

First ‘Culture of Encounter’ Holy Hour Unites Families in Prayer

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

The first “Culture of Encounter” Family Holy Hour brought families together Nov. 5 in an effort to come to know one another better at St. Michael the Archangel, Minersville.

The holy hour, led by Father Christopher Zelonis, pastor, set the stage for an estimated 50 holy hours that are planned through October 2018 across the five-county Diocese of Allentown.

“In these holy hours we are invited to encounter – to ‘find’ – life in the Word of God that Mary spoke to us. It is good that our Diocese has begun this series in the centenary year of Our Lady of Fatima.”

The holy hours were organized by the Diocesan Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry to highlight the gift of encounters with one another and God, which has been forgotten by a culture of technology.

The encounters, which occur in a special way through liturgy, prayer, Scripture and fellowship,

deepen the presence between a person and God, parents and children, and parish families.

Basing his reflection on the scriptural rosary – the prayer of Joyful mysteries, Sorrowful mysteries, Glorious mysteries and the Luminous mysteries – Father Zelonis focused on the fifth Glorious mystery and led meditation on the Bible passage “For those who find me, find life, and



Father Christopher Zelonis leads the first “Culture of Encounter” holy hour at St. Michael the Archangel, Minersville. (Photos by John Simitz)

win favor from the Lord” (Proverbs 8:35).

“In the rosary meditations, these words are placed in the mouth of Mary, but the original author wrote them as ‘words of wisdom’ personified,” he said.

“Catholics and Orthodox in particular hold Our Lady in profound reverence for being the ‘seat of wisdom,’ for

Please see HOUR page 3 ►►

‘Lord, To Whom Shall We Go?’ Summons Men to Stand for Jesus

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

“Brothers, we have to come to terms with where the culture is. We are getting cornered and we can’t escape standing up and becoming alive in Jesus Christ,” said Peter Herbeck, vice president and director of missions for Renewal Ministries, Nov. 4 during the Diocese of Allentown’s Spirit 2017 Men’s Conference at DeSales University, Center Valley.

An estimated 600 men came together for the day, “Lord, To Whom Shall We Go?” to examine the challenges of today’s culture and to discover what God is calling them to do as learners and teachers of the faith.

Herbeck was one of six conference speakers. Also featured were Father Stan Fortuna, an international speaker and evangelical musician who founded Francesco Production; Marty Rotella, song writer and musician for Spirit Power; and Father Bernard Ezaki, assistant pastor at St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton.

The other conference speakers that delivered their presentations in Spanish were Bishop Nelson Perez of Cleveland, Ohio; and Deacon Ramon Lima, who serves the Dio-



Father Bernard Ezaki, assistant pastor of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, receives a standing ovation after his presentation, “Sinfulness: The Challenges Men Face Living in the Spirit.” (Photos by John Simitz)

Please see MEN page 4 ►►

Diocese of Allentown to Participate in #iGiveCatholic as Part of #GivingTuesday

The Diocese of Allentown will be one of 17 dioceses and archdioceses across the country participating in #iGiveCatholic on Tuesday, Nov. 28, #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration.

#iGiveCatholic is an online crowdfunding event that brings the Catholic community together to give thanks and give back. #iGiveCatholic is considered the most successful Catholic crowdfunding event to date.

This will be the third year of the event, which in its first two years raised a combined \$3.16 million for more than 300 ministries.

The Diocese of Allentown will participate in #iGiveCatholic by partnering with 24 local schools, parishes

Please see GIVING page 3 ►►

"The Allentown Diocese in the Year of Our Lord"

THE A.D. TIMES

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As part of the Catholic Press, The A.D. Times is the official newspaper for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Allentown, serving Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill counties. The A.D. Times proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the People of God through evangelization, catechesis and the teaching of the Church, the extension of Christ's presence in the world today. It endeavors to nourish, strengthen and challenge the faith of its readers by continually providing news information, formation, inspiration, religious education and Catholic identification. Under the patronage of Mary, Mother of the Church, The A.D. Times serves the Church so that the Kingdom of God might become a reality in our society transformed by His Good News.

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Advertising copy must be received by Monday of the week before publication. News copy must be received by Thursday of the week before publication.

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Episcopal Appointment

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert has made the following appointment, effective Nov. 10.

Father Dr. John Krivak from administrator, Annunciation BVM Parish, Catasauqua to Pastor, Annunciation BVM Parish, Catasauqua.

Diocese Again Found Compliant With Charter for Protection of Young People

For the 15th time since the inception of national diocesan audits 15 years ago, the Diocese of Allentown has been found "compliant" with the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People, adopted by the Bishops of the United States in 2002.

Two representatives of StoneBridge Business Partners, a Rochester, New York firm contracted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to conduct compliance audits of the nation's 195 dioceses, conducted an on-site audit in the Diocese Oct. 10-11.

The Diocese received a letter from StoneBridge Nov. 1, informing it that "the Diocese has been found compliant with all audited articles ... for the 2016/2017

audit period."

The auditors reached their conclusion based on inquiry, observations and the review of specifically requested documentation during the course of the audit. They also interviewed two dozen people involved in the child protection and safe environment effort of the Diocese, its parishes and schools.

Among the data the Diocese reported to the auditors: Since 2003, more than 37,000 adults have received training to recognize, respond and report child abuse.

A total of 6,500 adults have received mandated reporter training and over 317,000 school-age children have received age-appropriate abuse prevention

education since 2003.

Diocese of Allentown Bishop Alfred Schlert was pleased with the results.

"Every year since audits began, the Diocese of Allentown has been found in full compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," said Bishop Schlert.

"The Diocese continues to be vigilant and proactive when it comes to youth protection in our parishes, schools and other Diocesan institutions.

"I am grateful to the clergy, religious and lay adults who work each day to make our parishes, schools, institutions and programs a safe environment in which to experience the love of Christ."

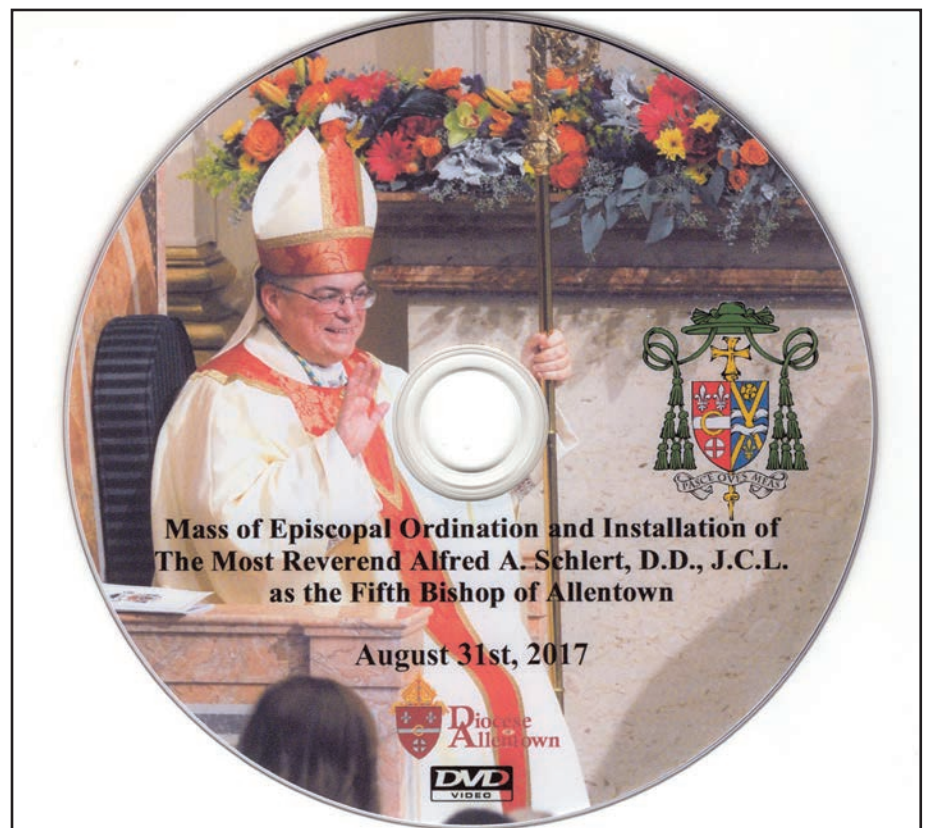
DVDs of Vespers Service, Ordination/Installation Available for Purchase

A limited number of DVDs of the Solemn Vespers Service and the Mass of Ordination and Installation of Diocese of Allentown Bishop Alfred Schlert are available for purchase.

The two-DVD set costs \$10. To purchase a set, send a check for \$10 payable to Diocese of Allentown to:

DVD
Office of Communications
Diocese of Allentown
P.O. Box F
Allentown, PA 18105-1538

Be sure your name and address are on the check or a return address label.

**VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR**

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish

Parents, guardians, children and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims by the Church.

To speak directly to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call the direct line 1-800-791-9209.

To learn more about the Diocese of Allentown's Youth Protection Programs, Sexual Abuse Policy and Code of Conduct, please visit www.allentowndioecese.org and click on "Youth Protection" at top right.

COORDINADOR DE ASISTENCIA A LAS VÍCTIMAS

La Diócesis de Allentown provee asistencia a cualquier persona que, como menor de edad, fue abusado sexualmente por un sacerdote, diácono o empleado/voluntario de la Diócesis/Parroquia.

Los padres, tutores, niños y los sobrevivientes de abuso sexual están invitados a contactar la Diócesis de Allentown para obtener más información sobre este programa. La plenitud de compasión debe extenderse a las víctimas por la Iglesia.

Para hablar directamente con el coordinador de asistencia a las víctimas por favor llame a la línea directa 1-800-791-9209.

Para obtener más información acerca de los Programas de Protección de la Juventud, Política de Abuso Sexual y el Código de Conducta de la Diócesis de Allentown, por favor visite www.allentowndioecese.org y haga clic en "Protección de la Juventud" en la parte superior derecha.



Hour

►►Continued from page 1

her womb became a throne for the Word made flesh.”

Through Mary, said Father Zelonis, God made his voice to the world heard – making Mary crucial to his plan.

“In these holy hours we are invited to encounter – to ‘find’ – life in the Word of God that Mary spoke to us. It is good that our Diocese has begun this series in the centenary year of Our Lady of Fatima,” he said.

Father Zelonis told the faithful that the rosary has long been considered a Marian

devotion, a “weapon for peace” and a tool for meditation.

“Mary’s message to the world, wherever she has spoken it, has always been the same: ‘Be converted. Turn to my Son and turn away from sin. Make peace,’” he said.

“By meditating on the mysteries of our redemption in Christ, through the experience and reflections of Mary, our hearts are properly oriented to love of God and neighbor,” said Father Zelonis.

The holy hours also follow Pope Francis’ desire for faithful to reach out, foster dialogue and friendship outside the usual circles, and to make a special point of encountering people who are neglected and ignored by the wider world.



Praying a decade of the rosary are, from back, Father Christopher Zelonis, Georgine Walters. Anne Gemnell, Sheila Berezowski (hidden), Christopher Schwartz and Marlene Doyle.

Upcoming Family Holy Hours

Family Holy Hours will be hosted every month between November 2017 and October 2018. The next upcoming holy hours will be:

Lehigh Deanery – Sunday, Nov. 26, 3 p.m., St. Paul Church, 920 S. Second St., Allentown.

Berks Deanery – Sunday, Dec. 3, 11:15 a.m., Most Blessed Sacrament Church, 610 Pine St., Bally.

Northampton Deanery – Sunday, Dec. 3, 1 p.m., St. Anne Church, 450 E. Washington Ave., Bethlehem.

Schuylkill/Carbon Deaneries – Sunday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m., Divine Mercy at St. Casimir Church, 229 N. Jardin St., Shenandoah.

For the complete upcoming list, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/encounter.

To receive text reminders about upcoming Family Holy Hours in the Schuylkill/Carbon region, text @SchuylCar to the number 81010.

For the Berks region, text @BerksFHH to the same 81010.

For Lehigh, text @LehighFHH.

For Northampton, text @NorthFHH.



Altar servers lead the procession for the holy hour.



Right, Father Zelonis prays the rosary during “Culture of Encounter.”

Left, a cake honoring Our Lady of Fatima was enjoyed by families after the holy hour.



Giving

►►Continued from page 1

and ministries. The partner participants are:

- Allentown Central Catholic High School.
- Berks Catholic High School, Reading.
- Bethlehem Catholic High School.
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown.
- Holy Family Parish and Holy Family School, Nazareth.
- Holy Guardian Angels Regional School, Reading.
- Mercy School for Special Learning, Allentown.
- Sacred Heart Parish, Palmerton.
- Sacred Heart School, West Reading.
- Sacred Heart Villa, Center Valley.
- St. Ambrose School, Schuylkill Haven.
- St. Ann School, Emmaus.
- St. Catharine of Siena School, Reading.
- St. Francis Academy, Bally.
- St. John Neumann Regional School, Palmerton.



- St. John the Baptist Parish, Pottsville.
- St. Joseph the Worker School, Orefield.
- St. Joseph Parish, Frackville.
- St. Margaret School, Reading.
- St. Mary Parish, Kutztown.
- St. Michael the Archangel School, Limeport/Colesville.
- St. Paul Parish, Allentown.
- Trinity Academy, Shenandoah.

For more information visit the local #iGiveCatholic website at <https://igivecatholic.org/groups/diocese-of-allentown>.

Men

►►Continued from page 1

cese of Brooklyn, New York.

Herbeck opened his talk with the secret to “growing in the Lord” by reiterating Pope Benedict’s call for every person to read the Bible daily and feed on it.

“You will find it in the daily readings of the Scriptures. The word is alive with the breath of God. When God speaks, he changes us,” he said.

He told the men that “Christianity” means change because God lives in them and that they were chosen to be saved through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit.

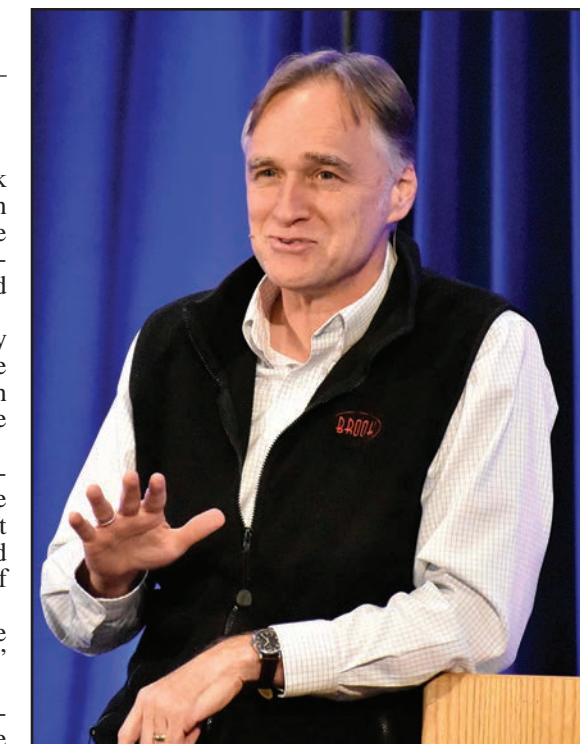
“His power is in you. He wants us to shoot for heaven,” stressed Herbeck.

When the men became baptized, Herbeck said they were also crucified with Christ, rose with Christ and were given the grace of the Holy Spirit.

“You became a new creation through baptism. There is a power in you that is stronger than death. You are a child of God and a disciple of Jesus Christ and are called into relationship and to be life-long learners of Jesus Christ,” he said.

To grow in Christ, Herbeck told the men they must imitate Jesus Christ and by doing so “they know where they are heading.”

“You are headed for glory. You know where you are going and you know your destiny. A lot of people don’t know where they are going. You are bound for glory. When you know who you are in Jesus Christ, you do not fear death. It’s the devil’s strategy to enslave humanity through fear of death,” he said.



Herbeck then pointed out the decline in the life of the Church and maintained that it’s getting tougher to be a Catholic and stand for what we believe in today’s culture.

“You became a new creation through baptism. There is a power in you that is stronger than death. You are a child of God and a disciple of Jesus Christ and are called into relationship and to be life-long learners of Jesus Christ.”

“A lot of men are re-evaluating their life in the Church. The heat is getting turned up. John Paul II said we are entering the final confrontation between Christ and the anti-Christ. This is the battle we must enter and we must not be afraid,” he said.

In addition, Herbeck shared the words of Pope Benedict’s 2009 letter to Bishops that summarized what he saw as his main mission as the successor of Peter: “In our days, when in vast areas of the world the faith is in danger of dying out like a flame which no longer has fuel,

the overriding priority is to make God present in this world and to show men



Above, Marty Rotella, song writer and musician for Spirit Power, delivers one of the keynote presentations during the conference.

Left, Peter Herbeck, vice president and director of missions for Renewal Ministries, speaks Nov. 4 during the Diocese of Allentown’s Spirit 2017 Men’s Conference at DeSales University, Center Valley.

and women the way to God.”

“The light from God is going dim and as a result, we are losing our bearings. When God is pushed from the human horizon – darkness comes to the human mind. We don’t know what marriage is or what a woman or a man is. Its madness and it’s getting harder to say it,” he said.

“The entire world is at war with marriage and family. We are in this battle big time. If the family goes – so does the faith. The family is the domestic Church and the image of the Trinity. That is why the devil is going after the family. The devil is literally trying to redefine what it means to be human,” said Herbeck.

The answer to the battle, according to Herbeck, is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

“We are called to this battle. I think a lot of men have checked out and aren’t wielding the sword. Men were made by God to lead their families and be warriors. We are all made for the ultimate

spiritual battle,” he said.

