heather Lukac and Kelly Kurpeikis chaired the Walk-A-Thon along with their team of volunteers. Parents and guardians helped with the classroom-based service activities.

Bishops Engage In Prayer And Fasting

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and bishops nationwide are joining in seven days of prayer and fasting prior to their general assembly in November, where they will make critical decisions regarding the tragedy of clergy abuse. A letter with more details from Bishop Mark is available on the diocesan website -- dioceseaj.org.

Mercy Sisters Will Award Grants For Diocesan Health Initiatives

The Sisters of Mercy of the Mid-Atlantic Community will be awarding grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for projects designed as healthy community initiatives for residents within the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. The projects must be consistent with the philosophy and mission of the Sisters of Mercy and the Catholic Church, in that they provide services for persons who are economically disadvantaged, especially women and children. The deadline for submitting proposals is March 1, 2019.

The Sisters of Mercy award grants every two years for projects designed as healthy community initiatives. In 2017, \$25,000 in funding was awarded to 19 non-profit organizations within the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese.

The grants result from an endowment established by the Sisters of Mercy within the Independent Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. The endowment was started with a gift of \$250,000 from the Mercy Health System (now Catholic Healthcare Partners) in Cincinnati, which the Sisters of Mercy co-sponsor. With the investment in the Foundation, the Sisters

hope to leverage additional funds to promote healthy community initiatives.

For additional information or to request grant application forms, please contact: Healthy Community Initiatives, c/o Colleen Maher, Office of Development, Sisters of Mercy, 515 Montgomery Avenue, Merion, PA, 19066; by email at cmaher@mercymidatlantic.org, or by phone at 610-664-6650 ext 525.

Coming Up On Proclaim!

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

November 18 -- As the nation prepares to observe Thanksgiving, Abby Gottshall, a member of Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Cresson and student at All Saints Catholic School in Cresson, shares why she has a special reason to be thankful this year.

November 25 -- Deacon Thomas Boldin of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Bellefonte discusses the honor he recently received for his chaplaincy work at the Rockview State Correctional Institution.

SFU Nursing Program Sets State Record

Saint Francis University's Nursing Program received notice from the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing that their 2018 National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) pass rate was 100 percent.

This news makes Saint Francis Nursing the only nursing program in the state to have a 100 percent first-time pass rate for the past five consecutive years.

"We are delighted by this accomplishment, and so grateful for all of the time and effort that the faculty, students, and administration have put forth in achieving such outstanding outcomes," said Dr. Rita Trofino, DNP, MEd, RN, who serves as the Nursing Department Chair and Associate Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Education.

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Vocation View

By Father Matthew Reese

Diocesan Director Of Vocations



I recently had a gathering of young adults at which we spoke about the lives of the saints. One thing I picked up very clearly is that we all want to be assured that sainthood is not something beyond human ability. When we discussed some details of certain saints, it was interesting to see how people appreciated identifying with some of the saints' human qualities, which were not always so holy.

Priesthood and religious life today is suffering an identity fracture. People either want to see priests and religious as God-like, thus eliminating the possibility of human frailties, or people want to focus so heavily upon the sins of priests and religious, thus eliminating the possibility of redemption and hope for them.

If there is one mistake we have made with the saints it is that we extol their virtuous lives so much that we forget the struggles with their own humanity that they had to face before they could be called saintly. Saint Augustine writes an entire book about his terrible deeds in life and yet he is esteemed as one of the greatest saints of the Church, not because of his sins but because he struggled and, with the help of grace, overcame his sins.

Anyone who aspires to the vocations of priesthood or religious life believes in the ideal of the vocation to which they aspire. If they make the courageous act of beginning the formation process they do so because they struggle with the sense of a personal calling from God to consider these vocations. There will be many voices trying to dissuade their choice of vocation because of the current climate of the Church. What made the saints outstanding examples is that, when they reordered their lives and began to live in virtue, there was only one voice that they gave any credence – God's.

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

Parish Plans Concerts Series To Exhibit New Organ

Photo And Text By Tony DeGol

If you have the latest iPhone or an impressive car, you just have to show it off, right?

Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Altoona has new jewel in its crown, and the parish family is eager to share it with the community.

A magnificent pipe organ with digital features was recently installed in the church. In celebration of the new instrument, the parish is sponsoring a spectacular concert series beginning later this month and continuing through spring.

