

Bishop Schlert Celebrates Christmas Eve Mass at Cathedral



Bishop Alfred Schlert, center, celebrates the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, his first as Bishop of the Diocese of Allentown. Joining him are, from left: Msgr. Francis Schoenauer, pastor of the cathedral; Deacon Robert Snyder of the cathedral; Father Kevin Lonergan, assistant pastor of the cathedral; Deacon William Hassler of the cathedral; Msgr. Victor Finelli (hidden), episcopal master of ceremonies; and Father Achilles Ayaton, in residence at the cathedral. Catholics in the Diocese were invited "Home for Christmas" by the Bishop. In a letter from Bishop Schlert sent to 83,000 homes, in radio commercials, social media posts and on the Diocesan website, Catholics who may not be attending Mass regularly at this time are being invited "home for Christmas." (Photos by John Simitz)

Bishop Alfred Schlert celebrated the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass Dec. 24 at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, his first as Bishop of the Diocese of Allentown.

More photos page 3

Diocesan Priests Inspired by 'Grandeur of God' Hiking the Grand Canyon

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

The beauty of the great outdoors and the spirituality it exudes came into full view for three priests of the Diocese of Allentown who hiked the grandeur of the Grand Canyon this past fall.

Making the trip were Father John Gibbons, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Allentown; Father Patrick Lamb, pastor of Queenship of Mary, Northampton; and Msgr. Thomas Orsulak, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle, Reading.

The trio flew to Arizona Nov. 12, hiked the Grand Canyon Nov. 14-16, and flew back Nov. 17.

Msgr. Orsulak

Msgr. Orsulak said he and Father Gibbons and Father

Please see GRANDEUR page 24 ▶▶



Stopping to share a smile at the Bright Angel Trailhead at the Grand Canyon are, from left, Father Patrick Lamb, Msgr. Thomas Orsulak, Father John Gibbons and Tim DeCapite. (Photos courtesy of Father Patrick Lamb)

Pope: Don't Rush Through Silence at Mass

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The silence that precedes the opening prayer at Mass is an opportunity for Christians to commend to God the fate of the church and the world, Pope Francis said.

Departing from his prepared text at his weekly general audience Jan. 10, the pope urged priests "to observe this brief silence and not hurry."

"I recommend this to the priests. Without this silence, we risk neglecting the reflection of the soul," he said.

Continuing his series of audience talks on the Mass, Pope Francis spoke about the Gloria and the opening prayer.

After the encounter between "human misery and divine mercy" experienced in the penitential rite, the faithful are invited to sing the ancient hymn of praise that was sung by the angels after Christ's birth, the pope said.

"The feelings of praise that run through the hymn," he said, "are intertwined with the confident pleading

Please see SILENCE page 20▶▶

"The Allentown Diocese in the Year of Our Lord"

THE A.D. TIMES

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Churches in Diocese Taking Flu Precautions

In light of the heightened cases of influenza being reported in our five-county area and the change in the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Influenza Status from "sporadic" to "widespread," Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert has directed that the Exchange of the Sign of Peace and the Reception of Holy Communion from the Chalice be suspended.

This suspension began with the Vigil and Sunday Masses the weekend of Jan. 6-7, and will be in effect until further notice is given when the incidence of influenza subsides in our region.

As a pastoral provision, Bishop Schlert allows the option for the Exchange of the Sign of Peace to be exercised for funerals or wedding Masses if the pastor/administrator deems it appropriate. The Reception of Holy Communion from the Chalice is only permitted for priests and deacons during this temporary suspension.

In those parishes where the Reception of Holy Communion is given under both forms, parishes are asked to use this as a catechetical moment to reinforce the

Church's constant teaching that the entire Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ is present in the Sacred Host, and that this reception alone is necessary to receive the graces of the Holy Eucharist, provided one is in the state of grace.

This direction was announced in a Jan. 2 letter to parishes, priests and deacons from Father Keith Mathur, director of the Diocesan Office for Divine Worship.

Thank you for your kind attention and dedicated priestly ministry to the people entrusted to your care.

Catholic Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania Names First Executive Director

Pete Waldron was recently named the first executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania (CFEP). Paul Huck, chairman of the Board of Directors for CFEP, made the announcement.