He also told the men that it is not good enough to “throw the Lord a bone every now and then” or to live life by their own rules while trying to fit God in.

“It’s all in or don’t come. Jesus says if you want to come, you have to come to terms with discipleship,” said Herbeck.

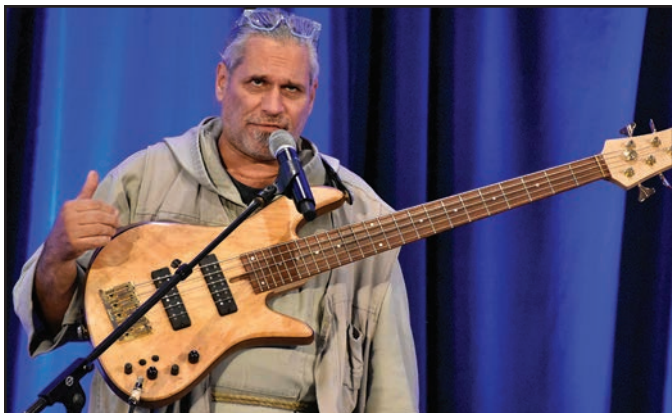
Turning the men’s attention to today’s culture, he said humanity is focused on self-created freedom and defining their own identity, sexuality and truth.

“It is a fundamental denial of our creator. Many people think everyone has the right to be free and happy. That is not true when the truth rejects God because you belong to God,” said Herbeck.

Urging the men to recognize the biggest battle on the planet, Herbeck said the Church will collapse if men don’t enter the battle.

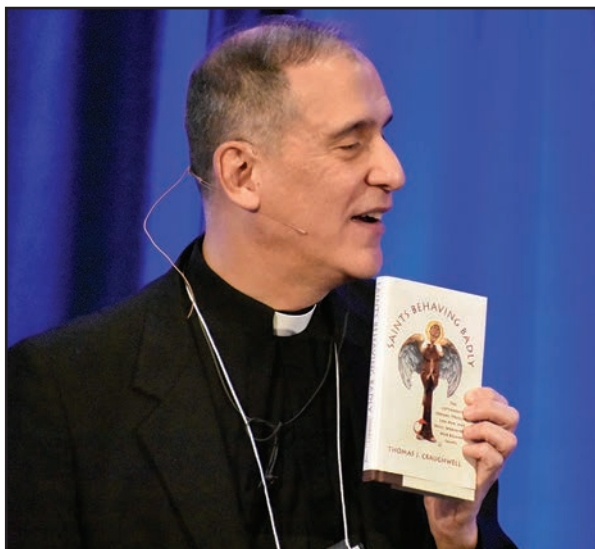
“The Church will collapse – but it will

Please see MEN page 5 ►►



Above, Father Stan Fortuna, an international speaker and evangelical musician who founded Francesco Production, shares his music at the men’s conference.

Right, Father Ezaki suggests the book “Saints Behaving Badly” to men participating in the conference.



Right, men enjoy a laugh at the conference, “Lord, To Whom Shall We Go?”



Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert delivers the homily during Closing Mass.

Men

►Continued from page 4

never die. We are in a battle between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the enemy. You must make the decision to fight this spiritual battle," he said.

He told them that they are called to more, like loving God, loving their neighbor and to make disciples.

"There are gifts in you that you have not discovered yet. There are roads to travel and He is asking you to come with him. Don't hold back, you have been anointed by God to stand up and reap salvation of souls," said Herbeck.

Father Ezaki Explores 'Sinfulness: The Challenges Men Face Living in the Spirit'

During Father Ezaki's presentation, "Sinfulness: The Challenges Men Face Living in the Spirit," he asked the men to use their eyesight wisely and assured them that it is possible to purify the mind after sin such as pornography.

"It is easy to fall into sin. It takes work to climb out. It is very easy to acquire sin or bad habits, but tough it is to get rid of them," he said.

To turn away from sin, Father Ezaki stressed the importance of turning toward God.

"We can't make it a half-hearted measure. It's like stopping an antibiotic halfway through treatment. You can be

worse than before. It is not enough to turn away from sin. We must also turn toward Christ," he said.

Even though there is no "delete button" for bad thoughts or images, Father Ezaki told the men they can "crowd out" sin.

"When it comes to your mind – it might not be possible to get rid of terrible pictures, but you can cover them up with better pictures," he pointed out.

"The one you feed survives. It's not starving the bad wolf, but it's about feeding the good wolf," said Father Ezaki.

When it comes to overcoming pornography and sin, he reminded the men that the thoughts and images in their heads affects them for either good or evil.

"We need to put positive thoughts and images in our heads and our hearts. They don't have to necessarily be religious – but wholesome," he added.

He suggested contemplating the lives of the saints and said nothing will bring them to closer contact with Christ.

"The saints make the light of Christ visible," said Father Ezaki, who also suggested the book, "Saints Behaving Badly" to the men.

Other lives are worth contemplating as well, he said, like the life of Alessandro Serenelli, who murdered St. Maria Goretti.

"He had a profound conversion in prison. He dreamt he saw St. Maria Goretti in a garden and she handed him 14 flowers – one for each knife wound he gave her," said Father Ezaki.

After prison, Serenelli became a lay



Men pray together by asking the Holy Spirit for greater guidance.

brother for the Capuchin Franciscans and was present at her canonization.

"He lived a holy life. With time and patience, the brain can readjust," he said.

"Why wallow on stupid and immoral stuff? Make it a habit to ponder what is good. A man is what he thinks about all day. Feed the good wolf," said Father Ezaki.

The day also featured Reconciliation and concluded with a Vigil Mass celebrated by Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert.

The Commission for Men served on the Planning Committee. Stewardship: A Mission of Faith was also a conference sponsor.



An estimated 600 men listen to a speaker at the conference.



Speaker Marty Rotella, left, talks with Vincent Santucci, parishioner of Assumption BVM, Northampton, during one of the conference breaks.

'Shower for the Unknown Babe' Dec. 13

Celebrate the birth of the Christ child by participating in the "Shower for the Unknown Babe" Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Activities Center at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown.

Attendees are asked to bring items to benefit Mary's Shelter in Bethlehem, such as: newborn and larger size diapers (3, 4, 5) and wipes; baby wash, lotion and diaper cream; new baby clothing (up to 2T); and new or gently used baby items (include all pieces).

The event will also feature prayer, entertainment and light refreshments. All are welcome to attend.

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Marian Catholic High School is seeking a professional to lead the communications and admissions program. The candidate should possess strong interpersonal, communication and marketing skills, as well as public relations and be experienced in social media. Must be experienced in project management and fundraising. Bachelor's degree in public relations, marketing or admissions is required.

Please send cover letter, resume and references to:
mgrant@mauchchunktrust.com

No Phone Calls Please.
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Healey Recognizes Two Diocesan Schools for Advancement Excellence

Two Diocese of Allentown elementary schools have received awards from the Healey Education Foundation for excellence in Catholic school advancement.

St. Anne School, Bethlehem received the Founder's Award, the highest award presented by Healey. It includes a \$15,000 grant to the school that best demonstrates success with exceptional results through the entrepreneurial approach reflective of Robert Healey, founder of the Healey Education Foundation.

The Founder's Award was presented to St. Anne School for "demonstrating exceptional results in leveraging human resources by empowering staff, laity, volunteers and parents; and the ability to be nimble and adapt to a changing environment and growth through calculated risk."

"St. Anne School is both humbled and honored to receive this award from the Healey Education Foundation," said St. Anne Principal Karen Bentz.

"We are grateful for the support and dynamic Healey Education Foundation approach to growing and sustaining our school. We live our school mission and support our students through faith, sound academics and a sustainable school management approach."

St. Michael the Archangel School, Coopersburg received an Annual Fund Award for the Highest Percentage Growth in Annual Fund, Alumni School, with 83 percent. The school received an award of \$5,000.

The awards were presented Oct. 26 at the fifth annual SAGE (School Advancement Grants for Excellence) Celebration of Achievement. The Healey Education Foundation presented \$50,000 in grants to recognize significant improvement in enrollment management and fundraising by its partner schools.

The foundation leadership and staff welcomed 180 guests at the Hyatt at The Bellevue, Philadelphia. Attendees included philanthropists and leaders from 10 award-winning Catholic schools and new partner schools in the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware.

At the premier event five years ago, 26 schools in two dioceses were eligible for the School Advancement Grants for Excellence (SAGE). This year, the awards were open to 56 schools from: the Dio-

cese of Camden, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Diocese of Allentown, the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

In addition to the celebration, the SAGE event kicked off with a 90-minute educational symposium titled "The Visionary Board: Leading Your Catholic School Due North."

Opening presenter, John Dilulio, Frederick Fox Leadership Professor of Politics, Religion and Civil Society at the University of Pennsylvania, encouraged a sense of urgency in revitalizing PK-12 Catholic education in America.

The symposium also featured a case study presented by James Morris, chair, and James Paul, vice chair, of the Board of Specified Jurisdiction for Our Lady of Mercy Regional Catholic School, Maple Glen. They spoke on "Connecting Mission and Vision," and the school's approach to change.

A spirited and celebratory performance by Saints Neumann and Goretti High School (Philadelphia) Jazz Ensemble opened the evening's Celebration of Achievement ceremonies. These ceremonies offered insights from the Healey Education Foundation leadership team and guest speaker Gail Dorn, president of the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE).

Dorn shared how CSCOE is improving excellence and enrollment for the 79 PreK-8 Catholic grade schools in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. She spoke about the importance of understanding the customer, particularly the millennial parent, and to communicating what is unique, different and true about Catholic schools.

"Our great legacy is to produce critical thinkers with mature moral values," she said.

Healey Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, invests in PK-12 Catholic schools. The foundation provides a high-impact program delivered through a coaching relationship with dioceses and schools that are ready to embrace change.

Healey's work "For the Future of Catholic Schools" empowers grant recipients to deliver sustainable results through effective governance, enrollment



Karen Bentz, center, principal of St. Anne School, Bethlehem, displays the Founders Award received by the school. Others are, from left: Jason Morrison, vice president of operations, Healey Education Foundation; Brooke Jackson, director of schools, Healey Education Foundation; Monica Emrock, office manager and director of religious education; Eileen Brida, advancement director; Michael Murphy, board chair; Father Anthony Mongiello, pastor; and Christine Healey, president, Healey Education Foundation.



Colleen Weiss, principal of St. Michael the Archangel School, Coopersburg, displays the school's award for highest percentage growth in annual fund for an alumni school. Others are, from left: Jason Morrison, vice president of operations, Healey Education Foundation; Chris Watts, board chair; Marianne Gano, advancement director; and Christine Healey, president, Healey Education Foundation.

management and fundraising. Since its establishment in 2004, the foundation has grown to serve nearly 70 elementary and high schools across six dioceses in Delaware, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The SAGE awards ceremony and networking experience empower and strengthen the resolve of the community working to revitalize and rejuvenate pride

in Catholic schools.

In the five years since the premier SAGE event, the foundation has worked with partner schools to implement enrollment strategies that have impacted over 60,900 children.

Also in that same timespan, with the foundation's help, partner schools have raised more than \$15 million in mission-based revenue through their annual funds.

Theology of the Body Seminars Being Offered

The Office of Adult Formation is inviting everyone to join its seminars to delve into Pope St. John Paul II's groundbreaking teaching known as the "Theology of the Body."

These seminars are for anyone recognizing the need for restored relationship with God, others, and the created world.

Each seminar will take place in the Religious Education building of St. Mary Parish, Kutztown from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on the dates listed below.

Cost is \$20 per seminar; register at www.allentown-diocese.org/icf. For questions, email adultformation@allentown-diocese.org.

allentowndiocese.org or call 610-289-8900.

The first seminar, "Encountering Love," was presented Oct. 21. The second, "The Redemption of the Heart," was presented Nov. 11.

The remaining seminar is below. Attendance at the previous sessions is not required.

Saturday, Dec. 2 – "The Beauty of Love" – This seminar will discuss the different vocations of love that we are all called to and will show how each points to our ultimate end in God's loving embrace.

Presenter will be Dr. William Hamant of DeSales University, Center Valley.

Pope Saint John Paul II's

Theology of the Body

9:30-11:30 AM

St. Mary Parish

14833 Kutztown Road
Kutztown, PA 19530



Remember Our Veterans This Christmas

This holiday season, sponsor a wreath in honor or memory of a veteran.

For the fifth year, the Information Technology team from Air Products has joined with Wreaths Across America to honor the veterans buried at Resurrection Cemetery, Allentown.

Wreaths are \$15 each and can be sponsored online at <https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.html?page=24326>.

With your help, we can remember and honor all 1,500 veterans and teach our children about the many sacrifices our veterans made to protect our freedom.

Then join us at Resurrection Saturday, Dec. 16 at noon for a brief ceremony, the National Anthem, Taps and wreath placement.

Deadline for wreath sponsorship is Monday, Nov. 27. Contact Margaret Albert with any questions, albertmm@air-products.com.

Wreaths are placed to honor veterans buried at Resurrection Cemetery.



Sunday Scripture

Sunday, Nov. 19
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First reading
Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-21, 30-31
Responsorial Psalm
Psalms 128:1-5
Second reading
1 Thessalonians 4:1-6
Gospel
Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, Nov. 26
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

First reading
Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
Responsorial Psalm
Psalms 23:1-3, 5-6
Second reading
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Gospel
Matthew 25:31-46

In Memoriam

Please remember these clerics of the Diocese of Allentown in your prayers during December, the anniversary month of their death.

1 – Father Stephen Vidocz, 1980

6 – Father Edward Kane, 1963

7 – Msgr. Reginald Billinger, 1989

8 – Msgr. Scott Fasig, 1961

8 – Father Joseph Sangmeister, 1962

9 – Father Joseph Campion, 2016

10 – Father William Dermott, 2015

11 – Father James McCloskey, 1965

11 – Father Andrew Lenahan, 1987

11 – Deacon Daniel Thomson, 2007

11 – Deacon Bernard Wisser, 2012

12 – Father James Magee, 1966

12 – Father Frederick Winkler, 1986

13 – Father Francis Opps, 2004

14 – Father Joseph Morrell, 1996

15 – Father Francis Mockus, 1976

16 – Msgr. George Petro, 1965

16 – Msgr. James Butler, 1997

20 – Father John Mickun, 1968

20 – Father John Duminiak, 2010

21 – Msgr. Francis Donnelly, 1974

22 – Father Charles Walsh, 1969

23 – Deacon Peter LaFata, 2009

28 – Deacon Fernando Torres, 2015

29 – Father Michael Sverchek, 1997

31 – Father John Zboyovsky, 1965

Recommended to Your Prayers by Pope Francis

Apostleship of Prayer Intention for December

The Elderly – That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

The monthly intentions are also available on video, with a reflection or download the app at <http://apostleshipofprayer.org>.

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Prayer Requests for Priests

Please pray for our Holy Fathers, our Bishops and these priests serving in the Diocese of Allentown during each designated date of December.

1 – His Holiness Pope Francis

2 – Pope Emeritus Benedict

3 – Bishop Alfred Schlert

4 – Bishop Emeritus Edward Cullen

5 – Father Leo Stajkowski

6 – Father Jason Stokes

7 – Father Michael Stone

8 – Father Jerome Tauber

9 – Father James Thomas

10 – Father Joseph Tobias

11 – Father Eric Tolentino

12 – Father James Torpey

13 – Msgr. James Treston

14 – Father James Ward

15 – Deceased priests

16 – Msgr. Robert Wargo

17 – Msgr. Anthony Wassel

18 – Father Joseph Whalen

19 – Father Robert Wiesenbaugh

20 – Religious priests

21 – Father George Williams

22 – Father George Winne

23 – Father Robert Yankevitch

24 – Msgr. David Yenushosky

25 – Msgr. Vincent York

26 – Father Jared Zambelli

27 – Father Christopher Zelonis

28 – Msgr. Edward Zemanik

29 – Father Michael Ahrensfield

30 – Father Vincent Alagia

31 – Father Luke Anderson

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Be Prepared for Battle

On Nov. 11, Veteran's Day, we gave thanks to God for the men and women in the U.S. military who are ever ready to defend our freedoms and safety.

Our beloved veterans undergo intense trainings, exercises and preparations, so that in the day of combat (which hopefully does not come) they may win the victory. Inspections to determine Operational Readiness or Unit Effectiveness are held frequently to assess a unit's ability to find, analyze, report and fix deficiencies, and ever improve performance and communication.

Like our military men and women, we too are called always to be prepared. We are continually at war against Satan and his army. We are called to battle immorality and injustice in our society.

Among the plagues infesting our culture is a public health crisis. Worse than the heroin and opioid epidemic, many are falling into an addiction even more powerful. Not only does it warp the mind, but it also distorts relationships. What is this formidable enemy? Pornography. The damage it causes is extensive and alarming:

Decreased Business Productivity. Based upon a survey conducted by the Nielson Company in February 2010 on pornography use, it has been estimated that the financial cost to business productivity in the United States alone is \$16.9 billion annually. The damage done to our youth and in our families is far greater.

Breakdown of Families. According to Dr. Patrick Fagan, psychologist and former deputy assistant health and human Services secretary, "Pornography hurts adults, children, couples, families and society. Among adolescents, pornography hinders the development of a healthy sexuality, and among adults, it distorts sexual attitudes and social realities."

"In families, pornography use leads to marital dissatisfaction, infidelity, separation and divorce."

Pornography use increases the marital infidelity rate by more than 300 percent. 68 percent of divorce cases involve one party meeting a new paramour over the internet, and 56 percent involve one party having an "obsessive interest" in pornographic websites.

Damage to Youth. The C.S. Mott Children's Hospital at the University of Michigan lists internet safety among the top 10 health concerns for children, even above school violence.