"Basically, I am planning for all of these concerts in the inaugural year to showcase the new organ," noted Our Lady of Mount Carmel Music Director James Dengler. "However, from a historical perspective, churches were often used for all kinds of concerts. My goal is to continue this tradition in future years, including the Altoona Symphony, other choral groups, as well as guest organists. I want to create a stage where quality programs can be offered to the community that will enhance the cultural heritage that has been an important part of Blair County for many years."

The concert series will begin on November 18 at 3:00 p.m. with a blessing and dedication of the organ followed by a recital by Doctor Peter Latona. Doctor Latona is the music director at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., the pre-eminent Marian shrine of the Catholic Church in the United States.

"A Community Celebration of Christmas" will be featured



NEW ORGAN: James Dengler, music director at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Altoona, plays the new organ recently installed in the church. A blessing and dedication of the instrument is scheduled for Sunday, November 18 followed by the first of a series of concerts.

on December 30 at 3:00 p.m. Dengler and Leslie Thayer, music director at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, will present a relaxing concert of seasonal music and audience participation.

On January 27 at 3:00 p.m., the audience will be treated to a vocal ensemble from the Grier School.

Nicholas Schmelter, organist and recitalist from First Presbyterian Church of Caro, Michigan, will be the featured performer at "Pipe Organ Potpourri" on February 24 at 3:00 p.m.

"A Tribute to Leonard Bernstein" is scheduled for March 30 at 7:30 p.m. It will be presented by the Blair Concert Chorale, under the direction of Doctor Ryan Beeken. The concert will include the "Chichester Psalms." Dengler will be the organist.

"Our Lady of Mount Carmel is a beautiful space," Beeken commented. "It's a slice of Europe right here in Central Penn-

sylvania. We are delighted to collaborate with James and the church to feature that new instrument."

Parishioners and others who have visited the Our Lady of Mount Carmel church building are familiar with the majestic interior to which Beeken referred. Thanks to the addition of the new pipe organ, the parish has enhanced its claim to fame.

"Our parish is very excited about the installation of the new hybrid pipe organ," said the Very Reverend Frank Scornaienchi, TOR, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. "The parishioners have enjoyed the sound, the beauty of the organ, and being able to view the stain glass window in the choir loft."

Father Frank is extending a warm invitation to all of the concerts. Following the November 18 blessing, dedication, and recital, a reception will be held in the parish's San Damiano Hall.



ORDAINED: Franciscan Brother Vincent Yeager of Queen of Peace Parish in Patton was ordained to the priesthood and Brother David Dodd was ordained a deacon by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak on October 27 at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Francis University. Pictured (left to right) are: Franciscan Father Richard Davis, Minister Provincial, Franciscan Brother David Dodd, Bishop Mark, Franciscan Father Vincent Yeager, and Franciscan Father Benedict Jurchak, director of formation. Father Yeager is the son of Alan and Carol Yeager of Patton. Brother David is the son of John and Kate Dodd of Nashville, TN.



How To Effectively Communicate Your Concerns



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By Sharon Doty, J.D., M.H.R.

"I am hesitant to talk to her because I don't want her to think I am accusing her of something."

"What if he gets angry and starts saying things about me?"

"I am afraid to say anything—I don't want to ruin someone's reputation."

These are examples of the kinds of reasons, or justifications, that adults have for not communicating concerns about the actions of other adults who work with children in our parishes and schools. It is important to trust our instincts and communicate our concerns in order to create safe environments for children.

In his book, *The Gift of Fear: Survival Signals that Protect us from Violence*, Gavin De Becker, urges all adults to trust their intuition—that "uneasy in the gut feeling" that tells us that something is just not right. That instinct, or intuition, is an early warning signal for us and, if we listen to it, it can serve us well.

However, all too often we second-guess that little voice telling us that something is not right. We think: "But he seems like such a nice guy!" Or, "She has been working with children for years, so she must be okay." Or, "I am just being paranoid."

When we suppress our instincts in favor of our "better judgment," the consequences can be serious.

Effectively communicating concerns begins with trusting our intuition when we sense that something is just not as it should be. Listening to and respecting that sense of anxiety or that instinctive concern is one of the first steps each adult can take in the effort to create safe environments for children.

When we see or hear something that raises concerns, it is important to communicate that unease to someone who can do something about it—either the person who is behaving in a way that concerns you, or that person's supervisor. Your decision about who to approach depends on the nature of the concern and the level of comfort you have in talking with the person involved.

For example, if your church or school has a policy that two adults work together to transport children and you notice that the new soccer coach is offering to take home an individual child after practice every day, you could talk to her directly. Let her know about the policy and remind her of the Church's commitment to safe environments for children.