Waldron comes to CFEP with 30 years of corporate affairs, philanthropy, community involvement, marketing communications and public relations experience. He recently headed up Corporate Citizenship and Philanthropy for CrossAmerica Partners. He also helped create and manage two corporate foundations: Lehigh Gas Foundation and CrossAmerica Partners Foundations.

Prior to CrossAmerica, Waldron worked at Lehigh Gas Corporation. He also served as a national marketing consultant for The Hershey Company; an appointed official for the County of Lehigh; and in editorial, public relations and advertising posts at The Morning Call newspapers.

Waldron has been actively involved in volunteer leadership positions on a variety of nonprofit boards and development committees, and has assisted many Catholic organizations in their fundraising efforts. These include St. Thomas More



Securing the Future of Our Faith.

Parish and School, Allentown; Allentown Central Catholic High School; Mercy School for Special Learning, Allentown; and Mary's Shelter, Bethlehem.

He serves on the board of directors of Mercy; PBS Foundation (secretary); IABC Lehigh Valley (president); Cultural Coalition in Downtown Allentown; and the Pennsylvania Lambda Educational Foundation (president).

He is a graduate of Penn State. Waldron and his wife Terese are parishioners of St. Thomas More, Allentown. They have three grown children: Madaline, Sophia and Andrew.

In naming CFEP's first executive director, Huck said the organization is at an exciting juncture.

"We have experienced remarkable growth in our first four years," said Huck. "We are now ready for the next stage of our development."

"Having been an active part of the local Catholic community his whole life, Pete knows its causes and concerns. The growth and stability of Catholic education is a cause he believes in, along with a concern for Catholic ministries that serve the less fortunate. We are very pleased to have Pete head up the Catholic Founda-

tion and help us grow."

Formed in 2013, CFEP is an independent 501 c 3 nonprofit organization and a separate legal entity from the Diocese of Allentown. It was designed to manage assets, generate perpetual income and provide financial stability for Catholic parishes, educational institutions and ministries in the Diocese of Allentown.

It is governed by an all-volunteer independent Board of Directors currently comprised of seven members with legal, financial, foundation and investment management experience.

The board is self-sustaining, electing new and replacing board members as needed.

In addition to Huck, board members are: Thomas Scalici, vice chairman and acting treasurer; Atty. Beth Dobis Beers, secretary; Edward Meehan; Atty. James Ritter; Janet Roth; and Msgr. Daniel Yenushosky.

CFEP currently manages 20 endowment funds totaling almost \$4 million in assets. Fourteen of those 20 funds benefit educational institutions.

Since its inception, it has distributed approximately \$200,000 to the beneficiaries of the various endowment funds.



Waldron

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.allentowndioocese.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.allentowndioocese.org y haga clic en "Protección de la Juventud" en la parte superior derecha.



Bishop Schlert Celebrates Christmas Eve Mass at Cathedral



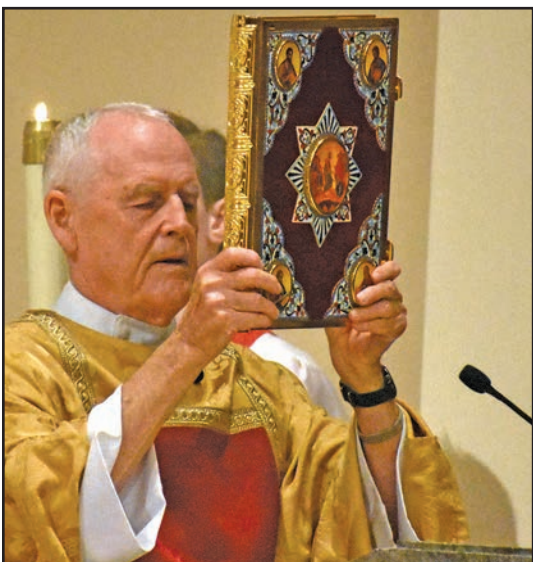
Bishop Alfred Schlert incenses the nativity at the beginning of Mass. "Perhaps for some of the members of your family, it has been a while since they have been home in the Church. Please know that they are genuinely missed, and I welcome them home for Christmas," said Bishop Schlert. "No matter how long since your last visit, you will find your spiritual home ready and waiting to welcome you."