The average age of first internet porn exposure is 11. Approximately 70 percent of children ages 7 to 18 have accidentally encountered online pornography.

University of Chicago psychiatrist Sharon Hirsch said exposure to online pornography could lead kids to become sexually active too soon, or could put them at risk for being victimized by sexual predators if they visit sites that prey on children.

Janis Wolak, a researcher at the University of New Hampshire's Crimes Against Children Research Center, stated: "Exposure (to pornography) also could skew their perceptions about what constitutes a healthy sexual relationship."

Teenagers with frequent exposure to sexual content on TV have a substantially greater likelihood of teenage pregnancy. Children who are exposed to pornography isolate themselves from others and are more likely to feel lonely, experience depression and be sexually insecure.

To fight the battle and win the victory, we are called to train ourselves and our families, and we are called to equip them with the necessary resources to defend themselves. Like our military members, it is helpful for us to

perform inspections to find, analyze, report and fix deficiencies, and ever improve communication within our family units.

We are called to frequently inspect our supplies and trainings, and exercise vigilance, to ensure we can best defend and recover against attacks.

Because pornography is a distortion of authentic love, one of the critical supplies we need is to encounter healthy relationships. Ensure that you provide sufficient quality time with your loved ones and engage in active listening.

Many people turn to pornography in times of stress or struggle to receive a false and temporary consolation. However, when people can openly share their thoughts – and feel understood, appreciated and loved – they are unlikely to become a victim.

Other critical supplies needed to guard against unwanted attacks are Internet Filters, Accountability Programs and Parental Controls. These may be hardware or software that can be installed on computers, laptops, smartphones and gaming systems to block most of the unwanted content on the internet.

Many anti-virus programs have filtering programs within them, like McAfee, Norton, Kaspersky; other programs like NetNanny or CovenantEyes are very effective. A free parental control program can be found at <http://www.k9webprotection.com/>.

Although filtering and blocking software helps prevent exposure, it is not 100 percent effective. Therefore other trainings and exercises are needed to combat pornography.

Proper training is essential so children do not get wounded. Although it may seem awkward and uncomfortable, it is important to talk openly with your children regarding healthy relationships and sexuality. Children are curious; if they do not find the answers from their parents, they will search on their own, and will discover false or distorted versions of the truth.

It is important to use age-appropriate words. For example, for a second-grader, parents should talk to them about the difference between good images and bad images, and good/bad touches. Children should be encouraged that if they ever experience something that makes them uncomfortable they should talk to their parents about it.

As children get older, parents can explain further about the dangers of the dark side of the web and the need for healthy, chaste relationships. Some wonderful resources to help parents ease into these conversations with their children: www.IntegrityRestored.com and www.PurityWorks.org.

For those technologically oriented, there are excellent podcasts at: <http://integrityrestored.libsyn.com>.

For those attracted to the tried and true teaching tools of books: "Good Pictures/Bad Pictures" (ISBN 9780615927336) is good for second-graders. For children ages 9 and up, the book "Wonderfully Made! Babies" (ISBN 9781491078181) provides a Catholic perspective on how and why God makes babies. For teens, a bathroom reader "Plunging Pornography" (ISBN 9780692760499) reveals the truth with some humor.

Finally, it is important that we also perform frequent exercises to ensure we stay in fighting form. Spiritual graces are needed to combat the forces of Satan. It is essential that parents exercise prayer with their children every day. By establishing a strong relationship with our Lord, children come to know true, unconditional love,

By Father Michael Mullins,
pastor of St. Paul, Allentown.



and therefore do not seek any false, distorted love.

Another helpful daily exercise is to perform an examination of conscience; speak to the Lord about any anxieties, struggles and falls, joys, successes and sorrows that you and your child faced that day, and ask for the strength and wisdom needed for tomorrow.

If necessary, schedule a time for you and your child to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When children learn through prayer that the Lord is their refuge in times of struggle, they will not isolate themselves and turn to unhealthy habits.

Finally, it is important to place before ourselves good and holy images; in each deanery, our Diocese has planned to have a Family Holy Hour every month at a different parish titled "We Become What We Behold" (see page 1).

The first one for Lehigh Deanery will take place Sunday, Nov. 26 at 3 p.m. at St. Paul Church, 920 S. Second St., Allentown. All are welcome.

The next holy hours in the other deaneries are:

Berks Deanery – Sunday, Dec. 3, 11:15 a.m., Most Blessed Sacrament Church, 610 Pine St., Bally.

Northampton Deanery – Sunday, Dec. 3, 1 p.m., St. Anne Church, 450 E. Washington Ave., Bethlehem.

Schuylkill/Carbon Deaneries – Sunday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m., Divine Mercy at St. Casimir Church, 229 N. Jardin St., Shenandoah.

As we look upon our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, his grace flows over us, transforms us and embraces us. Plan on exercising a Holy Hour in adoration of our Lord so that we may become holy, true warriors of love for all.

Below is a checklist of supplies, trainings and exercises to defend against warped views of life and love; evaluate where you are deficient and make adjustments such that you and your family may be safe.

SUPPLIES

☐ I provided Quality Time and an Open Ear with my loved ones today.

☐ I installed Internet Filters/Accountability Programs /Parental Controls:

- ☐ on smartphones and iPads.
- ☐ on gaming systems.
- ☐ on computers and laptops.

TRAINING

☐ I talked to my children about healthy relationships.

☐ I talked to my children about good/bad images.

☐ I talked to my teenagers about sex and marriage.

☐ I review movie and video game ratings.

☐ I set time limits on computer and phone use.

☐ I keep computer and phone in public areas.

EXERCISES

☐ I prayed with my child today.

☐ I made an Examination of Conscience today and if needed scheduled confession.

☐ I scheduled time with our Lord in adoration.



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Thursday, December 21st Michael Sherer 7-10 p.m.

Thursday, December 28th Kato 7-10 p.m.

Priests of Diocese Gather for Faith, Fraternity and Formation

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

The Convocation of Priests was a time of faith and fellowship for priests of the Diocese of Allentown as they gathered Nov. 7-10 at Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

Priests of the Diocese welcomed Bishop Alfred Schlert as he entered the conference room Nov. 9 to offer a morning talk by singing the "Domine," a Latin song sung to honor Popes, Bishops and priests at special moments in their lives.

The Diocese's new Bishop then had a fruitful and productive session with his brother priests.

The convocation included presentations, the celebration of Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, confessions, evening prayer, night prayer and Guadeamus (evening social). Msgr. Victor Finelli, diocesan coordinator of episcopal masters of ceremonies and pastor of St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, coordinated the convocation.

Spiritual Direction and Pastoral Counseling

Msgr. William Glosser, pastor of St. Clare of Assisi, St. Clair, and Father Brian Miller, assistant pastor of St. Patrick, Pottsville, teamed to present "The Parochial Relationships of a Priest: The Difference Between Spiritual Direction and Pastoral Counseling" in a Nov. 9 morning session.

"Priestly ministry can be a burden or a joy," Msgr. Glosser said. Pointing to a portrait of Mary and Joseph en route to Bethlehem, Msgr. Glosser said the image

brings a sense of serenity but also stress, as Joseph was taking Mary, pregnant with the Christ child, on a four-day journey to Bethlehem as she rode on a donkey.

"Priestly ministry can be a joy, but sometimes wears us down and tires us out," said Msgr. Glosser, noting the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a document on stress for priests.

"The priesthood we're living today may be totally different than the priesthood we prepared for — there are demands and much is expected of us," said Msgr. Glosser, who was ordained in 1984. "There's a tendency with stress to reflect in our physical health."

Msgr. Glosser said St. Ignatius Loyola gave priests "a wonderful model" to look seriously at your vocation, not get bogged down in details and have a special relationship with God.

Msgr. Glosser said spiritual direction really "took off" with Pope Benedict XVI, who told priests a life without prayer is like a life without oxygen.

Outlining the five pillars of priestly life, Msgr. Glosser spoke of devotion to the Eucharist, pastoral charity, pastoral fraternity/correction and the contemplative life, found through such things as retreats and days of renewal.

"When praying, do we see God looking on us as a beloved son?" Msgr. Glosser asked in discussing the impor-

Please see PRIESTS page 10 ►►

In pastoral counseling, there's more reflecting upon the person's life, while in spiritual direction it's about helping people share their feelings with God.



Above, priests of the Diocese of Allentown enjoy listening to Bishop Alfred Schlert speak during a Nov. 9 morning session at the Convocation of Priests Nov. 7-10 at Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. (Photos by John Simitz)

Below, Msgr. Victor Finelli welcomes priests to Bishop Alfred Schlert's Nov. 9 presentation.



Msgr. William Glosser, standing, right, and Father Brian Miller, middle, manning the video equipment, present "The Parochial Relationships of a Priest: The Difference Between Spiritual Direction and Pastoral Counseling" during a Nov. 9 session.



Bishop Alfred Schlert speaks to his brother priests during his Nov. 9 morning talk.



Priests greet Bishop Alfred Schlert, front, by singing the "Domine."



Maryanne Morales, fertility care practitioner in Dr. MaryAnne Freeman-Brndjar's office, right, addresses priests with Dr. Freeman-Brndjar, left, who presented "Pastoral Directives for Natural Family Planning."

Priests

►Continued from page 9

tance of priestly identity, which can be seen, he said, in “How we act ‘in persona Christi’ – you mirror Christ in your actions; how we see Christ in others; and sacramental character/ontological change or configuration to Christ.”

Msgr. Glosser said priestly fraternity equals priestly perfection. This is found in priestly friendships, fraternal meetings, spiritual direction, celebration of reconciliation, the importance of retreats and days of prayer, and sharing a common table, such as sharing dinner on a regular basis.

Discussing ongoing priestly formation, Msgr. Glosser said the importance of priestly ministry is healing, sustaining and guiding.

A priest’s shepherding roles are the role of pastor – one who heals the wounds of the past; the role of priest – one who sustains life in the present; and the role of prophet – one who guides others to the future.

“Listening is where love begins,” Msgr. Glosser said, quoting Fred Rogers.

The monsignor said the dynamics of the sacrament of reconciliation are God, confessor, penitent. “In all of this, God is really the one at work,” Msgr. Glosser said, noting the priest is the instrument.

He said the dynamics of pastoral counseling are parishioner, pastor, God. The dynamics of spiritual direction are God, director and spiritual director.

“In confession, things come up like sexual addiction, and we direct them to



Father George Winne, assistant pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Allentown, front, second from left, is among the priests of the Diocese listening attentively at this year’s convocation.

pastoral counseling or therapy,” Msgr. Glosser said.

He added when things such as severe depression, suicidal tendencies and abuse come up in pastoral counseling, it’s important for the priest to refer the person to counseling.

Spiritual direction and pastoral counseling are “really two different hats you have to wear,” Father Miller said, advising some people think they want spiritual direction but it really turns out to be pastoral counseling.

The similarities between the two are they both talk about the life experience of the person; neither uses an authoritarian approach – the priest is not there to solve their problem; both facilitate the individual’s growth in freedom; both favor development and process rather than abrupt change or precipitated change; both require trust; and both require careful listening, empathy, care and interest on the part of the counselor or director.

Father Miller said both also deal with resistance – “be patient with them” – and sometimes transference.

Describing the differences between the two, Father Miller said the main focus in pastoral counseling is the counselor and client. “It’s helping them through their problems in life. The meat and potatoes is the counselor-client relationship.”

In spiritual direction, the focus is on the person’s prayer life. “The most important focus is between God and the director,” Father Miller said.

For example, a person may say he or she had a great sense of inner peace reading about Jesus walking on water. “In spiritual direction, what is happening in someone’s prayer life?”

“The atmosphere in pastoral counseling is the awareness of God’s presence need not be there at all. In spiritual direction, there’s a conscious awareness of God’s presence.”

Father Miller said in pastoral counseling, there’s more reflecting upon the person’s life, while in spiritual direction it’s about helping people share their feelings with God.



Father Brian Miller listens to Father William Glosser’s portion of their presentation.

In addition to Msgr. Glosser and Father Miller, priests in the Diocese who have completed the Institute for Priestly Formation Spiritual Direction Program at The University of St. Mary of the Lake, Muncie, Illinois are Father Andrew Gehring, pastor of Holy Infancy, Bethlehem; and Father Keith Laskowski, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy, Easton.

Convocation Presentations

Other presentations included David Shellenberger, president of the St. John Vianney Center, Downingtown, “Self-Care for Priests: The Mental and Spiritual Health of Priests”; and Congregation of the Holy Cross Father Joseph Corpora of the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., “The Crucial Role of the Pastor in our Catholic Schools.”

In two talks, Father Corpora discussed the pastor’s unique contribution to and support of Catholic schools, and the pastor in an increasingly multicultural and diverse Church.

Session presenters also included Dr. MaryAnne Freeman-Brndjar, an ob-gyn in Macungie, “Pastoral Directives for Natural Family Planning”; Wendy Kri-sak, Diocesan victim assistance coordinator; and Oblate Father Thomas Dailey, John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics and Social Communications at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, “Sharpening our Preaching Skills.”

Vocations

The Diocese of Allentown dynamically promotes vocations to the priesthood and religious life.



- The diocese is reaching out to young people through social media such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.
- We are tapping into the energy and enthusiasm of our young priests to find new ways to interest young men and women in the priesthood and religious life.
- The diocese has instituted a “Quo Vadis” program, a weeklong summer program of prayer and discernment in which dozens of young men have participated.
- A similar program called “Fiat” for young women discerning a call to religious life was added in 2014.
- The diocese also assists young adult men who are seriously contemplating the priesthood through an Aspirancy Program.
- For more information, visit the diocesan website, www.allentowndiocese.org/the-diocese/vocations.



Chatting during the conference are, from left, Father James Harper, assistant pastor of Notre Dame, Bethlehem; Father Kevin Lonergan, assistant pastor of the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown; Father David Anthony, assistant pastor of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton; and Father Mark Searles, chaplain of Allentown Central Catholic High School.

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'Come and See Weekend' for young men Dec. 1-3

Young men ages 14 to 18 of the Diocese of Allentown are invited to a "Come and See Weekend" Friday, Dec. 1 through Sunday, Dec. 3 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia. (A weekend date will be determined for college and post-college-age young men.)

The weekend will include Mass and time with our seminarians; a time for prayer, adoration and reflection; and sight-seeing in Philadelphia with visits to the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, and the St. John Neumann Shrine.

Arrival at St. Charles will be Friday between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. Departure will be Sunday at approximately noon.

Room and meals will be included. Transportation is available.

Space is limited to the first 15 registrations. The registration deadline is Monday, Nov. 27, and all paperwork must be received on this date for the registration to become "official." Registrations received after Nov. 27 will not be accepted.

For more information or to register, visit www.allentown-diocese.org/come-and-see-weekend.

Any questions, please contact the Office of Vocations at 610-437-0755.



Deaths

Religious sisters

Sister Rose Marie Eichner (formerly Sister Miriam Eugene), 75, a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 54 years, died Nov. 6 in Assisi House, Aston.

She was born in Allentown, where she was a member of Sacred Heart Parish. Prior to her entrance into the congregation in 1960, she attended Allentown Central Catholic High School. She professed her first vows in 1963.

Sister Rose Marie ministered primarily in education, health care and pas-

toral care.

She ministered for 11 years in the Diocese of Allentown. She taught at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Minersville; St. Mary School, Catasauqua; and Sacred Heart School, Allentown.

She also served 35 years in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia; in New Bedford, Massachusetts; and in Wilmington, Delaware.

Surviving are her sisters, Susan Eichner and Marianne Roth; nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 8 at Assisi House, with burial in Our Lady of the Angels Cemetery, Aston.

Sister M. Teresita (Gertrude Nolden), 89, a Missionary Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, died Nov. 5 at Sacred Heart Villa, Reading.

She ministered as a teacher and principal; in parish ministry; and in provincial administration. In the Diocese of Allentown she served in Coplay, Nazareth, Lansford and Reading as principal of Mount St. Michael High School. She also served in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, West Virginia and South Korea.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 9 in the chapel of Sacred Heart

Villa, followed by burial in the convent cemetery.

Sister M. Angela Tiencken, 88, a Missionary Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, died Oct. 31 at Sacred Heart Villa, Reading.

During her ministry as teacher, registered nurse and chaplain, Sister served in the Diocese of Allentown at Good Samaritan Hospital, Pottsville, and Archdiocese of Philadelphia, as well as Georgia and Florida.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 4 in the chapel of Sacred Heart Villa, followed by burial in the convent cemetery.



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Spotlight on Seminarians for the Diocese of Allentown

John Maria, Second Theology, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

Describe why you entered into discernment for the priesthood or when you heard the call from God.

My story is just a bit unique. At 49, I am the oldest seminarian studying for Allentown. (My seminarian brothers remind me of this every 10 minutes.)

I was raised Catholic, but drifted from prayer and Mass during college at Penn State. I fell in love and got married during my senior year. We were blessed with a son.

Although we were hopeful, the marriage ended in divorce in 1990, and was annulled. I never wanted to be divorced. This would be a time of conversion and reawakening for me. I decided to not date and remained open to reconciliation. I devoted myself to being a good father to my son, Jimmy, and I knew that I needed the Lord to do this.

I began attending daily Mass and regular confession. Within a couple years, I began to teach CCD, served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and was active in the Cursillo movement.

Teaching and sharing my Catholic faith in Christ brought great happiness. I began to feel the call to do something full time in the Church. At first, I thought that might be the diaconate. But as my son grew up, I received encouragement from friends, both lay and clergy, to consider the priesthood. I had been having conversation with the director of vocations, who was very encouraging and supportive.