If the person responds appropriately and alters her behavior, the situation is handled with a minimal amount of upset for everyone involved. However, if she does not respond well or becomes outraged, it is important that you stand your ground on this issue. Express your concerns to a supervisor. Remember that your first priority is the safety of children.

If you feel uncomfortable approaching the coach in the first place, or if the situation is a serious concern that you think is better addressed by the supervisor, you should talk to the person in charge and express your concerns. Don't let your fear of being wrong or of upsetting someone stop you from protecting children.

Whether you talk with a supervisor first, or wait

until after your conversation with the person you have concerns about, be prepared to tell the supervisor exactly what happened that raised your concerns. Be clear about what you saw or heard and the nature of your concern about it.

Remember that communicating a concern is not an accusation. Communicating concerns does not ruin reputations. Communicating concerns does not destroy people. But, if you talk to anyone other than the person involved or that person's supervisor, you run the risk of doing all three. How? Because talking with anyone other than the person involved or their supervisor is gossip—and gossip destroys reputations and damages the lives of good people. Conversations about your concerns with other parishioners, schoolteachers, religious education teachers, or parents undermine the good name of someone who deserves the opportunity to address and resolve your discomfort.

Bottom Line:

It is critical that each adult communicate concerns about the behaviors of adults who interact with the children in our communities. Don't be the one who never spoke up about a concern until after something terrible happened. Protect children and the good name and reputation of those who work with children by communicating your concerns to someone who can do something about it—the person involved, or that person's supervisor.

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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.

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**.

Voices Of Founding Fathers Ring In Ears Of Those Attending Seventh Annual Patriotic Rosary

Photo And Text By
Tony DeGol

“...And the new governments we are assuming, in every part, will require a purification from our vices, and an augmentation of our virtues or there will be no blessings... But I must submit all my hopes and fears to an overruling Providence; in which, unfashionable as the faith may be, I firmly believe.”
-- John Adams, July 3, 1776

The words of our founding fathers loomed large as elected leaders joined the faithful in praying for our nation at the seventh annual Patriotic Rosary.

The gathering, which also included Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, was held on Saturday, October 20 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.

Started during the 2012 election year and held every year since, the purpose is to pray for wisdom in choosing our elected leaders and for their guidance in office, said Patricia Gildea of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, which sponsors the Patriotic Rosary.

Throughout the recitation of each decade of the Rosary, local elected leaders read comments from past leaders such as George Washington. Their words are a reminder that prayer, indeed, is part of the public arena.

“Each one of them mention the importance of asking God for



PATRIOTIC ROSARY: Various elected officials joined Bishop Mark L. Bartchak for the seventh annual Patriotic Rosary on Saturday, October 20 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. Pictured (left to right): Centre County Controller Charles Witmer; Bishop Mark; Blair County Judge Timothy Sullivan; Patricia Gildea, Patriotic Rosary Chair; Blair County Commissioner Ted Beam; Altoona Mayor Matt Pacifico; Blair County Coroner Patricia Ross; and Blair County District Attorney Richard Consiglio.

help,” reminded Gildea, chair of the Patriotic Rosary.

Among the local officials participating were Blair County Judge Timothy Sullivan, Altoona Mayor Matt Pacifico, Blair County Commissioner Ted Beam, Blair County District Attorney Richard Consiglio, Centre County Controller Charles Witmer, and Blair County Coroner Patricia Ross.

“I think all of us in elected office, in our own way, reflect to God when we say our prayers silently prior to meetings, and we ask God to always lead us and direct us in the right manner and to help us deliberate with the best interest of all of the people in mind,” reflected Beam prior to the start of the Rosary.

Prayers were offered for the Presidency, the United States Supreme Court, the United States House and Senate, the nation’s governors, and the country in general.

“The words of our founding fathers loomed large as elected leaders joined the faithful in praying for our nation at the Seventh Annual Patriotic Rosary.”

The names of all 50 states – ten with each decade of the Rosary – were announced as the faithful prayed “for discernment, wisdom, and knowledge” over each.

Patriotic music and Marian hymns were also sung between each decade.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak presided at the Patriotic Rosary, and offered a homily in which he pointed out that both our country and our Church are facing challenging times. Those troubles may lead individuals to stop voting or stop going to church.

today for this Patriotic Rosary is an important reminder to all of us of what truly is at stake.”

At times like these, suggested Bishop Mark, we must turn to Mary.