Members of the Cathedral Choir, directed and accompanied by Beverly McDevitt, sing before Mass.



Father Kevin Lonergan sings a hymn with the choir before Mass.



Above, Nathaniel Menezes holds son Benedict while mom Kelly sings in the choir before Mass.

Right, parishioners lift their voices in song during the entrance hymn.

Left, Deacon William Hasler carries the Book of Gospels.



Above, the McCullough family, from left, Anne, James, Kevin and Peter, carry the offertory gifts to Bishop Alfred Schlert.

Left, parishioners listen to the Cathedral Choir sing the recessional hymn at the conclusion of the liturgy.

Additional photo page 1

Diocesan Seminarians Observe Christmas Feast with Bishop and Pastors

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

“Make wise use of your next semester of formation. Continue to pray that the call you feel becomes deeper every day,” said Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, Dec. 29 while commemorating Christmas with Diocesan seminarians preparing for the priesthood and their pastors.

Ten seminarians and four candidates, who will enter St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia next year, gathered with Bishop Schlert to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in a relaxed and festive atmosphere at Lehigh Country Club, Allentown.

Msgr. David James, Diocesan vicar general and director of the Office of Vocations, welcomed the seminarians, candidates and pastors to the luncheon before the men prayed the Liturgy of the Hours.

After the Liturgy of the Hours, Bishop Schlert offered a prayer asking God to help the men live in the example of the “High Priest” Jesus Christ.

“We also ask that you bless our fraternity together. Bless those who are sick and alone, and we ask that you guide us in comforting them with prayer and our work. Help us in this life to be rich examples of the love we have for your Church,” said Bishop Schlert.

In his remarks, Bishop Schlert thanked the men for spending time together and shared why he chose to wear his black cassock, amaranth red sash and pectoral cross signifying the Office of Bishop to the festivity.

“I dress like this out of respect for those I’m hosting. This is how a bishop dresses to see the Holy Father; why wouldn’t I wear it for my own people who mean so much to me? The people under my pastoral care are worth every effort. You are all very important to me, and I want you to understand the shep-



Left, Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, center, talks with seminarian candidate John Bach, left, and Alex Brown, diocesan seminarian during a luncheon celebrating the Christmas Feast. (Photos by John Simitz)



Below, Bishop Schlert, center, celebrates Christmas with seminarians and their pastors along with diocesan officials at Lehigh Country Club.

herd’s responsibility I feel for each one of you,” he said.

“I am very proud of each and every

one of you. I am dedicated to helping you in any way that I can. We need priests. I hold each of you dear in my heart. I mean it when I say I pray for you. It’s my duty and my privilege to pray for all of you.”

He thanked his brother priests for supporting his invitation for people to come “Home for Christmas” to one of the Diocese’s 84 parishes.

“They have to find something when they get home. Thank you for helping them ‘find something,’” said Bishop Schlert.

Bishop Schlert also thanked the pastors and urged seminarians to help people rediscover the joy of being Catholic.

“As seminarians and priests you bring joy to so many, but it also comes with a sacrifice for your families. Please take home to your families that I pray for them and thank them for supporting

your vocation,” he said.

Seminarians attending the luncheon were Alexander Brown, Keaton Eidle, Giuseppe Eposito, Kevin Gembariski, Matt Kuna, Phillip Maas, John Maria, Aaron Scheidel, Jeffrey Tomczyk and Zachary Wehr.

“I am very proud of each and every one of you. I am dedicated to helping you in any way that I can. We need priests. I hold each of you dear in my heart. I mean it when I say I pray for you. It’s my duty and my privilege to pray for all of you.”



Diocesan seminarians, candidates and priests mingle during the luncheon.

All Men Invited to ‘The Man Talk’ Feb. 6

Who does God command you to be? What are the five rules every man must break if he wants to fill his deepest desires and follow God’s commands? Who do you desire to be?



Fradd

These questions and others will be answered at “The Man Talk” Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in McShea Student Center at DeSales University, Center

Valley.