During this time, I pursued a master of arts degree in theology from the Augustine Institute at night. During the day, I was co-owner of J2 Tech, a small IT business in Allentown. In 2013 we were approached by a large company interested



John Maria, left, seminarian for the Diocese of Allentown, enjoys his son's wedding day with, from left: his daughter-in-law, Abby; his son, Jimmy; and his mother, Theresa.

in acquiring the business. This was an important "shove" to me in making the step to apply to the seminary.

Throughout the process, my son remained my primary concern. Now that Jimmy had graduated college and was self-sufficient, I shared with him this crazy idea. My son gave me his full blessing and support.

The fact that I had been married and divorced prior to seminary is surprising to many people. But in my case, I was single, celibate and very active in the Church for 24 years before taking the step.

There are many ways that God calls and prepares men for the priesthood. My path is not unprecedented, but rare. But I can say that the Lord has used my single-minded devotion to his Church and my son to prepare me for spiritual fatherhood. Sometimes God writes straight with crooked lines.

Describe your parents, family and friends that have been important to your life.

I'm so grateful for the gift of my family and friends.

My son Jimmy has been and remains my greatest gift from the Lord. Through him, I learned to love in a selfless way. He is an artist with a studio at the GoggleWorks, with watercolor paintings that have been exhibited throughout the United States.

His original painting of Divine Mercy adorns the sanctuary at St. Ignatius Loyola Church, Sinking Spring. His wedding there to his awesome wife, Abby, was one of the happiest days of my life.

I was blessed with great parents. My mom, Theresa, is a retired nurse, who lives in Pittston. My dad, Cataldo "Sonny" Maria, was a special education teacher who passed away in 2005. The gift of faith passed through them, and my late grandparents, who remain a big part of me.

Despite the distance, I spend time often with my older brother, Carl; my sister, Annette; and my brother-in-law Ed; and their family. Even after starting at

seminary, my family remains a big part of my life.

Throughout the years, the Lord has dropped great friends into my life, who have inspired me and nudged me in the right direction at key times. I stay in touch with friends from men's groups at St. Ignatius, the Cursillo movement and pro-life work at Lifeline.

What are some of your interests or hobbies?

My interests are religion and politics – topics that polite Americans are told to avoid! Beyond that, I follow Yankees baseball, Penn State college football and, most especially, the New York Jets. My fantasy football team is undefeated, but I don't like to brag.

Above all, I love to spend time with my family – my son, Jimmy, and daughter-in-law Abby in West Lawn; my mom; and my family upstate in Pittston – as well as my friends back home.

What is life like as a seminarian?

Though each day is framed and permeated with prayer, seminary life is still very active and hectic at times. We have classes four days a week, with Thursdays dedicated to our weekly apostolate. I spend that day at St. Jane in Easton – which is awesome.

We are off on Saturdays, so I typically spend the day visiting with my son and daughter-in-law in West Lawn, or my mom and family upstate.

My regular seminary days begin in chapel around 6:30 a.m., with Morning Prayer and daily Mass. We have classes most of the day, with Evening Prayer at 5 p.m. In between, there is plenty of time for both profound and comical conversation with seminarian friends.

Thank-you letters

Editor's note: The following letters were received recently by Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert.

Your Excellency,

Thank you for the generous contribution of \$22,299.44 provided by the Diocese of Allentown toward the Trinity Dome project at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.

These proceeds will immediately support the completion of our nation's pre-eminent Marian shrine and patronal church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception.

The Trinity Dome will be the crowning jewel and capstone achievement of Mary's Shrine in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the placing of its foundation stone in 2020. Your Diocese's generosity to this historic project at "America's Catholic Church" will leave a lasting legacy of our faith and heritage for untold generations to come.

With the installation of the mosaic on schedule, the dedication of the Trinity Dome is planned for Friday, Dec. 8 at noon – the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast day of our nation and the National Shrine.

With my deep appreciation for your continued support of Mary's Shrine and wishing you every blessing in your ministry, I am

Faithfully in Christ,
Cardinal Donald Wuerl
Archbishop of Washington, D.C. and Chairman of the National Shrine Board

Dear Bishop Schlert,

Thank you for the contribution of \$22,299.44 you sent on behalf of the Diocese of Allentown to support the Trinity Dome project at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.

I am happy to tell you that this project is moving along nicely. The mosaics that were fabricated in Spilimbergo, Italy have been installed, and the scaffolding is being dismantled.

If everything goes according to schedule, as it has thus far, we should have the Great Upper Church back in order by Thanksgiving, and ready for the dedication of the Trinity Dome on our patronal feast, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8.

Entrusting you and your intentions to the intercession of Mary Immaculate, together with my best wishes for every blessing, may I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Msgr. Walter Rossi, Rector

Dear Bishop Schlert,

On behalf of the Holy Land Christians and the pilgrims who benefit from the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, thank you for your support, as well as the generous support of your faithful parishioners.

A contribution in the amount of \$106,333.27 has been received for the 2017 Good Friday Collection.

Held at the direction of our Holy Father, and administered in the United States by the Commissariat of the Holy Land, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides critical support for Christians in the Holy Land, including pastoral care, schools, housing, employment, refugee assistance and services for the vulnerable young and elderly.

The funds also support the sacred shrines, visited by more than 1.5 million pilgrims annually and entrusted to the care of the Holy Land Franciscans for 800 years.

Please accept my gratitude for the generosity of your parishioners and for your own assistance with this collection.

Sincerely yours in Christ and St. Francis,
Friar Larry Dunham, President and Commissary and Friar John-Sebastian, Secretary and Vice Commissary
Commissariat of the Holy Land USA

'Faith and Spirits' to Discuss 'Good vs. Evil'

Does Satan really exist? Can I lose salvation? How does sin affect me? These questions and more will be discussed during "Faith and Spirits" Monday, Nov. 20 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the High Gravity Lounge of Allentown Brew Works, 812 Hamilton St.

The informal discussion "Spiritual Battle: Good vs. Evil" will be presented by Father Stephen DeLacy of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. He will explore how we are daily engaged in spiritual battle.

The diocesan Office of Adult Formation is offering the discussion. All adults

are welcome. Bring a friend or come yourself.

There is no charge for attending and no registration is required. Brew Works will have menus available for ordering food and drink at participants' expense. No registration is required, just show up and bring a friend. Seating is first-come, first-served.

For questions or more information, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/faith-and-spirits or contact the Office of Adult Formation by email adultformation@allentowndiocese.org or call 610-289-8900, ext. 2021.



Spring 2018 Confirmation Schedule

The diocesan Office for Divine Worship has announced the spring 2018 confirmation schedule as follows. All confirmations will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 1 – Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, St. Paul and St. Francis of Assisi, all Allentown.

Thursday, Feb. 8 – St. Ann, Emmaus.

Tuesday, Feb. 20 – Immaculate Conception BVM, Our Lady Help of Christians, St. John the Baptist, and SS. Peter and Paul, all Allentown.

Wednesday, Feb. 21 – St. Peter, Coplay, Holy Trinity and St. John the Baptist, both Whitehall.

Thursday, Feb. 22 – Sacred Heart of Jesus, Allentown.

Tuesday, Feb. 27 – Notre Dame of Bethlehem.

Wednesday, Feb. 28 – St. Anne, Bethlehem.

Thursday, March 1 – St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall and Annunciation BVM, Catasauqua.

Tuesday, March 6 – St. Thomas More, Allentown.

Wednesday, March 7 – St. Rocco, Martins Creek and St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Pen Argyl.

Thursday, March 8 – Assumption BVM and Queenship of Mary, both Northampton; St. John Fisher, Catasauqua.

Tuesday, March 13 – St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield.

Wednesday, March 14 – St. Theresa

of the Child Jesus, Hellertown; St. Ursula, Fountain Hill; Sacred Heart, Holy Ghost, Incarnation of Our Lord, and SS. Simon and Jude, all Bethlehem.

Thursday, March 15 – St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton.

Tuesday, March 20 – Assumption BVM, Bethlehem.

Wednesday, March 21 – St. Peter the Fisherman, Lake Harmony; SS. Peter and Paul, Lehigh; Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph, both Jim Thorpe.

Thursday, March 22 – St. Joseph, Coopersburg.

Tuesday, April 10 – Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bethlehem.

Wednesday, April 11 – All Saints, McAdoo; St. Richard, Barnesville; St.

John XXIII, Tamaqua.

Thursday, April 12 – St. Joseph, Summit Hill.

Tuesday, April 17 – St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven.

Wednesday, April 18 – Holy Infancy, Bethlehem.

Thursday, April 19 – St. Mary, Hamburg and St. Mary, Kutztown.

Tuesday, April 24 – Most Blessed Trinity, Tremont; St. Matthew the Evangelist and St. Michael the Archangel, both Minersville.

Wednesday, April 25 – St. Clare of Assisi, St. Clair; Holy Cross, New Philadelphia; St. Stephen, Port Carbon; St. John the Baptist and St. Patrick, both Pottsville.

Thursday, May 3 – Snow date.

24th annual

Advent Vespers

with the

Holy Guardian Angels Choir

Sunday, December 3rd @ 4pm

Holy Guardian Angels

3121 Kutztown Rd., Hyde Park

The musical selections that will grace the service will be sung by Holy Guardian Angels Choir, including solo performances by soprano: Jane Tomko; tenors: Ken Montgomery and Nicholas Pomo; and basses: Charles Christman and Ed Rohricht.

Instrumental music will be provided by harpist, Linda Umstead.

Come and enjoy our Parish Choir, under the direction of Susan Swavely, accompanied by organist Judith Fehr.

The choir is acclaimed for its Vespers program performed during the Advent season.

Join us for an afternoon of sacred music and liturgical prayer

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Catholic School Spotlight on New Principals

Bethlehem Catholic High School

What is your background?

I'm from the Hazleton area. I graduated from Bishop Hafey High School, Hazleton and then from King's College, Wilkes-Barre. I earned two master's degrees from Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre.

My teaching career began at Raub Middle School, Allentown. From there I went to Pleasant Valley High School, Brodheadsville, where I also became an assistant principal.

After two years in administration at Pleasant Valley, I went to Bethlehem Area School District. Now, in my 22nd year in education, I am so blessed to be at Bethlehem Catholic High School.

Are you new to the Diocese?

Yes.

Why do you believe in Catholic education?

I'm a product of Catholic education, so I have always been supportive of it. My children attend Catholic school, and truly there was never another option.

I believe in educating children in core subjects and elective courses, while threading Catholic values throughout the children's education experience. I will be most proud to produce young educated Catholics.

What are some new exciting things going on in your school?

We just honored 39 Top Scholars – students who are proving to be exemplary in the classroom. We inducted new members into the National Honor Society in November. Our athletic contests have been exciting and rewarding, and our clubs and activities are involved in fundraising and community service.

What is your goal for your school?

I hope to increase enrollment. I also plan to improve communications and functions of the guidance department to enhance the college search process for all students.



New Principal Holly DeNofa

IHM sisters in formation

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert visited Villa Maria House of Studies at Immaculata University Nov. 11, where he saw two religious sisters from the Diocese who are in formation for the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) religious community: postulant Rachael Wilson from Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Reading, left, and temporary professed Sister Christina Marie Roberts from St. Columbkil Parish, Boyertown. Bishop Schlert has identified the need for vocations as one of his highest priorities and invited everyone to help create a "Culture of Vocations" in the Diocese.



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Your generosity helps those who are in need locally in the Diocese of Allentown



The 2016 Poverty Relief Collection funded 22 projects across all five counties.



Cross Country Championship Draws Record Number of Participants



Third- and fourth-grade boys group up while running during the Diocesan Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Cross Country Championship Oct. 15 at St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton. A total of 16 teams and 650 youth participated. CYO is one component of a parish's youth ministry program and is coordinated by the diocesan Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry (OYYAFM). (Photos by Ed Koskey)



Third- and fourth-grade girls run close together during the meet. "The Cross Country Championship is just a great event," said Daniel Jones, CYO Coordinator with OYYAFM. "It involves a good number of participants from all reaches of the Diocese. There are individual winners and team champions, however all the kids, parents and coaches just seem to have a wonderful time. Everything associated with this is positive. How could it not be? There are probably 1,000 or more people here and everyone is having a great time."



Left, Veronica Gaulai of St. Michael the Archangel School, Bethlehem-Limeport shows the medal she earned for placing first in the fifth- and sixth-grade girls' race.

Below, Lincoln Feist of St. Jane drinks from his water bottle after running with kindergarten boys.



Kindergarten girls run during the meet.



Kindergarten boys start running.



Above, Henry Parrish of St. Ann, Emmaus, left, and Aiden Van Wert of St. Jane give it their all as they near the finish of the third and fourth grades boys' race.

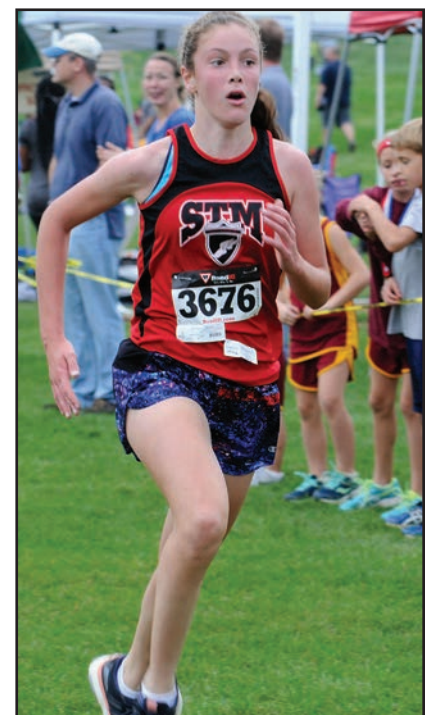


Right, Luke Seymour of St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinkin Spring is the first seventh- and eighth-grade boy to finish.



Above, seventh- and eighth-grade boys and girls run at the meet.

Left, Chase Eller of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown is the first of the fifth- and sixth-grade boys to reach the finish.



Isabel DeVos of St. Thomas More, Allentown is the first seventh- and eighth-grade girl to finish at the meet.



Participants and coaches check race results posted on a fence at the meet.

"The Cross Country Championship is just a great event. It involves a good number of participants from all reaches of the Diocese."

El Carisma de Profeta

Por DIÁCONO JOSÉ SANTOS

Un profeta, es el que habla en nombre de Dios, y comunica fielmente su mensaje. Por el profeta el Señor previene de los peligros que asechan, corrige, muestra castigos por la mala conducta, descubre los sentimientos del corazón, señala nuevos caminos. En resumen a través del profeta Dios comunica a su pueblo, lo que necesita saber.

El profeta debe ser muy humilde, de mucha oración, debe ser fiel y transmitir hasta el tono y los gestos de Dios. No debe añadir, ni quitar nada al mensaje recibido.

“El Señor se dirigió a mí, y me dijo: Antes de darte la vida, ya te había yo escogido; antes de que nacieras, ya te había yo apartado; te había destinado a ser profeta de las naciones. Yo contesté: ¡Ay, Señor! ¡Yo soy muy joven y no sé hablar! Pero el Señor me dijo: No digas que eres muy joven. Tú irás a donde yo te mande, y dirás lo que yo te ordene. No tengas miedo de nadie, pues yo estaré contigo para protegerte. Yo, el Señor, doy mi palabra. Entonces el Señor extendió la mano, me tocó los labios y me dijo: Yo pongo mis palabras en tus labios. Hoy te doy plena autoridad sobre reinos y naciones, para arrancar y derribar, para destruir y demoler, y también para construir y plantar” (Jr 1, 4-10).

Jesús es el profeta, el salvador, el maestro, el camino, la verdad y la vida. Habla

con valentía y con amor a los hombres. Jesús no será superado por ningún otro profeta. Él es el profeta y la profecía.

“En tiempos antiguos Dios habló a nuestros antepasados muchas veces y de muchas maneras por medio de los profetas. Ahora, en estos tiempos últimos, nos ha hablado por su Hijo, mediante el cual creó los mundos y al cual ha hecho heredero de todas las cosas. Él es el resplandor glorioso de Dios, la imagen misma de lo que Dios es y el que sostiene todas las cosas con su palabra poderosa. Después de limpiarnos de nuestros pecados, se ha sentado en el cielo, a la derecha del trono de Dios” (Hb 1, 1-3).

El carisma de profeta está al servicio de la Iglesia. Hoy más que nunca se recibe este carisma, aunque todo bautizado es ungido como profeta. Es necesario que se sigan multiplicando los profetas al servicio del verdadero Dios.

Quejas de Dios contra los profetas: El Señor afirma: “Hasta los profetas y los sacerdotes son impíos; en mi propio templo los he encontrado haciendo el mal. Por eso su camino será oscuro y resbaladizo: yo haré que los empujen y caigan. Cuando ajuste cuentas con ellos, traeré sobre ellos la desgracia. Yo, el Señor, lo afirmo. Yo he visto a los profetas de Samaria hacer cosas que me ofenden: han profetizado en nombre de Baal y han hecho que mi pueblo Israel se extravíe. Yo he visto a los profetas de Jerusalén hacer cosas horribles: cometen adulte-



rios y fraudes, animan de tal modo a los malvados que nadie se aparta de su maldad. Ellos y los habitantes de la ciudad son para mí como Sodoma y Gomorra. Profetas de Jerusalén se ha extendido por todo el país” (Jr 23, 11-15).

La Profecía

La profecía nos ayuda para: enseñar, consolar, animar, hacer crecer espiritualmente, aumentar la fe del pueblo, descubrir lo profundo del corazón del hombre.

El credo contiene los mensajes de los profetas. El mensaje profético tiene muchos aspectos: corrige, amonesta, alienta, reconforta, anuncia perdón, invita al amor, muestra las exigencias del reino de los cielos.

Una profecía puede ser para una persona, para una comunidad o pueblo. El profeta no es un predicador, no habla según su conocimiento, habla según la intención de Dios.