“It is a very good thing to do especially since the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from sin and full of grace,” he added, reminding that she also experienced many of the same challenges in her life that some of us face today. “If ever there is a person to ask, ‘What can one do?’, Mary is someone who is uniquely qualified to consider that question with us.”

And, along with the Blessed Mother, her beloved Son.

“Let us pray for our nation. Let us pray for those who have never known Jesus Christ and His redeeming love, for moral forces everywhere, for our national leaders. Let prayer be our passion. Let prayer be our practice.” – General Robert E. Lee, 1863

“True patriotism does not mean that we should forsake our religious beliefs and practices in favor of merely practical solutions,” the Bishop maintained. “That’s why even the concept



CHECK AIDS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS: Marion Center Bank presented a check in the amount of \$11,850.00 to All Saints Catholic School in Cresson. Pictured (left to right) are: Kathy Maurer, principal; Deb Krise of Marion Center Bank; Kennedie Gottshall, student; Abby Gottshall, student; Erin Kroehle, teacher; and George Karlheim of Marion Center Bank. Since 2001, the Second Century Scholarship Fund has accepted charitable contributions from individuals and businesses to assist students attending Catholic schools in the diocese. The fund is administered by the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese.

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Diocesan Seminarians Instituted To Ministry Of Acolyte



ACOLYTES: Diocesan seminarians Mark Groeger (left) and Michael Pleva were instituted in the Ministry of Acolyte at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe on Wednesday, October 17. An acolyte is entrusted with the care of the Holy Eucharist and to be a universal extra-ordinary minister of Holy Communion.. Groeger is a member of Saint Andrew Parish in Johnstown. Pleva belongs to Holy Rosary Parish in Altoona. Both seminarians are in their second year of Theology studies at Saint Vincent.

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).

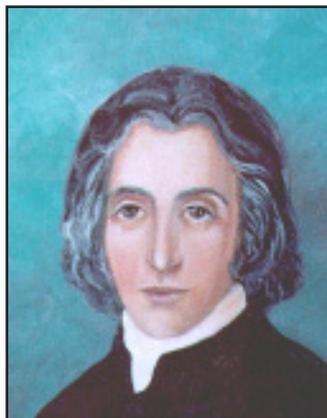
May Christ's saving work continue to the end of the ages, and may we feel a more urgent call to work for the salvation of every creature. We pray this, as did your priest Demetrius Gallitzin, through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,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



Liturgical Reflection...

Thursday, November 22, is Thanksgiving Day and a special Day of Prayer in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. We pray in gratitude for the Harvest and Fruits of the Earth. As our country pauses and gives thanks to God, Catholics are encouraged to participate at Mass and give thanks for all we have received from God. Please join in praying the following:

God, you are generous in your love for us.
On Thanksgiving Day we come before you
with gratitude for your abundant gifts.
Open our hearts to the needs of our brothers and sisters,
so that we may share your gifts in loving service.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Spotlight On Schools

Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy Is Hub Of Continuous Activity

The start of the 2018-2019 school year has proven to be one of significant growth and advancement for Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy. From a new Head of School, Jennifer Mallett, to the creation of a new student Ambassador program, Saint Joseph's is a hub of continuous activity.



JASON THOMAS

Senior Jason Thomas is a semifinalist in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Head of School Jennifer Mallett explains that this achievement places Thomas in a nationwide pool of semifinalists representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

High school students across the country are entered into the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Over 1.6 million juniors in about 22,000 high schools entered the program. Approximately 16,000 were selected as semifinalists.

Thomas' hard work over four years at Saint Joseph's is paying off. "I have worked so hard over the past four years to improve my writing, math, and test-taking skills, and I am happy that I achieved this goal."

Thomas recognizes the impact and role Saint Joseph's has played in his achievement, saying, "Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy has helped me so much in this regard. I have had great teachers throughout my high school career who pushed me to be the best student I could be. Their efforts helped create the student that I am today."



GARRETT GALL

Garrett Gall, a senior at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy, was named a Commended Student in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Head of School Jennifer Mallett explains that this achievement places Gall among the 34,000 high school students receiving recognition for exceptional academic promise.

"The young men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," said a spokesperson for National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Gall said he is honored to be recognized as a Commended Student in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. "I can accredit my academic success to my parents, as well as the teachers at SJCA, who genuinely care about the success of every student," he said. Gall plans to attend a four-year university to study mechanical engineering.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY: Twenty-one candidates were inducted into the National Honor Society at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy. In order to be eligible for induction, students must have a minimum of a 3.75 cumulative GPA at the end of their Sophomore year, complete an application, and then be voted into the society by their faculty on the basis of the four NHS pillars--Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character.