Speaker Matt Fradd will lay out a vision for authentic Catholic masculinity and a plan for how to achieve it.

Following the example of some of history’s greatest and wisest Christian men, he will show how to build the strengths and practice the habits that will make you a true man of God: a man of courage and strength who lives for others, a man who is fully alive.

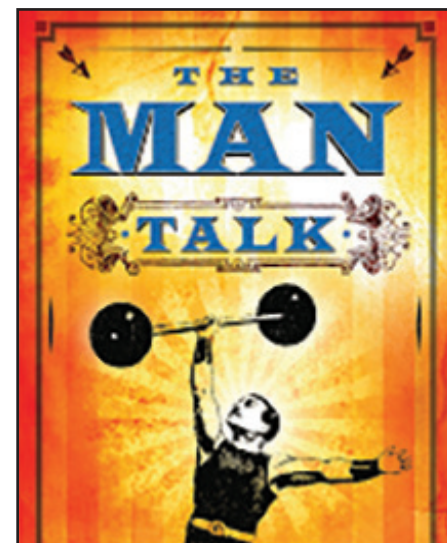
All men are invited to this powerful talk. Fathers are encouraged to bring their high school age sons.

Fradd is a Catholic apologist and chastity speaker. He works with the internet-accountability company Covenant

Eyes, to help protect families from online pornography and assist individuals in overcoming porn addiction.

The free event is being sponsored by the Diocese of Allentown Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization.

Participants are asked to register at www.allentowndiocese.org/family-ministry. For questions, call 610-289-8900, ext. 2028.



Mid-Session Legislative Wrap Up

By A.B. Hill, director of communications of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up-to-date with Catholic news and issues at www.pacatholic.org, www.facebook.com/pacatholic and www.twitter.com/pacatholic.

Here is the status of several high priority bills on the legislative agenda of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

Bills That Made It Through

Several bills made it all the way through the legislative process in 2017. One bright spot in the difficult, prolonged budget debate was a \$10 million expansion of Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) which will benefit more students in Catholic schools.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly took a strong pro-life stand to ban barbaric dismemberment abortions and abortions when the unborn baby is able to feel pain (20 weeks). Both the Senate and the House passed Senate Bill 3 with overwhelming majorities. Unfortunately, Gov. Tom Wolf vetoed the measure and

there was no vote to override.

Wolf did, however, sign House Bill 1139 into law. This law adds fire stations to the safe places where a newborn may be placed without penalty. Police stations and hospitals are safe havens. Incubators will be placed in participating locations to hopefully prevent babies being abandoned in dumpsters or public restrooms.

The legislature reauthorized the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), but not without controversy. An amendment to correct regulations that allow coverage for sex reassignment surgeries for children was taken out of the final bill that went to the governor's desk. The Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association and PCC will look for ways to address this again without compromising a valuable program that has given thousands of children access to health care.

Legislation to address the statewide opioid crisis was signed into law by Wolf. Senate Bill 446 establishes state-regulated minimum quality standards for the licensure of recovery houses that receive funding or referrals from government agencies. This new law is welcomed by the recovery houses operated by many Catholic Charities agencies within Penn-

sylvania's Catholic dioceses.

The governor also signed into law the "Right to Try" to provide terminally ill patients the opportunity to try experimental treatments, such as investigational drugs, biological products and medical devices. It will allow access to treatments that have not been fully approved by U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Issues Left To Do

There is much more work left to do in 2018. Legislation to create Education Savings Accounts (ESA) is being considered. Senate Bill 2 would give families that live in the boundaries of a chronically underperforming school a grant in the amount of the average state funding per pupil if they withdraw their students from public school.

The money could be used only for tuition and expenses in a participating private school, tutors or other education expenses. The money would come out of the local school's state subsidy; unused dollars would return to the local school.

Senate Resolution 174 and House Resolution 609 each condemn the practice of selectively aborting babies with Down syndrome. Although resolutions do not have the force of law, they are useful gestures for raising awareness.

Another resolution, HR 519, con-

demns the free availability of pornography because of the public health hazard it causes to children and families across the Commonwealth. It passed the House Health Committee and should be taken up soon on the House floor.