La Iglesia es el cuerpo de Cristo. Ella está encargada de llevar el mensaje a todos los hombres. La jerarquía tiene el carisma de discernir lo que viene de Dios, lo que viene del mal espíritu o lo que es

humano. Este carisma es tan importante, que sin él, poco se puede hacer en la Iglesia.

“Igualmente, si hay profetas, que hablen dos o tres, y que los otros examinen lo que se haya dicho. Pero si Dios le revela algo a otra persona que está allí sentada, entonces el primero debe dejar de hablar. De esta manera todos, cada uno en su turno correspondiente, podrán comunicar mensajes proféticos, para que todos aprendan y se animen. El don de profecía debe estar bajo el control del profeta, porque Dios es Dios de paz y no de confusión. Siguiendo la práctica general de las comunidades cristianas” (1 Cor 14, 29-33).

La profecía debe ser palabra de Dios, mandada por Dios. Hay que discernir, cuando no es del Espíritu Santo, se nota la diferencia. Si la profecía es de Dios, ella trae alegría, gozo y paz y tiene que estar conforme a la biblia, a la doctrina de la Iglesia y conforme a la caridad cristiana. El Espíritu Santo continúa suscitando los carismas en la Iglesia para la edificación del Reino de Dios. ¡Alabado sea Jesucristo!

Advent course offered by Salesian Center

Everyone is invited to join others seeking spiritual enrichment during the upcoming Advent season with a free online noncredit course offered by the Salesian Center for Faith and Culture at DeSales University, Center Valley.

“The Season of Advent: Anticipation and Hope” will be presented by Lore Anna McFadden, director of programs of the Salesian Center and a DeSales theology alumnus.

The course will run Saturday, Nov. 25 through Sunday, Dec. 24.

For more information, contact McFadden at lore.mcfadden@desales.edu or 610-282-1100, ext. 1244.



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'The Rosary: Power Beyond Description' Advocates God's Love

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

"The important moments of Christ's life are the mysteries of the rosary. They invite us to recall how he entered into our world and to meditate on his life," said Father Kevin Gualano, Oct. 26 during the series "Truth: What the Catholic Church Really Teaches" at St. Elizabeth, Pen Argyl.

Father Gualano, Catholic chaplain at Moravian College, Bethlehem and Muhlenberg College, Allentown presented "The Rosary: Power Beyond Description" for more than 40 adults gathered to learn tools to better discuss the challenging teachings of the faith.

According to Father Gualano, one Catholic tradition believes the rosary was given to St. Dominic in a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and it was then promoted by Blessed Allan de la Roche.

Another Catholic tradition maintains that long before Christ, the faithful said prayers in a repetitive manner and found different methods of keeping count, often by using rocks or pebbles.

Eventually Christians began to pray 50 or 150 prayers, often using string with knots instead of counting on rocks. Later the knots gave way to small pieces of wood and eventually to the use of beads.

"The rosary became something we keep with us – even if we don't have beads. It's not the beads that matter – but the prayers," said Father Gualano.

He pointed out that faithful pray the rosary because of the "mysteries," which exposed God's love for his people.

"We meditate on 15 important mo-

ments in the life of Christ so we can have our faith nurtured and grow in love. Those who want to be close to Christ love the rosary because it is about him," said Father Gualano.

Discussing the first Joyful Mystery, Father Gualano said the mystery is not just about Mary learning she was chosen to carry the son of God. "God is definitively saying he is giving us his son. It shows that God is inserting his love where it ought to be," he said.

He then highlighted the second Joyful Mystery – The Visitation – and said people often wonder what is so mysterious about Mary going to see her cousin.

"Did you ever look at your children,

"The rosary became something we keep with us – even if we don't have beads. It's not the beads that matter – but the prayers."



Left, Father Kevin Gualano, Catholic chaplain at Moravian College, Bethlehem and Muhlenberg College, Allentown, discusses the history of the rosary during "The Rosary: Power Beyond Description." (Photos by Ed Koskey)

Above, faithful gather at St. Elizabeth, Pen Argyl for the series "Truth: What the Catholic Church Really Teaches."



Father Gualano, left, and Rick Dooley, assistant director of the Office of Adult Formation, lead the discussion.

spouse or a friend and your heart leaps for joy? John the Baptist leapt in his mother's womb when Mary arrived. There is something joyful about being in the presence of Jesus," said Father Gualano.

"I want you to love the rosary because the rosary is all about Christ's love for us. The more you are reminded of his love for you, the less hold Satan has over you," he said.

Father Gualano also said the rosary is about moments in history when God inserts his love into the world and not about worshipping Mary.

"We ask for Mary's intercession when we pray Marian prayers. She is not the object of our prayer. Her son is the object of our prayer and Mary is always automatically pointing us toward her son," he said.

And if people attempt to worship Mary, he said, she would not allow it to happen because she wants people to know and understand her son's love for them.

"Meditating on her life is very useful.

Please see ROSARY page 18 ►►



Rita Hocking, left, and Maureen Bozzuto listen during the discussion focusing on Marian prayers and the mysteries of the rosary.



Tina and Glenn Houck participate in the series sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Adult Formation.

Mass for Cemetery Sunday

Mass was celebrated Oct. 14 at Holy Saviour Cemetery, Bethlehem in commemoration of Cemetery Sunday.

The commemoration of Cemetery Sunday (the first Sunday of November) and All Souls Day (Nov. 2) highlight for us the importance of the Catholic cemetery. It affords the opportunity to visit and pray for our deceased at the site of interment at the local diocesan or parish cemetery.

It is a day in which we can share in these words of Pope St. John Paul II: "For the souls in purgatory, waiting for eternal happiness and for meeting the Beloved is a source of suffering, because of the punishment due to sin which separates them from God. But there is also the certitude

that once the time of purification is over, the souls will go to meet the One it desires."

The Order of Christian Funerals states that "the deceased passes into the welcoming company of those who need faith no longer but see God face to face."

Holy Saviour is one of two Diocesan cemeteries. The other is Resurrection Cemetery, Allentown.

For more information, visit www.allentowndiocesecemeteries.org.

Msgr. William Bayer, director of cemeteries for the Diocese of Allentown, celebrates the Mass for Cemetery Sunday at Holy Saviour Cemetery, Bethlehem.



Women's Advent Conference Planned on 'Living Grace'

A women's Advent conference will be offered by the Women's Group of St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown.

"Living Grace: A Celebration of Advent" will be Saturday, Dec. 2 in the church hall, 11th and Washington streets.

The day will begin at 7:45 a.m. with registration, fellowship and continental breakfast. The conference will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

There will be speaker sessions on "Giving Grace" and "Receiving Grace"; a special panel discussion on "Walking in Grace" through the many seasons of life; and a breakout session on "Bible Journaling" or "Make-Your-Own Advent Wreath."

Speakers will be Michele Giletto,



founder of "Gathered in Grace" prayer ministry, and Camille Stockdale, director of religious education at St. Francis of Assisi.

There is ample parking and the hall is handicap accessible.

To register, \$20, visit www.MicheleGiletto.com or call 610-509-3167.

Alvernia awards millions to incoming freshman class to support financial need

Alvernia University, Reading welcomed one of its largest and most diverse freshman classes in recent years this fall, with nearly 400 students starting their higher education journeys – many the first in their families to attend college.

Steeped in its Franciscan mission, which includes providing educational opportunity to the underserved, Alvernia each year continues to support first-time, first generation students who demonstrate greater need than previous students.

Alvernia has awarded more than \$6 million to incoming class members to meet their financial needs. This is more than double the amount that was provided just five years ago.

Seeing a shift over the years from parents taking on debt to more students taking on debt, staff guides families through the financial planning process.

"We know student debt is a huge issue among our student population, so we work very closely with families to create individualized financial plans to ensure access to funds to support all four years of college," said Rebecca Finn Kenney, dean of admissions and student financial planning.

"An important dimension of our mission is to help those who would otherwise

not be able to afford a college education."

Much of this aid is targeted to local students, even as Alvernia now attracts a third of its freshman class from beyond Pennsylvania.

Major awards – such as the university's Shirley and Joseph Boscov Scholarships, targeting top students from Berks County, and the Reading Collegiate Scholars Program – both initiated in the past five years, help make the dream of completing a college education a reality.

Such is the case for Alvernia student Sarah Verneret, a Class of 2019 Reading Collegiate Scholar, who received one of the four-year, full-tuition scholarships for Reading residents. While her family stressed education and she was an excellent student at Reading High School, it didn't seem likely that college would follow.

"It was just really disappointing and traumatic, because [college] was always something I wanted and my family always wanted, but we didn't know how to make it happen," explained Verneret.

"It didn't seem like it would be possible. When we found out I was going to get the scholarship we were all so happy. And my family was so proud."

Rosary

►Continued from page 17

It is a perfect way to participate in grace. She shows us what it means to say yes to God," said Father Gualano.

Susan Gold enjoys the discussion about meditating while praying the rosary.



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Pope Puts John Paul I on Path to Sainthood, Declares Him 'Venerable'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis recognized that Pope John Paul I, who served only 33 days as pope, lived the Christian virtues in a heroic way.

The Vatican announced Pope Francis' decision Nov. 9. It marks the first major step on the path to sainthood for the pope who died in 1978 at the age of 65, shocking the world and a church that had just mourned the death of Blessed Paul VI.

Pope Francis would have to recognize a miracle attributed to the late pope's intercession in order for him to be beatified, the next step toward sainthood. A second miracle would be needed for canonization.

Stefania Falasca, vice postulator of Pope John Paul's sainthood cause, said one "presumed extraordinary healing" had already been investigated by a diocese and a second possibility is being studied, but the Vatican does not begin its investigations until a sainthood candidate is declared venerable.

Although his was one of the shortest papacies in history, Pope John Paul left a lasting impression on the church that fondly remembers him as "the smiling pope."

"He smiled for only 33 days," read the front page of the Italian newspaper, *Corriere della Sera*, while the Catholic Telegraph of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati reported: "Saddened church seeking another Pope John Paul."



Pope John Paul I, known as the smiling pope, is pictured at the Vatican in 1978. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

The surprise of his death after just over a month in office opened a floodgate of rumors and conspiracy theories, running the gamut from murder to culpable neglect. The Vatican doctor insisted then,

nati reported: "Saddened church seeking another Pope John Paul."

as the Vatican continues to insist, that Pope John Paul died of a heart attack.

His papal motto, "Humilitas" ("Humility") not only emphasized a Christian virtue but also reflected his down-to-earth personality and humble beginnings.

"The Lord recommended it so much: Be humble. Even if you have done great things, say: 'We are useless servants.' On the contrary, the tendency in all of us is rather the opposite: to show off. Lowly, lowly: This is the Christian virtue which concerns us," he said Sept. 6, 1978.

Born Albino Luciani in the small Italian mountain town of Canale D'Agordo Oct. 17, 1912, the future pope and his two brothers and one sister lived in poverty and sometimes went to bed hungry.

His father, a bricklayer by trade, would often travel to Switzerland and Germany in search of work.

During a general audience Sept. 13, 1978, the pope told pilgrims he was sickly as a child and his mother would take him "from one doctor to another" and watch over him "whole nights." He also said he had been hospitalized eight times and operated on four times throughout his life.

Despite his weak health and poverty, his father encouraged him to enter the minor seminary. He did so, but would return to his hometown in the summers and often was seen working in the fields in his black cassock.

He was ordained a priest in 1935 and was appointed bishop of Vittorio Veneto in December 1958 by St. John XXIII. More than 10 years later, he was named patriarch of Venice by Blessed Paul VI and was created a cardinal in 1973.

During his time as patriarch of Venice,

then-Cardinal Luciani was known for his dedication to the poor and the disabled.

In February 1976, he called on all priests in his diocese to sell gold and silver objects for the Don Orione Day Center for people with disabilities. Leading by example, he started the fund drive by putting up for auction a pectoral cross and gold chain – given to him by St. John XXIII – that had once belonged to Pope Pius XII.

His contribution, he wrote, "is a small thing compared to the use it will have. Perhaps it is worth something if it helps people understand that the real treasures of the church are the poor."

After Blessed Paul VI's death, his name was hardly at the top of anyone's list of potential popes, least of all his own.

When asked if he might be elected pope, he quoted a Venetian proverb: "You don't make gnocchi out of this dough."

His surprise election, nevertheless, did not sway him from continuing his humble manner of living, such as rejecting the use of the traditional papal tiara and preferring to call his first Mass as pope the "inauguration" of his papal ministry rather than a coronation.

His humility also was reflected in the 19 speeches and talks he gave as pope, especially the four Wednesday general audience talks before his untimely death.

"Let us try to improve the church by becoming better ourselves," he said Sept. 13, 1978. "Each of us and the whole church could recite the prayer I am accustomed to reciting: 'Lord, take me as I am, with my defects, with my shortcomings, but make me become as you want me to be.'"

U.S. Bishops Take on Immigration, Racism at Fall Assembly

BALTIMORE (CNS) – At the start of their annual fall assembly in Baltimore Nov. 13, U.S. Catholic bishops faced some big issues – immigration and racism – straight on and zeroed in on how to raise the national level of discussion on these topics starting in the church pews.

They acknowledged the current polarization in the country and divides within the Catholic Church, and stressed their responsibility as church leaders to promote immigration reform, educate parishioners on justice issues and listen to those affected by "sins of racism."

On immigration, Bishop Joe Vasquez of Austin, Texas, who is chairman of the Committee on Migration of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said there needs to be a "path to legalization and citizenship for the millions of our unauthorized brothers and sisters who are law-abiding, tax-paying and contributing to our society."

The bishops responded with applause and an agreement by voice vote to issue a statement calling for comprehensive immigration reform.

The bishops were aware that their defense of immigrants was not necessarily the view of the U.S. church at large. For example, Chicago Bishop Blase Cupich spoke of dangers of Catholics falling prey to and believing "poisoning rhetoric" about immigrants that demonizes them.

"There's something wrong in our churches, where the Gospel is proclaimed, and yet people leave our worship services, our Masses on weekends, with that rhetoric still echoing in their hearts," he said.

Several bishops also brought up the notion of prudential judgment – referring to the view Catholics could take on immigration that differs from the bishops – since it is not a specific matter of church teaching.

The bishops who spoke on the floor didn't buy that argument and said Catholics can't use it to push aside the need to care for immigrants. Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco took this a step further saying prudential judgment can't be "taken lightly" on a "justice issue like immigration."

Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami said the bishops' defense of immigrants, as brothers and sisters, not problems, is not only right for immigrants but "for our society as a whole."

"We can make America great, but you don't make America great by making America mean," he added.

On racism, Bishop George Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, head of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, said the church must recognize "and frankly acknowledge" its failings. He said the issue has found a "troubling resurgence" in recent years, referring particularly to white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, this year where he said racial hatred was "on full display."

"Racism isn't going to be conquered by speech but by actions," said Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Atlanta, adding that this was a watershed moment where the church could play a leadership role.

He spoke about discussions happening at diocesan and parish levels, and several bishops commented about them as well, noting that these discussions are not easy, but so necessary to bring about healing.

Other key issues of the day where church leaders are responding include health care, taxes and abortion, mentioned by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston in his first address as USCCB president. He took office at the close of last year's fall assembly.

"We are facing a time that seems more divided than ever," Cardinal DiNardo said. "Divisions over health care,

conscience protections, immigration and refugees, abortion, physician-assisted suicide, gender ideologies, the meaning of marriage and all the other headlines continue to be hotly debated. But our role continues to be witnessing the Gospel."

He explained that the National Catholic War Council, created by the U.S. bishops in 1917 in response to the world refugee crisis that emerged from World War I and the forerunner to the USCCB, was formed to address great national and international needs at a time not unlike today.

The cardinal emphasized other modern challenges such as recent natural disasters and mass shootings.

But the problems of the day should not overwhelm church leaders who should recognize signs of new hope in the church, mentioned by the papal nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, who addressed the bishops at the start of the meeting and encouraged them to make time for prayer amid "burdens of the office."

He told them to be adventurous in the "new frontier of faith" and to make a strong effort to accompany young people who often question their faith.

The bishops also heard from the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, at a Nov. 12 Mass where he was the main celebrant and the homilist, and at a dinner celebrating the USCCB's 100th anniversary.

The cardinal told the U.S. bishops that the church needs them today to "bring not only material assistance but also the spiritual balm of healing, comfort and hope to new waves of migrants and refugees who come knocking on America's door."

He also urged them to follow the pope's call to accompany the modern church.

The second public day of meetings

did not tackle major societal issues but examined ways the bishops can continue to uphold the Catholic faith from specific wording in the baptismal rite, a review of catechetical materials and a pastoral plan for marriage and family life that will give Catholic couples and families resources to enable them to live out their vocation.

As part of the business side of the meeting the bishops elected Archbishop Allen Vigneron of Detroit as the next secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He'll take office next November. Votes also were cast for a new chairman of the bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty and chairmen-elect for the committees on Communications, Cultural Diversity in the Church, Doctrine, National Collections and Pro-Life Activities.

They highlighted past events such as the Convocation of Catholic Leaders in Orlando, Florida, this summer and previewed upcoming events such as the U.S. Catholic Church's Fifth National Encuentro, or "V Encuentro," next September in Grapevine, Texas, and World Youth Day Jan. 22-27, 2019, in Panama City, Panama.

The bishops identified key issues they are addressing with Congress including health care, the federal budget and tax reform, and concluded their assembly by mentioning the impact of recent disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires.

Bishop Curtis Guillory of Beaumont, Texas, a region hard hit by Hurricane Harvey, said often when tragedies occur "you just feel very much alone and wonder how you are going to move forward."

He thanked the bishops for their support, in prayers, phone calls and donations, which he described as a "wonderful sign of solidarity" and sign of unity of our faith. This will be a long and costly recovery, he noted, but added that "people have deep, deep faith."