Mallett Creates Student Ambassador Program



Head of School Jennifer Mallett has created and headed the Student Ambassador program at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy. An SJCA student Ambassador is a student leader who serves as a liaison, spokesperson, and advocate for Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy. SJCA Ambassadors must have

strong interpersonal skills, a positive attitude, and commitment to integrity. SJCA Ambassadors are highly motivated and energetic. These students possess effective decision making skills, the ability to motivate others, and a willingness to work as a team.

SJCA Ambassadors play

a vital role in attracting new students to SJCA. The SJCA Ambassador program allows students the opportunity to participate in various public relations, recruiting, and leadership activities at SJCA including:

- Assisting during new student orientation processes.
- Giving campus tours.
- Assisting with special events such as student nights, parent nights, commencement, athletic events, development activities, etc.

Athletics Reach Milestones

Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy's athletics have experienced milestones and mass amounts of success! With the first ever school soccer programs, the girls soccer team advanced to post-season play before falling to Westmont Hilltop. The volleyball team hosted their first district playoff game against Juniata Valley. Saint Joseph's golf team made it to the state tournament and had an individual golfer, Jack Mangene, finish 10th in the state. Both cross country teams are slated to compete at states again this year after having another solid showing at Districts.



GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle

Mass And Clergy Sex Abuse/Sacraments



Q. I have been a lifelong Catholic, never missing Mass on weekends or holy days. But for the last four or five weeks, I have not attended Mass, and it was a conscious decision. I am utterly disgusted at what the Catholic Church has become. I still believe that the Catholic faith is the correct one, but in order to stay a Catholic I have to separate internally the faith from the church.

You probably know what I am talking about: decades of rampant child abuse by priests, bishops, cardinals. And instead of kicking out the rapists and abusers, they have instead been protected and even promoted within the church. (And we have all read about financial improprieties within the Vatican bank.)

So my question is this: If the church is hopelessly morally corrupt, am I really committing a sin by not attending Mass? (Central Missouri)

A. It pains me to read your question, and I pray every day for those Catholics like yourself who are experiencing doubts and deep distress because of the criminal and disgraceful behavior of some clerics. It does little good to remind readers that the number who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors represents a small minority of clerics -- perhaps 3 or 4 percent. Even one case, of course, is too many -- especially when you consider the lifelong turmoil it brings into a child's life.

I try to encourage people to separate, if they can, not so much -- as you say -- the faith and the church; the distinction, in my mind, is between the church as founded by Jesus and the human and fallible individuals who make up that church, including some in leadership roles.

To answer your question, yes -- you still do have the

moral obligation to keep holy the Lord's day by sharing in the Mass. I can readily understand why you have begun to drift away, but that's not really fair to yourself.

Why punish yourself because of the infidelity of some clerics? Why deprive yourself of the benefit of the Eucharist, of the comfort that is offered from the closeness to Christ, of the strength for daily living that comes from being nourished at the table of Jesus?

Q. I think that faithful Catholics would like to know about the validity of the sacraments received from disgraced or defrocked priests and bishops. Were sins forgiven in the sacrament of penance? Did the act of consecration take place for the bread and wine to become the body and blood of Christ? (Saratoga Springs, New York)

A. A friend of mine who was married years ago by a Catholic cleric later removed from ministry likes to tell me -- jokingly -- that his wedding did not count and that he is free now to marry someone else! That, of course, is not true.

Since it is really Christ who is acting in the sacraments, the personal unworthiness of the minister would not prevent Jesus from acting.

Later, medieval church theologians would explain it in more formal terms by saying that the sacraments operate from the work having been done and not from the work of the work.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states it today, From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister (No. 1128).

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203



By Effie Caldarola

Buying Half A Dress

When our youngest daughter shopped for clothes for high school dances, her father would often comment, "I hope that dress is on sale for half-price, because it's half a dress."

It was a joke, but it made his point. Our youngest child was pretty with an eye-catching figure, and she hit the social scene just as skirts got tighter and shorter and her parents got older. It's not easy being the fashion arbiter to a 16-year-old.

When I was in Ireland last spring, I was reminded of his observation on the last night we spent in Dublin. The hotel lobby was crowded. Maybe something special was going on for youth somewhere in the hotel -- a dance, a school or college event -- or perhaps it was just a typical night out.