PCHA is reviewing legislation that would govern the use of POLST (Physician's Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment). Senate Bill 623 and House Bill 1196 similarly outline how and when someone would use a POLST in an end-of-life situation. The concern lies in whether or not a qualifying condition must be present for a POLST order to be signed.

Beyond these moral issues, PCC is tracking legislation that tackles social justice concerns as well. House Bill 1076 would create a land bank of blighted properties and transform them into safe housing for the homeless.

With opioid addiction continuing its terrible toll on every community, more legislation will be considered, including House Bill 825. This bill provides for a central registry of existing emergency drug and alcohol detoxification beds, so health care facilities can better serve people with a substance abuse crisis.

For a list of PCC's positions on specific legislative proposals, visit www.pacatholic.org/legislative-review.

Proper Placement of the Tabernacle

Editor's note: Catholic Q&A is a new regular column in The A.D. Times from the Diocese of Allentown Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization. Please email your questions about the Catholic faith to CLE@allentowndiocese.org. Questions for the column will be chosen from those submitted and answered in the next possible issue. Questions may be edited for space, clarity or other considerations. Questioners must include their name and town or parish, but questions will be published anonymously.

Question: I have seen the tabernacle sometimes in the center of the sanctuary, other times off on a side altar and occasionally in a chapel. Where is the best placement of the tabernacle and does the Diocese of Allentown have specific guidelines?

Answer: Thank you for your question regarding the proper placement of the tabernacle. The tabernacle finds its

placement in several locations within the Diocese of Allentown and the Universal Church: from side altars, to center altars, and to separate chapels of reservation.

The question "Where is the appropriate placement of the Blessed Sacrament?" becomes an interesting and important question in the lives of the faithful of the Diocese.

The Code of Canon Law explains that "The tabernacle in which the Blessed Eucharist is reserved should be placed in a distinguished location in a church or oratory, a place which is conspicuous, suitably adorned and conducive to prayer."

Furthermore, the Sacred Congregation for Rites clarified in 1964 just after the Second Vatican Council that the "Blessed Sacrament is to be reserved in a secure tabernacle in the center of the high altar or another altar if this is really outstanding and distinguished."

Generally speaking, in the Diocese of Allentown, the Office for Divine Worship encourages the placement of the Blessed Sacrament in the center of the church as



a powerful witness that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life."

The three key criteria of: 1) conspicuous – standing out so as to be noticed, 2) suitably adorned – made of noble metal, and 3) conducive to prayer – reserved in a quiet location, usually is met with the placement on the center altar other than the altar of sacrifice.

At this time, the Diocese is not requiring or mandating churches to move their tabernacles to the center altar from a side altar; however, if the tabernacle is currently in the center, it would be best to keep the tabernacle in that location and not move it to a side altar.

If a church in the Diocese of Allentown is undergoing a renovation and the

tabernacle is currently on a side altar, the church would be encouraged to relocate the tabernacle to the center altar at that time.

At times, there has been a call in the Church to place the Blessed Sacrament in a separate chapel. Generally, this is most appropriate in large basilicas and cathedrals where numerous pilgrims visit and the placement of the Blessed Sacrament in a separate chapel allows for a place conducive to prayer while the church itself may have visitors walking around on tours looking at the historic architecture of the building.

In the Diocese of Allentown, this is not usually the case. Therefore, a separate chapel for the Blessed Sacrament is not necessary.

What Happens to Us After We Die?

Question: I would really like to know the truth about what happens to us after we die?

Answer: Thank you for your question about the afterlife. The Church teaches what is known as the Four Last Things: death, judgement, Heaven, and Hell.

Death is understood to be the separation of the soul, which is immortal, from the body. The soul yearns for the body, and the body ceases to have life and deteriorates without the soul. During the Creed we profess a belief in the "Resurrection of the Body," which is the rejoining of our bodies and souls at the end of time.

Of judgement there are two kinds: particular and general.

Upon death, we enter into our particular judgement, which is based on our works and faith. This particular judgement directs us to one of three places:

Heaven, Hell or Purgatory. Those who enter Heaven or Hell have reached their final destination, which will not change. Those souls in Purgatory, though they suffer purgation, can have joy because they are guaranteed the final destination of Heaven.