Mark Wahlberg's Faith Journey Leaves Impression on Young Adults

CHICAGO (CNS) – Hearing the faith journey of Hollywood actor and businessman Mark Wahlberg left an impression on the hearts of many young adults at the Archdiocese of Chicago's first (re)Encounter event Oct. 20 at the UIC Pavilion.

"It's powerful for a celebrity to feel that way about religion," said Omar Lopez, 21, from St. Gall Parish. "For me, when I think about a celebrity, I think cockiness, selfishness, but to hear an artist say that he takes time to just pray, that's an incredible feeling."

Lopez rushed to the stage at the end of Wahlberg's segment and got to shake the actor's hand.

"I came to hear him because personally I feel lost myself," Lopez told the Chicago Catholic, the archdiocesan newspaper. "At first I was really skeptical about it. I came here to just to hear different stories and to hear different aspects of life."

About 2,000 young adults attended (re)Encounter – an evening of music, speakers, faith sharing and eucharistic adoration aimed at energizing the faith of young adult Catholics.

The highlight was a question-and-answer session with Wahlberg and Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich.

Star of movies such as "Transformers: Age of Extinction," "Ted" and "Deepwater Horizon," and producer of the popular HBO series "Entourage," Wahlberg takes his faith seriously, often attending daily Mass and making time for quiet prayer each morning.

He emceed the Festival of Families with Pope Francis during the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in 2015.

His faith wasn't always important to him. Youngest in a family of nine children, he dropped out of school at 13, and served prison time. At 16 he was charged with attempted murder but pleaded guilty to assault.

Today, he said, he's committed to being a good father and husband, and giving



Mark Wahlberg and Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago discuss faith and the life of young adults at the UIC Pavilion Oct. 20. (CNS photo/Karen Callaway, Chicago Catholic)

ing his children the Catholic education he didn't have.

"I'm a street kid from Dorchester, Massachusetts. Grew up in St. Greg's and St. William's parishes," he told the crowd.

Because his parents worked a lot, he was often unsupervised and took to running the streets.

"Ended up getting into a lot of trouble, incarcerated, tried as an adult at 16, 17. That was a big wake-up call for me," he told Cardinal Cupich. "A lot of people go to God, especially when they get in trouble. When I heard the jail doors close behind me, I started praying right away."

It was then that he turned his life around.

"Still, every day it's a process. That's why I start my day, every day, by getting

on my hands and my knees and starting a time of prayer and reading, reading Scripture. Then I feel like I can go out there and conquer the world, or at least do my job and give back because I've been blessed so much," Wahlberg said.

He keeps in daily touch with his parish priest from when he was growing up, Father Ed Flavin, who married him and his wife and all his siblings, and baptized his four children. When Wahlberg decided to turn his life around, the priest was one of the people he looked up to.

Wahlberg, 46, said his biggest mistake was quitting school. Despite having a successful career as an entertainer and businessman, that haunted him, so he got his GED at age 42.

Responding to a young adult's question about making time for prayer and

Mass in a busy life, the actor said it's a "must." He goes to bed early every night and wakes up before his family to pray in the chapel he built in his home.

Addressing another audience question about knowing when one has made the right decision in life according to God's will, Wahlberg shared how he felt God was calling him to more involvement with his faith leading up to the World Meeting of Families and his role as emcee at an event featuring the pope.

Somebody came to speak at the church ... they were saying, 'Are you a participant in the church and the community or are you a spectator?' And I was like, 'Whoa.' I felt like, yeah, I'm a bit of a spectator right now," Wahlberg said. "I'm coming and getting what I need, but I'm not really giving back, you know, reciprocating the kind of love and support I'm getting."

That encounter resulted in him saying "yes" to ushering when asked a few days later, and subsequently saying "yes" to the event with Pope Francis when asked a few days after that.

Wahlberg's commitment to prayer inspired Yunuen Arroyo of St. Odillo Parish in Berwyn.

"I can't even explain the motivation he has," she said. "The whole event is awesome. I love it. I really enjoyed the questions because I've asked those questions, like, 'How do you forgive yourself?'" said Arroyo. "You just have to keep going every day. You just have to keep trying."

Mary Kando of the Assyrian Church of the East, Mar Gewargis Cathedral, also connected to the actor's faith story. "Not that my life has been anywhere near his life, but sometimes I feel like, 'How can I pull myself together?'" Kando said.

"I heard about it but I wasn't really motivated to go because I didn't want to go by myself," she said. "I was looking for something to pull me back in. Not that I was away, but I was just kind of sick of the mundane, 'It's just Sunday Mass.' I wanted to get rejuvenated."

Bishops to Put Together Pastoral Plan for Marriage, Family Life Ministry

BALTIMORE (CNS) – U.S. Catholic bishops acknowledged that Catholic families and married couples need more support from the church at large and hope to offer it by giving parishes plenty of resources through a pastoral plan for marriage and family life.

A proposal for such a plan was introduced to the bishops on the second day of their annual fall assembly in Baltimore Nov. 14 and was approved by paper ballot with 232 votes in favor.

The pastoral plan was described by Bishop Richard Malone of Buffalo, New York, a member of the bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, as a response to Pope Francis' 2016 apostolic exhortation "Amoris La-

etitia" ("The Joy of Love").

Bishop Malone, who introduced the idea to the bishops, was filling in for Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput, the committee's chairman, who was in Rome for preparatory meeting for the Synod of Bishops in 2018.

The bishop said he hoped the pastoral plan would encourage long-term implementation of the pope's exhortation and also encourage a broader reading of it.

Several bishops who spoke from the floor echoed this sentiment, emphasizing that the document was more than just one chapter – referring to Chapter 8's focus on the possibility of divorced and remarried Catholics receiving Communion, which gained a lot of media attention.

Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles, founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, said a pastoral plan focused on the exhortation lets the Catholic Church "seize control" of its message after the "blogosphere was forcing us to read it in another way."

Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky similarly noted that the exhortation's Chapter 8 "got all the headlines" and he hoped a new plan based on the text would get more people to read the entire document and "read it slowly."

A new pastoral plan for marriage and families would not be "the pastoral plan," as in the be-all-end-all addressing every detail, but it should provide a framework

to help parishes work in this area, Bishop Malone said.

Discussion from the floor on about this plan was overwhelmingly positive.

Archbishop Paul Etienne of Anchorage, Alaska said the church should look for ways to lift up marriage and thank couples for all they do. Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco said the church should offer more than just marriage preparation programs and should provide something for couples after they are married.

They should know about marriage before they come to church to set up their wedding, he said, emphasizing that catechism needs to start much earlier.

Mass Is a Time of Silence and Prayer, Not Idle Chitchat, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Mass is the highest form of prayer and not an appropriate moment for small talk, Pope Francis said.

At church, Catholics should spend their time in silence before Mass, preparing "to meet with Jesus" instead of engaging in "chitchat," the pope said Nov. 15 during his weekly general audience.

"Silence is so important," he said. "Remember what I told you last time: we are not going to a show. Silence prepares us and accompanies us."

The pope continued his new series of audience talks on the Mass, reflecting on

the Eucharist as a form of prayer that is "the highest, the most sublime and, at the same time, the most concrete" way of encountering God's love.

"This is the greatest grace: to experience that the Eucharist is the privileged moment to be with Jesus and, through him, with God and with our brothers and sisters," the pope said.

In the Gospels, he continued, Jesus teaches his disciples that the first thing needed to pray "is to know how to say 'father'" and to trust in God with the humility of a child.

Christians also must allow themselves

to be "surprised by the living encounter with the Lord," he said, and not simply "talk to God like a parrot," repeating the words of prayers without thinking.

"The encounter with God is a living encounter," the pope said departing from his prepared remarks. "It is not an encounter of a museum, it is a living encounter. And we go to Mass, not a museum! We go to a living encounter with the Lord."

Pope Francis said the Mass is also a gift and a consolation where Christians discover that God's greatest surprise is that he "loves us even in our weakness."

"The Lord encounters our frailty," the pope said. "This is the environment of the Eucharist. This is prayer."

Nov. 8 during general audience he said the Mass is not a show, but a beautiful, transformative encounter with the true loving presence of Christ. That is why people need to focus their hearts on God, not focus their smartphones for pictures during Mass, he said.

When the priest celebrating Mass says, "Let us lift up our hearts," he is not saying, "lift up our cellphones and take a picture. No. It's an awful thing" to do, the pope said.

Calendar

Editor's note: E-mail, fax or mail church-affiliated items for the Calendar page (Calendar, Retreats, Socials, Festivals, Bazaars, Trips) to: e-mail, adtimes@allentowndiocese.org; fax, 610-439-7694; THE A.D. TIMES, P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538.

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Please do not send items again after they are published. For more information, e-mail adtimes@allentowndiocese.org or call 610-871-5200, ext. 2264.

Saturday, Nov. 18

Turkey Trot Dance, oldies dance, social hall, St. John the Baptist, Allentown, 7-10 p.m., doors open 6:30 p.m., \$5 per person, BYOB, kitchen open, 610-432-3505.

Bake Sale, Immaculate Conception BVM, Allentown, after 4:15 p.m. Mass, also Sunday after 8 and 10:30 a.m. Masses.

Collection for Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund, also Sunday, Nov. 19.

Sunday, Nov. 19

Breakfast, St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, 7:45-11:30 a.m., adults \$8, children 6-12 \$4, under 6 free.

Breakfast, Knights of Columbus, St. Ignatius Loyola School Hall, St. Albans Drive, Sinking Spring, 8 a.m.-noon, adults \$8, children 6-12 \$4.

Community Breakfast, Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart, Bath, 7-11 a.m., adults \$8, children \$4, under 6 free, special Belgian waffles.

Donna Cori Gibson Concert, Notre Dame of Bethlehem, 7 p.m., free-will offering, honoring Our Blessed Mother Mary to celebrate the end of the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima.

Women Helping Women, fundraiser benefitting Mary's Shelter, Riverview Garden and Gifts, 3049 Pricetown Road, Route 12, Temple, noon-4 p.m., bring basic needs donations, for wish list visit www.marysshelter.org.

Monday, Nov. 20

"Spiritual Battle: Good vs. Evil," High Gravity Lounge, Fegley's Allentown Brew Works, Allentown, "Faith and Spirits" sponsored by Diocesan Office of Adult Formation, speaker Father Stephen DeLacy of Archdiocese of Philadelphia, free, no registration required, questions adultformation@allentowndiocese.org, 610-289-8900, ext. 2021.

"Working Beside a Saint: Stories of St. Teresa of Calcutta," Corked Wine Bar, 515 Main St., Bethlehem, 7 p.m., "Theology on Tap" speaker Msgr. Michael Mannion, Diocese of Camden, sponsored by Diocese of Allentown Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry, adonsecz@allentowndiocese.org.

Thursday, Nov. 23

Patriotic Rosary for Thanksgiving Day, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, after 9 a.m. Mass, 267-261-2122.

Sunday, Nov. 26

Holiday Breakfast Buffet, Annunciation BVM (St. Mary's), Catasauqua, 8:30 a.m.-noon, adults \$8, children 10 and under \$5.

Monday, Nov. 27

"Wreaths Across America," deadline to sponsor a wreath in honor or memory of a veteran at Resurrection Cemetery, Westcosville, \$15 each wreath, questions albertmm@airproducts.com, sponsor online <https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.html?page=24326>.

Wednesday, Nov. 29

Charismatic Healing Mass, SS. Philip and James, Phillipsburg, 7 p.m., 732-514-7160, dmhealing@aol.com.

Friday, Dec. 1

"The Mission and the Music," Juniata College Concert Choir, St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, 7 p.m., \$10, free for concert sponsors and supporters, benefit the parish's medical missions to Haiti, <http://stjwchurch.org>, <http://haitimission.weebly.com>.

"Believe!" family Christmas musical, auditorium, Bethlehem Catholic High School, 7 p.m., tickets at door, adults \$5, students \$3, under 3 free; also Saturday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 2

Theology of the Body Seminar, Office of Adult Formation, St. Mary, Kutztown, 9:30-11:30 a.m., presenter Sara Hulse, \$20, 610-289-8900, ext. 2021, www.allentowndiocese.org/icf.

"Living Grace, A Celebration of Advent," Gathered in Grace women's conference, church hall, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., registration 7:45 a.m., \$20, www.michelegiletto.com, 610-509-3167.

"White Christmas," presented by Munopco Music Theatre, at Scottish Rite Cathedral, 1533 Hamilton St., Allentown, 8 p.m., adults \$25, seniors (62+) \$22, students (w/ID) \$15, box office 610-437-2441, code 1702 to receive \$2 off per adult or senior ticket; also Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, Dec. 3 and 10, 2 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 3

Holiday Champagne Brunch, McGlinn Conference Center, Reading, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., \$50 per person, benefit Clare of Assisi House, serving the needs of women upon release from prison, Reading, www.clareofassisihouse.org.

Advent Vespers, choir, Holy Guardian Angels, Reading, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Serra Club of Bethlehem Charter Night, Silver Creek Country Club, Hellertown, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Legatus Evening With Bishop Schlert, Lehigh Valley Chapter for Catholic senior-level business executives, St. Thomas More, Allentown, Mass 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at Lehigh Country Club, 7:15 p.m., jknowles@legatus.org, 215-262-3832.

Friday, Dec. 8

Simbang Gabi (Filipino Celebration) Berks County, Holy Rosary, Reading, potluck night, also Dec. 15 and 16; Christmas Mass, party and potluck Saturday Dec. 30, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 9

Prayer Pilgrimage, peaceful prayer to end abortion, Helpers of God's Precious Infants; Mass, Notre Dame of Bethlehem, 8 a.m., followed by rosary at Allentown Women's Center, 610-674-4624, <https://m.facebook.com/Helpers-of-Gods-Precious-Infants-of-Allentown>.

Organ Concert with Michael Seroka, St. Joseph, Jim Thorpe, 2 p.m., followed by tour of St. Joseph Church 2:45 p.m.

Christmas Recital, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, 7 p.m., with David Gross, Catherine Fronheiser and Neil Fronheiser, free.

National Appeal for Retired Religious, Diocesan parishes, also Sunday, Dec. 10.

Sunday, Dec. 10

Christmas Concert, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 3 p.m.

Constantia, choir from Philadelphia Korean Catholic Church, benefit concert for Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood, Precious Blood Chapel, 1094 Welsh Road, Reading, 3 p.m., concert followed by silent auction.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Shower for the Unknown Babe, parish activity center, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, 7 p.m., bring items to benefit Mary's Shelter, Bethlehem — diapers newborn up to 5, wipes, baby wash, lotion, diaper cream, new baby clothing up to 2T, new or gently used baby items (include all pieces).

Saturday, Dec. 16

Christmas Vespers, White House Chapel, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 7 p.m., free will offering, www.stfrancisctr.org, stfranciscenter@gmail.com, 610-867-8890; also Sunday, Dec. 17, 2 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 17

Breakfast, St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, 7:45-11:30 a.m., adults \$8, children 6-12 \$4, under 6 free.

"Festival of Lessons and Carols," Advent vespers, St. Benedict Church, 2020 Chestnut Hill Road, Mohnton (Plowville), 6 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 28

Mass of Holy Innocents, Tridentine Mass, St. Stephen of Hungary, Allentown, 7 p.m., followed by Respect Life Reception.

Sundays

Interpreted Mass, for the hearing impaired, St. Columbkil, Boyertown, 9 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations, Serra Club of Reading, Holy Rosary, Reading, 4-5 p.m.

Children's Prayer Group, for children of any age, Perpetual Adoration Chapel, St. Patrick, Pottsville, 5 p.m.

Holy Hour for Our Families, Our Priests, and Our Country, Adoration Chapel, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 7 p.m.

First Sundays

Spaghetti Dinner, parish center, St. Patrick, Pottsville, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., adults \$8, children \$3.50.

Divine Mercy Liturgical Service, St. Teresa of Calcutta, 600 W. Mahanoy Ave., Mahanoy City, 3 p.m., confessions before liturgy, Anointing of the Sick after liturgy and benediction.

Second Sundays

Breakfast, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, 8:30-11:30 a.m., adults \$7, children \$3, October to April.

Youth Mass, students in PREP and Catholic schools asked to participate as lectors, greeters, ushers, etc., St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 10:30 a.m.

Latin Mass, St. Mary, Reading, 12:30 p.m., reconciliation at noon, social after Mass, Facebook "Berks County Traditional Latin Mass Community."

Juventutem Lehigh Valley Traditional Latin Mass, Sacred Heart, Bath, 12:30 p.m., followed by meeting at 2:15 p.m., open to ages 18-36, lawrence.mco@gmail.com, 908-328-6824.

Bereavement Support Group, parish center, St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, 3-4:30 p.m., no membership, sign-in or registration required, 610-392-2957, sue@jnsc.org.

Third Sundays

Breakfast, St. Joseph, Summit Hill, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., adults \$8, children 7-11 \$4, under 7 free, no breakfast July or December.

Fourth Sundays

Breakfast, Assumption BVM, Northampton, 8:30 a.m.-noon, adults \$7, children \$3, 610-262-2559.

Last Sunday

Breakfast, St. Stephen of Hungary, Allentown, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mondays

Eucharistic Adoration, chapel, St. Catharine of Siena, Reading, after 8 a.m. Mass until 9 p.m., 610-779-4005.

Scripture Classes, directed by Father Dennet Jung, St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Bible Study on Gospel of John, Coll Room, Assumption BVM, Bethlehem, 10 to 11:35 a.m., join anytime, 610-867-7424, ldurback@gmail.com.

Scripture Class with Father Paul Marconi, Barnabite Spiritual Center, Bethlehem, 1-3 p.m., 610-691-8648.