But I found myself gaping at the outfits I saw on the bevy of very young ladies who glided and giggled through the foyer. Very short, very tight and ... is that see-through? And oh, my goodness, did your dad let you leave the house in that?

For me, it was a journey back to Ireland after years of absence. When I was a young teacher, I spent my first year's paychecks traveling to Ireland for the summer. I met an older teacher on my Aer Lingus flight, and she told me she visited Ireland every year.

That's what I want to do, I thought. Then life happened and decades passed.

The Ireland I visited this year was very different from the one I saw when I was young. Since I was on a parish pilgrimage, we saw much of Catholic Ireland. I visited St. Patrick's tomb -- well, OK, one of them, but I choose to believe I nailed it. We visited the Holy Well of St. Brigid, where I circled the well in traditional prayer and was touched by the hundreds of notes hung in the cave nearby, notes of thanks and prayers of remembrance.

And at St. Mary's Cathedral in Killarney, I wept at the large tree that grows over the site of a mass famine grave.

But I was aware of a new Ireland as well. Membership in the European Union has changed the Republic.

Want an old-time thatched roof, the kind I saw when I visited decades ago? Today, you need to prove you've applied the right fire retardant. I have pictures of friends dangling their legs over the Cliffs of Moher many years ago; today, fences and warnings keep folks from the edge. I felt as if Ireland was fighting to retain its charm, while becoming modern and efficient.

If you know anything about Irish history, you know that at one point, Ireland was basically a theocracy. The Catholic Church, hand in hand with Eamon de Valera, ruled Ireland with an iron hand. Some bad things happened: Magdalene Laundries held unwed mothers hostage in disgrace, clerical sexual and physical abuse was

a hidden plague, many of Ireland's great authors fled to escape censorship.

Today's newfound freedom presents opportunity, but brings with it sobering responsibility. Church attendance has dropped precipitously and a recent vote took away an amendment that protected an unborn baby's right to life. I found myself praying that all the beauty and truth of the Irish faith could remain -- the monks, the mystics, the heritage of Celtic spirituality -- while the scourge of patriarchal domination and clericalism might disappear.

But freedom isn't easy and it comes with risk. I thought about that as I saw young girls disappearing into the Dublin evening, each wearing half a dress.

BISHOP CARROLL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Applications are currently being accepted for the following positions:

Live-in Staff Member (House Parent) for Aquinas International Program

Part Time Resident Assistant for Aquinas International Program

Junior High Girls Basketball Coach

Assistant Track Coach

Applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, Acts 34, 114, and 151 clearances and three current references to:

www.bishopcarroll.com
lweber@bishopcarroll.org

Mrs. Lynn Weber, BCCHS CEO
728 Ben Franklin Highway
Ebensburg, Pennsylvania 15931



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BISHOP CARROLL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

INTERESTED STUDENT VISIT DAY

All students interested in attending Bishop Carroll are invited for an informational and interactive visit day.

Call 472-7500 or email jnagy@bishopcarroll.org to schedule a visit.

More information can be found at www.bishopcarroll.com.



Now Showing

The Trial of America's Biggest Serial Killer



(CNS photo/Hat Tip Films LLC)

GOSNELL: Earl Billings stars in a scene from the movie "Gosnell: The Trial of America's Biggest Serial Killer." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Powerful dramatization of the Philadelphia police investigation (led by Dean Cain) and state prosecution (headed by Sarah Jane Morris) that finally ended the infamous, decades-long career of abortionist Kermit Gosnell (Earl Billings) who, besides legally slaughtering the unborn, frequently perpetrated infanticide and endangered his adult clients with filthy conditions. As directed by Nick Searcy -- who also plays Gosnell's hard-driving defense attorney -- their script mostly leaves it to viewers to recognize the wholly arbitrary distinction between extinguishing life within the womb and doing so, perhaps only moments later, outside it. Mature themes, images of body parts and medical gore, a couple of mild oaths, about a half-dozen crude terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

SHYCON

(Continued From Page 1.)

held at Saint Francis University in Loretto. One of many youth events offered throughout the year, the annual gathering offers students the opportunity to celebrate their faith while joining with peers from throughout the wider Church.

"I think it is amazing that so many of us came together to help out today, and to see so many teenagers in one place all working toward the same cause is amazing," stated Our Lady of Victory parishioner Rachel D'Angelo.