The final or general judgement will take place at the end of time, when all souls will be rejoined with their bodies. At this judgement, those in the state of Purgatory will be joined to the blessed in Heaven.

"Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness" (CCC 1024).

In Heaven, the Blessed (Saints) definitively share in the life of God and will behold the Beatific Vision, the vision and contemplation of God in His glory. Though the Church teaches what is revealed about Heaven, she also recognizes

that the life of the Blessed is beyond all understanding and description.

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Hell is the state of those who have freely chosen to not love God. Our earthly lives, and actions therein, define this free decision. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes Hell as the "state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed" (CCC 1033).

No person is predestined for Hell, but a person may freely exclude himself/herself from Heaven by refusing to repent of mortal sin. His/her punishment is the direct result of his/her decision, made by the actions of his/her earthly life (there is no second chance after death), which is mainly the eternal separation from God.

Union with God is what man was created for, and as long as man is separated

from this union, he/she is left unfulfilled. The souls in Hell will never reach fulfillment, only emptiness, because they have decided to definitively refuse to seek this fulfillment in God, but rather in things.

Purgatory is not listed among the last things because there will eventually be no souls in Purgatory, but this does not mean that Purgatory doesn't exist.

"All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (CCC 1030).

More information on this topic can be found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 1020 to 1060 (Part 1, Article 12) or the more easily readable United States Catechism for Adults, Chapter 13.

You're Invited

PLEASE
join us



**SAINT ELIZABETH REGIONAL SCHOOL
ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Permit #0053R17

Come out and help us kick-off Catholic Schools week while enjoying all you can eat spaghetti & desserts, a 50/50 raffle and a Special Basket Raffle by First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association!

Where: St. Elizabeth Parish Hall

When: Saturday, January 27, 2018

Seating Times: 4:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.



Cost: Advance Tickets: Adult (12 and older) \$9.00
Child (ages 5-12) \$7.00
Children under 5 are FREE

At the Door: Adult (12 and older) \$10.00
Child (ages 5-12) \$8.00
Children under 5 are FREE

Ticket orders can be sent to St. Elizabeth Regional School:
433 Pershing Blvd., Whitehall PA 18052. Please include Name,
Seating Time and # of people in your party.

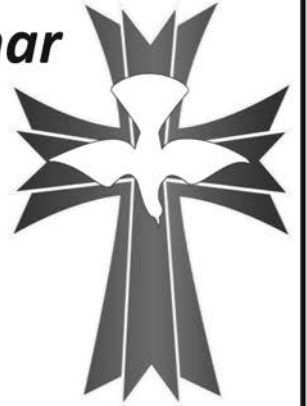
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Contact Mrs. Celeste Dee at 917-251-9696 or email
celestede05@gmail.com with any questions.

Please make checks payable: **St. Elizabeth Regional School**

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Lenten/ Easter Season*

Life in the Spirit Seminar



7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Catherine of Siena

1825 West Turner Street,
Allentown, PA

**Dates: January 24, January 31
February 7, February 21, February 28
March 7, March 14, and March 21 (Snow Date)**

Join us for this 7-week session on the charisms of the Holy Spirit. This seminar is designed to help prepare us for the "new evangelization" and "missionary spirit" to which Pope Francis is calling us.

For Information and to register, please contact Jeff Kriebel
610.217.1739 Email: lifeinthespirtad@gmail.com

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January-February Catholic School Open House Dates

The following Catholic schools of the Diocese of Allentown will offer open houses starting during Catholic Schools week, Sunday, Jan. 28 through Saturday, Feb. 3.

For more information about the schools, including contact information and directions, visit the Diocese of Allentown website at www.allentowndioocese.org/index.php/education/about-catholic-education.

Saturday, Jan. 27

Lehigh County

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: Notre Dame of Bethlehem School.

Sunday, Jan. 28

Berks County

9 a.m.-1 p.m.: Immaculate Conception Academy, Douglassville.

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Holy Guardian Angels Regional School, Reading.

10 a.m.-noon: St. Ignatius Loyola Regional School, Sinking Spring.

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: St. Margaret School, Reading.