Monday Evening Bible Study, Finnegan Room, Assumption BVM, Bethlehem, 6:30-8 p.m., 610-867-7424, ext. 12.

Father Walter Ciszek Prayer Group, Father Ciszek Convent, 18 E. Oak St., Shenandoah, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

GriefShare Workshop and Support Group, St. Catharine of Siena, 2427 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, 7-8:30 p.m., 610-370-

1174.

First Mondays

Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, after 8 a.m. Mass, evening prayer and benediction 5 p.m., second Mondays if falls on federal holiday or holy day, 610-266-0695.

Fourth Mondays

"Kids Konnected," support group for children with a parent being treated for cancer, Penn State Health St. Joseph, Reading, 7 p.m., registration required 610-378-2602, www.kidskonnected.org.

Last Mondays

Mass and Veneration of Relic St. Pauline Visintainer, Our Lady's Chapel, St. Patrick, Pottsville, 5 p.m.

Tuesdays

Eucharistic Day of Prayer, St. Ignatius of Loyola, Sinking Spring, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8 a.m. Mass until 7 p.m. Benediction, 610-678-3767.

Holy Family Quilters, church basement, Holy Family, Nazareth, 9 a.m.-noon, experienced quilters or those interested in learning are welcome, 610-759-1515, salturnkb@outlook.com.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study, rectory basement, St. Paul, Allentown, 9:30-11 a.m., join anytime, 610-797-9733, ext. 14.

Catholic Charities Services, Annunciation BVM, Shenandoah, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., appointments 570-628-0466.

Parenting Support Educational Series, Catholic Charities, Annunciation BVM, Shenandoah, 11 a.m.-noon, free, for parents and grandparents of infants through toddlers, register 570-628-0466.

Adoration, St. Peter, Coplay, 6-7 p.m. Flame of Love Cennacle; 7-8 p.m. personal time, end with benediction.

Scripture Class with Father Paul Marconi, Barnabite Spiritual Center, Bethlehem, 7-9 p.m., 610-691-8648.

Rosary for Religious Liberty, National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Immaculate Conception BVM, Allentown, 1:30 p.m.

First Tuesdays

"Simply Prayer" mornings of prayer, reflection and sharing, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 9:30 a.m.-noon, 610-867-8890.

First and third Tuesdays

Catechism Classes for Men, Catholic Men of Good News, Franciscan Center (former convent), St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 7 p.m., 610-462-9700.

Second Tuesdays

Cancer Support Group, Msgr. Gobitas Meeting Room, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, 7 p.m.

Hoagie Sale, Knights of Columbus Cardinal Francis Brennan Council 618, \$4, pickup 9 a.m. until sold out, 201 W. Cherry St., order 570-590-1188, 570-462-1430.

Rosary and Benediction, St. Joseph, Jim Thorpe, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Spiritual Book Study, directed by Pat and Rich Kane, St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Assumption BVM, Bethlehem, 10-11:30 a.m., 610-867-7424, ext. 12.

Rosary and Novena, St. Patrick, Pottsville, 7 p.m.

Bible Study, SS. Simon and Jude, Bethlehem, 7-8:30 p.m., bring your Bible.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study, rectory basement, St. Paul, Allentown, new time 7-8:30 p.m., join anytime, 610-797-9733, ext.14.

First and third Wednesdays

Joseph's People, support group for unemployed and under-employed persons, St. Catharine of Siena, Reading, 7-8:30 p.m., 610-385-3699, 484-651-0498, kaf8860@dejazzd.com or jsenick@ptd.net.

Women's Prayer Group, Sister Gertrude Room, Franciscan Center, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, fellowship and hospitality 6:30 p.m., prayer hour 7-8 p.m., 610-509-3167, gatheredin-grace@aol.com.

Second and fourth Wednesdays

God's Bountiful Table, soup kitchen open for disadvantaged and those in need, St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Matthew the Evangelist, Minersville, at Father Anthony Ricapito Annex, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., volunteers needed, 570-544-2739.

Rosary, Marian Prayer Group, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, 610-253-3553.

Third Wednesdays

Cancer Support Group, for those with cancer, caregivers and friends, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, 7 p.m., all are invited, 610-258-1871, 610-253-6439.

Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations, Serra Club of Reading, St. Mary, Kutztown, 7 p.m.

Thursdays

Bible Study, Wortmann Center, Holy Family, Nazareth, after 8:30 a.m. Mass, bring your Bible.

"Prayer of the Heart — Contemplative Prayer," classes, St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Scripture Study, SS. Simon and Jude, Bethlehem, 10-11:30 a.m., 610-867-1649.

Musical Entertainment, Christopher's at Columbian Home, Knights of Columbus Calvary Council 528, Allentown, 7-10 p.m., 610-432-6333.

Faith Sharing, Allentown Bethlehem Catholic Young Adults, Assumption BVM, Bethlehem, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

First Thursdays

Holy Mass with Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Barnabite Spiritual Center, Bethlehem, 7-9 p.m.

Second Thursdays

Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic, Chapter of the Expectation of the Blessed Mother, Notre Dame of Bethlehem, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 610-285-2288, 610-691-6761, 610-865-9236.

Please see CALENDAR page 22 ►►

Calendar

►►Continued from page 21

Second and fourth Thursdays

"On-Going Job Transition Workshop," job transition group for those seeking employment or career advancement, St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 9-11:30 a.m., free, 610-258-3053, mikesfrh@rcn.com, www.stfrancisretreathouse.org.

Fridays

Holy Mass, Barnabite Spiritual Center, Bethlehem, 7:30 p.m.
 "Symbolon, the Catholic Faith Explained," catechetical program, Barnabite Spiritual Center, Bethlehem, 8:30 p.m.
 Divine Mercy Rosary and Chaplet, Divine Mercy, Shenandoah, 3 p.m.
 Eucharistic Adoration, Sacred Heart, Palmerton, confession 8 a.m., Mass 8:30 a.m. followed by adoration until noon, concluding with midday prayer and benediction.
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Family, Nazareth, after 8:30 a.m. Mass until 5 p.m.

First Fridays

Respect for Life Holy Hour, Adoration Chapel, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 7 p.m.
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Family, Nazareth, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturdays

Holy Hour for Our Country, Adoration Chapel, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, noon.

First Saturdays

Holy Hour for Vocations, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, begins with 8 a.m. Mass (except May and June).
 Devotion to Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 4:05 p.m.

First and third Saturdays

Mass for the Deaf Community, interpreted Mass for the hearing impaired, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bethlehem, 9 a.m. (changed from Sundays).

Second Saturdays

Prayer Pilgrimage, Helpers of God's Precious Infants; Mass, Notre Dame of Bethlehem, 8 a.m., followed by 15 decades of the rosary at Allentown Women's Center, 31 S. Commerce Way, Bethlehem, 610-797-7403, hogpi@hotmail.com.

Second and fourth Saturdays

Sacrament of Reconciliation, Barnabite Spiritual Center, Bethlehem, 11 a.m.-noon.

Retreats

First Tuesdays

"Simply Prayer," mornings of prayer, reflection and sharing, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 9:30 a.m.-noon, free will offering, 610-867-8890, stfranciscenter@gmail.com, www.stfranciscctr.org.

Monday, Nov. 20

"Becoming Healers and Hope-Givers," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 6-9 p.m., \$30, preregister 10 days before retreat 610-258-3053.

Thursday, Nov. 30

"Rejoicing in Our Aging," St. Francis Center for Renewal,

Bethlehem, 8:45 a.m.-noon, \$35, www.stfranciscctr.org, stfranciscenter@gmail.com, 610-867-8890.

Sunday, Dec. 3

Women's Advent Reflection, Eucharistic adoration, St. Mary, Ringtown, 1 p.m., reflection by Father Brian Miller, followed by fellowship, 507-889-3825, 507-889-5811.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Advent Day of Prayer, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., \$50, facilitated by Father Jack Barron, register www.jesuitcenter.org, questions mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, 610-670-3642.

Friday, Dec. 8 – Sunday, Dec. 10

"Mary and the Eternal Womb of Mercy," Advent retreat, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, \$185, www.stfranciscctr.org, stfranciscenter@gmail.com, 610-867-8890.
 Weekend Directed Retreat, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, \$200, questions mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, 610-670-3642, register www.jesuitcenter.org.

Monday, Dec. 11

"Enjoying Life: The Spirit of Christmas," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 6-9 p.m., \$30, preregister 10 days before retreat 610-258-3053.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

"Come to the Manger," twilight retreat, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 6:45-9 p.m., \$25, www.stfranciscctr.org, stfranciscenter@gmail.com, 610-867-8890.

Friday, Dec. 15 – Thursday, Dec. 21

Five-Day Advent Directed Retreat, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, \$540, questions mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, 610-670-3642, register www.jesuitcenter.org.

2018

Friday, Jan. 12 – Sunday, Jan. 13

"Capturing the Movement of God in Our Lives," women's spirituality weekend retreat, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, \$175, 610-867-8890, stfranciscenter@gmail.com, www.stfranciscctr.org.

Tuesday, Jan. 23

"70 Years of Faithful Service," breakfast and a speaker to mark 70th anniversary, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 8:45 a.m.-noon, \$35, facilitator Sister Marguerite Stewart, 610-867-8890, stfranciscenter@gmail.com, www.stfranciscctr.org.

Bazaars/Festivals

Friday, Nov. 17 – Saturday, Nov. 18

Christmas Boutique Craft Show, St. Catharine of Siena Church, Exeter Township, Friday 5-9 p.m. (with takeout Eastern European dinner), Saturday 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 18

Christmas Bazaar, Ave Maria Hall, St. Mary, Hamburg, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 610-562-7657, www.stmaryhamburg.com.

Saturday, Dec. 2

Christmas Craft Bazaar, Holy Guardian Angels, Reading, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 2 – Sunday, Dec. 3

Christmas Boutique, auditorium, Sacred Heart School, Bath,

Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-8 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 9

Christkindlmarkt, St. Joseph, Jim Thorpe, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., food, Christmas yard sale, basket auction; Organ Concert with Michael Seroka 2 p.m., followed by tour of St. Joseph Church 2:45 p.m.

Socials

Sundays

Bingo, St. Joseph, Summit Hill, 6:30 p.m.
 Bingo, Immaculate Conception School, Pen Argyl, 1 p.m., doors open 11 a.m., 610-863-4816.

Second Sundays

Bingo, Most Blessed Sacrament, Bally, 12:30 p.m., doors open 11 a.m.

Thursdays

Bingo, St. Joseph, Summit Hill, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 19

Meat Bingo, social hall, St. John the Baptist, Allentown, 1 p.m., doors and kitchen open noon, \$11 for 15 games.

Sundays, Nov. 26; Dec. 10

Bingo, Knights of Columbus Council 618, Shenandoah at St. Stephen Hall, 2 p.m., doors open noon, accessible to handicapped.

Saturday, Dec. 2 – Sunday, Dec. 3

Tricky Tray, Sacred Heart, Bethlehem, Saturday 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 10

Bingo, St. Mary Annunciation BVM, Catasauqua, 1 p.m.

Thursdays, Jan. 11, May 16

Bingo, Family Center, St. Thomas More, Allentown 6:30 p.m.

Trips

Editor's note: Trip listings include sponsoring group, destination, cost and contact information. Call the sponsor for other details, such as times, dining location, itineraries and what is included in the cost. Send church-affiliated trips to adtimes@allentowndiocese.org by Thursday of the week before publication.

Previously announced

Tuesday, Nov. 21

Outreach Committee, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown to Mohegan Sun Casino, Wilkes-Barre, \$22, 610-515-5975, 610-433-6102, gift certificates available.

Tuesday, Nov. 28

St. Ann, Emmaus to "Our Christmas Dinner," Bird-in-Hand Restaurant and Stage, \$80, 610-965-5802.

Wednesday, Nov. 29

Travelers, St. Matthew the Evangelist, Minersville to Radio City Christmas Spectacular, New York City, \$107, 570-544-5231, 570-628-5413.

Wednesdays Nov. 29 and Dec. 6

Prime Time, St. Thomas More, Allentown to Christmas Show, American Music Theater, Lancaster, \$79, Marie 610-965-9960.

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ALL FAITHS WELCOME



Sisters' Fatima Anniversary Pilgrimage Also in Memory of Their Dad

Editor's note: Nancy Berchtold, a parishioner of St. Joseph, Jim Thorpe and former chairperson of the Diocesan Commission for Women, traveled to Fatima, Portugal for the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions. She was accompanied by her sisters: Kathy Waldron, a parishioner of St. Joseph in New Paltz, New York; and Connie Pojanowski, a parishioner of St. Cecilia in Rockaway, New Jersey.

By NANCY BERCHTOLD

For as long as I can remember, Our Lady of Fatima has always been a special part of my life. My father, Thomas Gleason, was born on Oct. 13, 1917, the same day Our Lady appeared to the three children in a flash of light on the holm oak tree and delivered her promise of the Miracle of the Sun.

As the centennial of the appearances of Our Lady approached, my two sisters and I decided to honor the memory of our father and go on pilgrimage to Portugal. I sent word out to my family and friends for prayer requests, and received nearly a hundred.

I crafted a small box with a holy card of Our Lady of Fatima on the top and filled it with small pieces of colored papers for the names, prayers and petitions I had received. I knew a place would appear to deliver these prayers to Our Lady of Fatima.

Our pilgrimage began Thursday, Oct. 12 in Lisbon at the Church of St. Anthony, the birthplace of St. Anthony of Padua, beloved son of Portugal. His presence was felt the entire trip, reminding us that we all are lost in some way, but with a promise that grace would be found in the days ahead.

There was no lodging available in Fatima, so the Cliffside town of Nazare was our destination for two overnights. That evening we watched the sun set over the Atlantic Ocean and saw the fog roll into town. The morning of Friday, Oct. 13, the day of the Centennial Mass, the bus pulled away from Nazare in thick fog that shrouded the hills all the way to Fatima.

Our first glimpse of the town of Fatima was seen at arm's length with the fog covering everyone walking toward Apparition Square. Men in blue uniforms swinging brass helmets in their hands, priests carrying white vestments in their arms, pilgrims of all countries excitedly chatting – all were walking briskly toward the square.



The Centennial Mass commemorating the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima is celebrated Oct. 13 outside the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary.

My sisters and I jumped into the stream of people funneled between the rows of shops leading to the square. Suddenly we were standing in what seemed like an immense paved football field.

I squinted to see the basilica, the chapel, the holm oak tree. Nothing was visible. Despite this temporary blindness, I jubilantly spun in a circle and noticed a pillar beside us. On the top was a golden statue of Jesus with his golden arms outstretched in welcome.

We sat on our little folding stools wearing hand-painted T-shirts of the hearts of Jesus and Mary announcing our dad's birthday as hundreds of people filled in the spaces around us.

An hour later the sun began to burn through the thick fog, as the music be-

gan and the choir started to sing. Our cell phone cameras caught the eerie glow of the sun, and everyone caught the significance on the 100th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun.

Wonder and awe followed as the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary slowly appeared as the fog lifted, so recognizable with its bell tower, golden crown on top, cross and statue of Mary above the door. It was the perfect time to sing "Happy Birthday" to our dad as the bells of the basilica rang out a jubilant song.

We watched as the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was carried on her bed of roses up the steps of the basilica to the altar. As Mass began, the bluest sky framed Apparition Square, and the sun warmed the town of Fatima and – I imagined – the

whole world.

The mountaintop experience of the Centennial Mass was followed by our visits to holy sites not far from Fatima. One highlight was St. Stephen's Church in Santarem, where we venerated the blood-tinged host of a Eucharistic miracle from 1247.

As moving as these visits were, it was walking the Stations of the Cross along the "Little Shepherds' Way" that touched our hearts. This path marks the sight of the angel's visit to the children in 1916.

Our group began the Stations of the Cross in silence. The early morning sun glistened on the olive tree branches and a gentle breeze wrapped around us as we walked. Acorns from the holm oaks dotted the cobblestone path as we stopped to recall the passion of Our Lord.

We sang "Ave Maria" in French between the stations and paused a little longer at the spot of Mary's appearance to the children.

After the 15th station we walked to the rocks where the children saw the Angel of Peace. He greeted them by saying, "Do not be afraid. Pray with me.... The hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications."

We descended the hill to the village of Aljustrel, and the homes of Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. Tour buses parked on the edge of the village, a few shops overflowed with souvenirs and a man was selling rocks – perhaps the most authentic keepsake of all.

The candlelight procession of Fatima awaited us on Sunday evening, Oct. 15. We entered Apparition Chapel, where the statue of Our Lady of Fatima marks the exact site of the appearances. The Rosary was recited in many languages, then the procession followed the statue of Our Lady into the Square.

The winds of approaching Hurricane Ophelia whipped about the procession, blowing out waves of candles. What we didn't realize as we processed behind Our Lady was that those winds were feeding over a hundred separate forest fires set by arsonists on Oct. 13, spreading death and destruction across central Portugal and Spain. Forty-five people lost their lives that night.

Our last day in Portugal was a visit to the coastal city of Porto and the Cathedral of St. Francis. As we started our trip, we thought the fog from the coast had reached the hillsides again. Some miles north of Fatima, we realized it was

Please see PILGRIMAGE page 24 ▶▶



Nancy Berchtold, back, and her sisters Connie, left, and Kathy.



The back of the sisters' commemorative T-shirts, with hearts of Jesus and Mary announcing their dad's birthday.

Pilgrimage

►►Continued from page 23

smoke from smoldering woodlands and fields stretching for miles on both sides of highway.

An unspoken fear seeped into the bus. Upon our return that afternoon, we realized Fatima was filled with the smoke of those fires.