SHYCON SCENES: About 850 high school students from throughout the diocese participated in the 2018 Senior High Youth Conference on Sunday, October 28, including a group from Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish in Ashville (top right). As part of the day, the youth packaged 30,000 meals for the Rise Against Hunger organization. Lauren Keipert, a member Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg, and Mark Bradley of Saint Bernard Parish in Hastings (middle photo) were among those scooping rice for the food packs. Various stations were set up in a gym at Saint Francis University for the meal packaging (bottom photo).



Sunday Mass

*Broadcast Live From
The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament
Altoona*

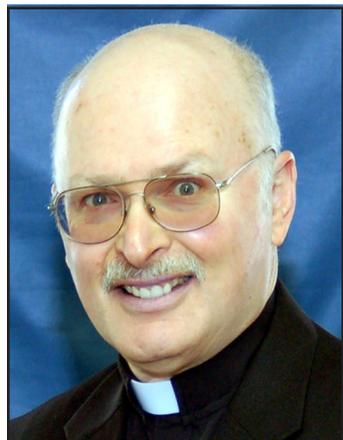
10:00 a.m. WFBG radio, 1290 AM

Sunday Mass

*Broadcast Live From
The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament
Altoona*

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

May They Rest In Peace



FATHER DANIEL O'NEILL

Father Daniel O'Neill, 68, pastor of Saint Peter Parish in Somerset, died on October 29 at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Father O'Neill was ordained a priest on May 8, 1976 by Bishop James J. Hogan. He served as Associate Pastor at Saint Joseph Parish in Portage, which is now Holy Family Parish.

He was a graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor of science degree. He graduated from Saint Francis University with a master of divinity degree.

He served as parochial vicar at Saint Peter Parish and ministered to various local missions

in Somerset. Father O'Neill was pastor at Saint Barnabas, Our Lady of Mercy and Saint Gregory parish in Johnstown, and Immaculate Conception Church in Lock Haven before returning to Saint Peter parish.

He was a religious instructor at Ebsenburg Bishop Carroll Catholic High School and Bishop McCort Catholic High School in Johnstown.

Father O'Neill is the son of Mary (Kelleher) O'Neill of Pleasant Mount, PA, and the late Daniel J. O'Neill Sr. He is preceded in death by his father; and infant brother; and niece Gabrielle Teresa DeThomas.

He is survived by his sister Karen O'Neill DeThomas of Arlington, VA; brother William F. O'Neill and wife Sharon of Warrenton, VA; and nephews Zachary O'Neill, Ryan O'Neill, and wife Claudia, and Ben DeThomas and wife Fidan.

Father Leonard Voytek officiated a reception of the body-ceremony on Friday, November 2, and Monsignor Samuel Tomaselli officiated a wake service. The funeral Mass was celebrated by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak on Saturday, November 3.

A funeral Mass was held on Monday, November 5, at Saint James Church in Mount Pleasant and he was interred at Saint James Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Saint Peter School, 433 W. Church Street, Somerset, Pa, 15501.



Bishop Mark Celebrates Mass And Presides Over Scouting Awards

Forty-five scouts received their emblems and two adult leaders were recognized at the Catholic Scouting Emblem Award Mass held on Saturday, October 13 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak celebrated the Mass and Father Joseph T. Orr, diocesan chaplain of Scouting, con-celebrated. In addition, Pack 383, Our Lady of Victory in State College, received the Pope Paul VI National Catholic Unit Excellence Award.

Those receiving awards were:

Angel on My Shoulder

--Donna Yahnert; **God is Love**--Emily Grove, Olivia Marshall, Kenzie Rager, Elizabeth Szymanski, and Donna Yahnert. **Family of God**--Hannah Blesh, Kathryn Laskowski, Emma Marshall, Lily Nicastro, and Kaila Roberts. **Light of Christ**--William Davis, Garret Koegler, Rowan Merrill, and Michael Szymanski. **Parvuli Dei**--Max Cafazza, Shane Caron, Michael Docherty, Connor Dumm, Jonathan Gindlesperger, Jonathon Hill, Ryan Hillsley, Logan Hoover, Heath Koegler, Patrick Kris, Bryan Orr, Jonathan Orr, Lucas Polacek, Donovan Pollard, John Razzano, Aaron Spak,

Simon Vath, Timothy Vath, Mason Wherry, and Kirk Yahnert. **Ad Altare Dei** --Daniel Hock, Michael Kresic, Adam Michalow, Braden Michalow, Trenton Miller, and Cole Weiland. **Pope Pius XII** -- Noah Gresh, Shawn Smith, James Wharton, and Cole Weiland.

Danielle Montler from Our Lady of Victory Parish in State College earned the **Elizabeth Ann Seton Award**, and Judy Bako from Saint Benedict Parish in Geistown was awarded **Bronze Pelican Adult Award**.

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Catholic Charities Launches All Soles Project

Photo And Text By
Tomy DeGol

Children cannot put their best foot forward if that foot is not protected in the rain and snow.

Many students must walk to school, either all or part of the way, reminded Michelle Johnston, an emergency financial assistance case manager at the Altoona office of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

“If they only have flip-flops and don’t have weather-appropriate shoes, they might not go to school,” she said. “Winter boots can be expensive. They can be a huge financial burden.”

With all of this in mind, Catholic Charities has launched the All Soles Project to provide boots to youngsters and appropriate footwear for older

students.

The idea came after Johnston learned about another faith-based ministry that provides sneakers for children.

The All Soles Project enhances that effort by providing boots for boys and girls up to age 12 and dress, casual, or athletic shoes for teenagers.

As winter weather looms, Catholic Charities is poised to once again assist families with heating costs. This new program will be an additional service to help those who are struggling.

“We love children, and we want to make sure they have the basic essentials that often go unmet during an unexpected financial crisis,” Johnston mentioned.

Thanks to a \$1,000 donation from Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Duncansville, the All Soles Project is up and running. The support enabled Johnston to

purchase enough boots to begin serving youngsters.

“It is important for all of us to help our neighbors – especially children,” stressed Monsignor Robert Saly, pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena. “None of us want to see kids without boots in the winter.”

In order to keep the All Soles Project going, Catholic Charities is counting on donations from the faithful.

Individuals are invited to drop off new boots for boys or girls at the Altoona office of Catholic Charities, 1300 12th Avenue.

Boots will be provided to children during the heating season, which is underway now through March 31.

The agency is also looking for sponsors to provide shoes for teenagers. Those interested can call (814) 944-9388 Extension 209 and leave their contact information. Catholic Charities will reach out to sponsors with specific footwear needs for the students.

All boots and shoes will be provided as long as donations and sponsors are available to meet the demand, Johnston said.

Catholic Charities is working with school nurses, guidance counselors, and administrators to inform them of students who are in need of appropriate footwear.

For more information, contact the Altoona office of Catholic Charities at (814) 944-9389.

Evangelization Artists To Perform



CONNOR FLANAGAN

By *Tomy DeGol*

Saint John Paul II said that Jesus is present in the Eucharist to be met and loved.

Saint Mother Teresa believed prayer could save the world and that every parish should adore the Blessed Sacrament in a Holy Hour.

A Johnstown faith community thinks these modern day saints were on to something, so it is welcoming a national effort to spend time with Jesus and enjoy some great music to boot.

The initiative is called the 177 Project. Adoration Artists, a group that uses music as an evangelization tool, is traveling to all 177 dioceses in the United States this fall.

Mandy Vigna is the director of religious education at Saint Clement Parish. When she heard about the opportunity, she jumped at the chance to participate.

The parish will host the 177 Project on Friday, November 30.

The evening will include praying the Rosary and a Holy Hour with time before the Blessed Sacrament.

“I hope this will give more people the opportunity to experience Adoration,” Vigna said. “I

think it’s something we don’t do often enough.”

The parish has invited various priests from throughout the diocese to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Holy Hour.

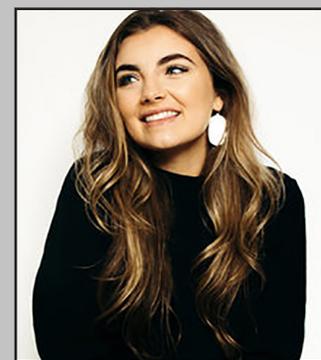
After Adoration, two nationally-recognized musicians traveling as part of the 177 Project – Connor Flanagan and Taylor Tripodi – will present a concert.

According to the 177 Project website, the goal is to spark renewal in the Catholic Church around the country.

“We are firm believers in the power of spending time in front of the Eucharist and want to encourage that through a worshipful evening that fosters community within and across parishes,” the website states.

Doors at Saint Clement will open at 6:00 p.m. The event is free and open to everyone, but tickets are required in advance. Call or visit the parish or go to the Saint Clement website at stclementjohnstown.org.

“Tickets are going fast, and I hope to fill the church,” Vigna noted. “It’s something different, so that always sparks some attention.”



Taylor Tripodi



Catholic Charities Altoona Office

PERIODICAL RATE MAIL

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together in Christ

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