Despite rumors that the fires were set on all sides of Fatima, we decided to venture to Apparition Square that evening for the procession. My prayer box was still full of prayers, and the chapel's side altar where the candles are melted was our destination.

My sister and I approached the flames. I opened the small box and gathered the papers in my hand. I asked Our Lady to bring those special prayers to her son Jesus and placed them in the fire. Tears of gratitude flowed as the papers glowed in the flames.

We walked up the steps of the basilica where people sat with scarfs over their faces to filter the smoke. The rosary began. We kept our fear at bay as each Hail Mary was prayed.

As the statue of Mary was carried out of the chapel and the candlelight procession began, the western sky lit up with the thunderstorms of Ophelia. The smoke covered the lights of the tower of the basilica – its angels standing guard on either side of Mary with her outstretched arm and rosary in her hand.

Our Lady's prayer came to us: "Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell and lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy."

The fires of hell felt sadly near as we prayed for the lives lost in those fires and recognized the evil that started them.

At midnight the storms hit and heavy rains drenched the town of Fatima. Dawn lit up the gray skies the next morning, the air was clear and the smoke was gone. We boarded the bus for the airport; sleepy and silent we gazed toward the basilica one last time.



Above, the prayer box that Nancy Berchtold carried to Fatima, filled with prayer requests.

Right, apparition Square in the fog.

As the bus circled the Rotunda Sul and headed out of town, we were horrified to see the smoking fields of the fire that touched the edge of Fatima that night. Grasping our rosaries, we made the sign of the cross and thanked Our Lady for the rains that stopped the fires that threatened her beloved Fatima.

We bid farewell to Fatima with these words of Our Lady to Lucia: "Don't lose heart. I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and your safe path to God."

The graces of this pilgrimage will remain in my heart forever.



Connie, left and Nancy leave prayers at the altar.



Above, the lighted basilica and statue of Our Lady during the candlelight procession.

Left, a statue commemorating the angel appearing to the children.



The site of Mary's appearance to the children on Aug. 19, 1917 after their release from jail.



Benefit Concert Dec. 1 for St. Joseph the Worker Haiti Missions

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

A special Advent Concert will be performed by the Juniata College Choir Friday, Dec. 1 at St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to support medical and community missions to combat the public health care crisis in Haiti.

Haiti Missions, a ministry of St. Joseph the Worker, began in 2010 by conducting the first annual one-week primary care medical clinic for approximately 1,100 patients.

Teams typically consist of four doctors, four nurses and four nonmedical support staff members. In keeping with Catholic tradition, the clinic is open to all members of the community regardless of faith.

The concert will help support this month's mission trip engineered by St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring, which is receiving assistance and support from St. Joseph.

"Branching out, we are helping orchestrate multiple missions per year from different churches to make the medical service more consistent and available," said Alan Jeffrey, parishioner of St. Joseph and volunteer for Haiti Missions.

The mission trip hopes to provide similar care executed during medical missions to SS. Simon and Jude, Port au Prince from 2010 to 2015 and in April 2017. A medical mission was also conducted this year at SS. Simon and Jude and in Phaeton, Haiti in 2016.

In addition, the parish ministry supported a community mission to Cerca Carvajal, Haiti.

The concert will also help raise funds in support of a St. Joseph's ninth medical mission planned for next year.

The team will provide medical care and medicines to the inhabitants on Delmas, one of the slums in Port-au-Prince and the capital of Haiti, and render care at a clinic established by St. Henry Parish, Dayton, Ohio.

The mission expects about a dozen team members, half of whom will be medical professionals.

The clinic will be open to the whole community, providing medical care without regard to religious beliefs.

The team will take prescription and over-the-counter medicines to treat a variety of ailments, including infections, gastrointestinal issues, hypertension, skin conditions, coughs, colds, allergies, eye irritations, asthma, malnutrition, malaria, diabetes, and general aches and pains.

Each patient will also receive, in addition to any medicines prescribed, a 90-day supply of vitamins, and a toothbrush and toothpaste. Reading glasses will also

be prescribed and distributed.

"We have begun buying some of our meds in Haiti instead of taking them all with us, thus simplifying and reducing the cost of our entry through customs into Haiti," said Jeffrey.

"One of our most difficult jobs is finding medical personnel with the time and availability to accompany us. We had to reach out to a doctor in Oregon last year and may have to do the same this year for the November mission," he added.

According to Jeffrey, the clinic in Haiti has two part-time Haitian physicians helping to bring medical care to those in need.

The team is also working in conjunction with Father Anaclet Mukendi, pastor of SS. Simon and Jude, who is bringing hope and livelihood to the families of Delmas, Port-au-Prince. "We are building hope that someday SS. Simon and Jude Parish may be more self-sufficient in their ability to provide medical care to those very much in need," said Jeffrey.

The Advent Concert will be performed in the nave of St. Joseph, 1879 Applewood Drive, Orefield and will begin at 7



Volunteers from St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring pack medical supplies for a mission trip through Haiti Missions, a ministry of St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield.

p.m.

Concert tickets are \$10. For more information, and to buy tickets, visit www.haitimission.weebly.com and click "Attend Fundraising Event" in the middle of the page.

Haiti Missions

A Ministry of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Orefield, Pennsylvania

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Juniata College

Concert Choir

7:00 PM, Friday, Dec. 1, 2017



Program: The Mission and the Music

Missions

Public Square Rosary Rally in Minersville

Father Christopher Zelonis, fourth from left, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Minersville, and Father Leo Maletz, sixth from left, pastor of St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish, Minersville, and some members of the Minersville Catholic community, gather in downtown Minersville for a Public Square Rosary Rally, in conjunction with 20,000 rallies that took place all across the United States Oct. 14 at noon. Their purpose was to pray the rosary in reparation for the sins and offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and to fervently pray for the conversion of the United States.



'A Call Within a Call' Upholds all Things Come from God

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

"The truth of the matter is that we are a part of something much bigger than ourselves; and what we do, how we live, how we understand and make our choices has a great and lasting effect on much more than just ourselves," said Father Frank Kaminski, staff member at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville.

Father Kaminski was the main presenter Oct. 19 for "A Call Within a Call: Finding God's Will in the Mundane," at McGlinn Conference and Spirituality Center, Reading.

"We are reflecting tonight on 'the call within the call.' That is the deeper call that God is making to us continually. God's deepest desire for us and for all of creation," he said.

Father Kaminski shared his story about shortly after graduating college, he told his father that he wanted to become a Jesuit priest and not a doctor like he had hoped for his son.

"Like any caring parent he looked beyond his own disappointment. He looked at me and brought himself to say that bottom line desire and hope that all parents have for their kids. 'Well, as long as it makes you happy,'" said Father Kaminski.

"This is the bottom line desire that we all have for ourselves and for those who are close to us. All of us want to find happiness, joy, peace, contentment, fulfillment, love, connection, or whatever other word that best describes our aspirations, hopes and dreams as we take up this adventure we call life. Yet, happiness is one of those illusive things. It comes and goes. It slips so easily through our fingers and out of our grasp," he said.

Father Kaminski pointed out that people tend to get hung up on accomplishment, live life as if it were a job and perceive God as the chief operating officer of the universe.

"But that's not really how it is. God is not an engineer building a world out of a precise set of blueprints, and we are not simply created to get some job done for him. God is more of an artist than an



Above, Father Frank Kaminski, staff member at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, presents "A Call Within a Call: Finding God's Will in the Mundane." (Photos by John Simitz)

Right, participants gather for the workshop at McGlinn Conference and Spirituality Center, Reading.

engineer," he said.

The creation of humanity, according to Father Kaminsky, is a special point in the ongoing creative action of God, and something special happens in the creation of human beings.

"Now there is a part of creation that is not just a passive expression of God's majesty, but an active participant in what God is doing. It is our consciousness that permits us to join God in freedom in God's creative action and work. We are not an end product. We are part of an action which continues into an unknown and, for us, an unimaginable future," he



Faithful listen to ways of discovering God's will in everyday life.



said.

As beings who are self-aware, with intelligence and freedom, Father Kaminski said, humans are given the possibility of doing what God does in a unique and Godly way.

"We are joint creators of an ever fuller expression of divine life and love, the essence of the God life, which finds its fullest expression in the risen Christ – the perfect 'material' expression of divine life and love," he stressed.

"This is what causes us to wonder and marvel at who we are, what we are about, what our life means, where we are going and what we are to do with what we have been given. We are still an unfinished work. We are still becoming," said Father Kaminski.

He pointed out the image of humans as "dust on the ground" in Sacred Scriptures and said many people fail to understand how critical humans are to God's work.

"Many are not especially conscious of the complexity of our situation. Many don't see God particularly involved in our day-to-day existence, and many don't see how intimately and intricately we are involved in God's creative and salvific work," he said.

"Many tend to view their lives as independent agents, free to determine and alter all the aspects of human life according to our perceived needs and desires.

"All of this is evident in the mixed and conflicting movements within our minds and hearts."

In addition, he maintained personal freedom and individuality is not given

to humans so they can do whatever they want.

"Understanding who we are, our freedom allows us to be free, creative agents collaborating with God in his magnificent, universal work," said Father Kaminski.

Although humans tend to become unaware of who he/she is, he said humans sometimes make destructive choices, frequently with no awareness of the damage being done.

"God's desire is always to draw us back to see and to live out of our true, God-oriented nature," said Father Kaminski.

And the way back to God, he said, is through Jesus.

"He reveals to us what we have lost and sometimes willfully forgotten – the beautiful but difficult truth that we are made by love and for love – that like, in and through Jesus, we are made to be the material creative presence of love in this part of the universal creative work that is God's self-expression," said Father Kaminski.

Like Ignatian spirituality and authentic Christian spirituality, Father Kaminski said, humans must be in intimate contact with the spirit of Jesus and are called to be an expression of the Father's love.

"We are called to be Jesus and to be the continuation of who Jesus is and what Jesus does through history and time," he said.

"Life is much more about how you live than what you live, and that is true of all aspects of life, at all moments."



Father Kaminski, right, replies to a question from Anne Marie and Tim Ferguson during the break.

DeSales to Exchange With University in Japan

Interested in exploring ancient temples, eating the world's best sushi, or catching a bullet train to a new, unknown city? Students of DeSales University, Center Valley will have the chance to do all that and more, thanks to a new exchange agreement in Japan.

Dr. Gerard Joyce '91, interim president, signed the agreement with Sophia

University in Tokyo, marking DeSales' first undergraduate full-semester exchange in Asia.

"We identify a new location based on student interest," said Brian MacDonald, director of international learning. "So if students are coming to me consistently and saying we want to go here, then we would start looking in that place to find

a partner."

The partnership has been in the works for a year. DeSales will be able to start sending and receiving students by fall 2018.

"Most of our students are looking to go to Europe," said MacDonald. "But we want to expose our students to students from other parts of the world as well.

Bringing in an Asian partner will be a really good way to do that."

Sophia University is a Jesuit university based on the teachings of Christianity and the Catholic spirit. It celebrated its centennial in 2013 and is ranked as one of the top private universities in Japan.

MacDonald's office has also looked into exchange agreements in Scotland, Germany and Austria. South America will be in consideration as well.

And the 2017 Catholic Trivia Night Trophy Goes to...

By DEBORAH WALKER
Director, ACTION Youth Group, Mahanoy City

Many of us remember a popular, brightly colored board game with playing pieces that looked like a pie, called "Trivial Pursuit." Players had to answer general knowledge and popular culture questions, split into different categories, to get a particular-colored, pie-shaped piece to put in their plastic pie.

Similarly, ABC aired a TV show in August 1999 that captivated America, and continues to this day. Who remembers the show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" starring the famous media personality Regis Philbin?

The board game and the TV show had different rules, but basically the same premise – to have players dig deep into their minds to think and remember facts from random quiz questions.

Using examples like these, along with participating in Trivia Nights in local restaurants, Father Robert Finlan, pastor, and St. Joseph Parish, Frackville hosted a Catholic Trivia Night for teenagers in Schuylkill and Carbon counties Oct. 26.

Almost 30 teens from four parishes put on their thinking caps and took them up on their challenge. The groups were comprised of St. Charles Borromeo in Ashland, St. Joseph in Frackville, St. Pat-

rick in Pottsville and St. Teresa of Calcutta in Mahanoy City.

The night was planned and organized by Carolyn Tenaglia, director of religious education at St. Joseph Parish, and Samantha Hennis, assistant coordinator of the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry for the Diocese of Allentown.

After serving game night foods of wings and pizza, guest speaker Patrick Smith, a teacher at Marian High School, Tamaqua, spoke about the lives of some of our saints and how our teens can actually work at becoming saints.

Incorporating Catholicism, popular culture and questions from Smith's talk, the groups discussed with their parish tablemates the 30 trivia questions and the final answers.

Rising victorious was the team of St. Charles Borromeo, consisting of Clare Schachte, Margaret Schachte, Matthew Schachte, Alexis Borkoskie, Justin Borkoskie and Lydia Paulukonis.

The prize was not only bragging rights, but an engraved traveling trophy, and their promise that they would host the next Trivia Night.

All were grateful, including the adults, for this creative way of teaching our teens how much fun religious education can be, while helping them to meet new people.



The winning team of St. Charles Borromeo, Ashland are, starting second from left, Clare Schachte, Margaret Schachte, Matthew Schachte, Alexis Borkoskie, Justin Borkoskie and Lydia Paulukonis, along with, from left: guest speaker Patrick Smith, teacher at Marian High School, Tamaqua; Father Robert Finlan, pastor of St. Joseph, Frackville; and Sue Klinger, teacher at Trinity Academy, Shenandoah and director of religious education at St. Charles Borromeo Parish.



Right, teens from St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Mahanoy City discuss the questions.



Left, teens from St. Joseph Parish, Frackville ponder their answers.



Right, the entire group of contestants from four parishes.

Stories About Mother Teresa at Next 'Theology on Tap'

The next Theology on Tap, "Working Beside a Saint: Stories of St. Teresa of Calcutta," will be Monday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. at Corked Wine Bar, 515 Main St., Bethlehem.

Speaker will be Msgr. Michael Mannion of the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey.

St. Teresa of Calcutta touched the lives of many with her inspiring and selfless missionary work. Msgr. Mannion had the opportunity to work with her and will share personal stories of encounter with the saint.

Theology on Tap is a monthly series sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry (OYYAFM). The series is designed to welcome all young adults, single or married, together in

a casual setting where they can grow in the faith and share community with one another.

Theology on Tap events are free of charge. Food and beverage can be ordered from the menu at the event site. For more information, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/tot or email adonsecz@allentowndiocese.org.

Other upcoming "Theology on Tap" topics will be:

"The Catholicism of J.R.R. Tolkien" with Father Chris Landis, theology teacher at Archbishop Ryan High School, January 2018.

"Protecting the Pope: What We Knew Then, What We Know Now" with Father Frederick Riegler, pastor of St. Isidore Parish, Quakertown, February 2018.

Third Monday Every Month
For married & single young adults

November 20, 2017 @ 7 PM

Working Beside a Saint
Stories of St. Teresa of Calcutta

Msgr. Michael Mannion,
Diocese of Camden
Corked Wine Bar
515 Main St., Bethlehem

Veterans Honored for Defending 'Greatest Liberty of All'

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

"We sit here comfortably without fear of troops coming through the doors or fear of anyone taking away our liberty to worship here today because of you," said Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert Nov. 5 to veterans and military personnel during a Mass at St. Thomas More, Allentown honoring their service in observance of Veterans Day.

"Wherever you served or however long you served know that we are forever grateful. None of it was done in vain."

Bishop Schlert was the main celebrant and homilist for the Mass that recognized U.S. veterans of the Korean War, who defended South Korea against North Korea.

Bishop Schlert said sometimes the meaning of Veterans Day is confused with Memorial Day and said the day allows living veterans to physically hear thanks for defending freedom – especially religious freedom.

"We are thankful for all our liberties, but religious liberty is the greatest liberty of all," he said.

"We live in a time where there is a little bit of reservation in our country. Many in our country relegate religion to four



The Knights of Columbus lead the procession of clergy and veterans for a special Mass in honor of Veterans Day at St. Thomas More, Allentown. (Photos courtesy of Sam Lopez)

walls which should never enter into public discourse, enter into public policy or enter into legislation. That is not what our founding fathers intended," said Bishop Schlert.

Rather, Bishop Schlert said, the founding fathers had in mind allowing people to use religion to shape how they live and work, with the right to bring their beliefs to the market place.

"In an un-bloody way we should change mindsets and never lose regard for the highest of freedoms," he said.

Bishop Schlert then lauded the men

and women for answering the call and asked any person who has served or is serving the U.S. military to stand for applause, before relating that the Gospel also speaks of the need for service.

"Your nation had a need and you answered the call, and for that we are very grateful," he said.

"We are all called to humble service. I can't think of more humble service than putting your life on the line," said Bishop Schlert.

Whether the men and women served the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, National Guard or Coast Guard, he said their service has protected the liberties of each and every U.S. citizen.

"Wherever you served or however long you served, know that we are forever grateful. None of it was done in vain," said Bishop Schlert.

"We are a grateful nation and we sit here today because of you. Always know what you have done and whatever branch you served – we are deeply grateful," he said.

After the Mass, a reception was sponsored by the St. Thomas More Women's Guild and the Knights of Columbus.

During the reception, Dr. James Goodreau spoke about the Korean War and recognized 20 veterans of the Korean War by presenting them with St. Thomas More medallions.



U.S. veterans who served during the Korean War are honored at St. Thomas More.



U.S. veterans are lauded for their service with applause from the faithful at St. Thomas More.



Dr. James Goodreau presents facts about the Korean War during a reception for U.S. veterans.



Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, center, and clergy at St. Thomas More honor veterans for their sacrifice and service.