10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: St. Catharine of Siena School, Reading.

11 a.m.-1 p.m.: Sacred Heart School, West Reading.

11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m.: St. Francis Academy, Bally.

2-4 p.m.: Berks Catholic High School, Reading.

Carbon County

10 a.m.-1 p.m.: St. John Neumann Regional School, Slatington and Palmerton campuses.

Lehigh County

9 a.m.-1 p.m.: St. Joseph the Worker School, Orefield.

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: St. Ann School, Emmaus.

10:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: St. Thomas More School, Allentown.

10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: St. Elizabeth Regional School, Whitehall.

11 a.m.-noon: St. Michael the Archangel School, Middle School Open House (Grades 5-8), Bethlehem.

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: St. John Vianney School, Middle School Showcase, Allentown.

Northampton County

10 a.m.-noon: Notre Dame High School, Easton.

10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Holy Family School, Nazareth.

10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Bethlehem.

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Good Shepherd Regional School, Northampton.

10:45 a.m.-1 p.m.: St. Theresa School, Hellertown.

11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: Immaculate Conception School, Pen Argyl.

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: St. Anne School, Bethlehem.

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: Notre Dame of Bethlehem School.

Noon-1 p.m.: Sacred Heart School, Bath.

Noon-2 p.m.: St. Jane School, Easton.

Schuylkill County

9 a.m.-1 p.m.: St. Ambrose School, Schuylkill Haven.

11 a.m.-1 p.m.: St. Jerome Regional School, Tamaqua.

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Assumption BVM School, Pottsville.

Monday, Jan. 29

Berks County

9-11 a.m.: Sacred Heart, West Reading.

Lehigh County

9-11:30 a.m.: St. John Vianney School, Elementary School Showcase, Allentown.

9:30-11 a.m.: St. Michael the Archangel School, Elementary School Open House (Grades PreK-4), Coopersburg.

Tuesday, Jan. 30

Lehigh County

9-11:30 a.m.: St. John Vianney School, Allentown.

Northampton County

9-11 a.m.: St. Jane School, Easton.

Thursday, Feb. 1

Lehigh County

5-6:30 p.m.: St. John Vianney School, Allentown.

Northampton County

8:30-10 a.m.: Holy Infancy School, Bethlehem.

5-6:30 p.m.: St. Jane School, Easton.

Sunday, Feb. 4

Lehigh County

10:30 a.m.-noon: St. Michael the Archangel School, Elementary School Open House (Grades PreK-4), Coopersburg.

Sunday, Feb. 11

Lehigh County

2-4 p.m.: Allentown Central Catholic High School.

Deaths

Religious sisters

Sister Rose Maxine Babula, 73, of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of St. Francis died Jan. 1 at St. Joseph Villa, Reading.

She served as an elementary teacher, superior and principal, in the Diocese of Allentown at Mount Alvernia High School and St. Joseph Villa, Reading, and Sacred Heart, West Reading. She also served in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and in Connecticut, Delaware,

Maryland, Massachusetts and New Jersey.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 6 at Sacred Heart Convent Chapel, Reading, followed by burial in the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters' cemetery, Mount Alvernia, Reading.

Sister Mary Teresa Carmichael (formerly Sister Eucharist), 93, a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 71 years, died Dec. 28 at Assisi House, Aston.

She ministered primarily in health care and later congregational ministries, in the Diocese of Allentown at St. Joseph

Hospital School of Nursing, Reading. She also served in the Archdioceses of Philadelphia and Baltimore, Maryland, and the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 2 at Assisi House, with burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery, Aston.

Sister Rita Marie Burian (formerly Sister Paul Marita), 83, a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 56 years, died Jan. 8 in Assisi House, Aston.

She was born in Allentown, where she was a parishioner of Sacred Heart Parish and a graduate of Allentown Central

Catholic High School.

Sister served primarily in elementary education. In the Diocese of Allentown she served six years, teaching at Most Blessed Sacrament School, Bally and Holy Ghost School, Bethlehem.

She also served in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for 49 years. She moved to Assisi House in 2016.

Surviving is a sister, Marita Beers, a niece and a nephew.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 11 a.m. at Assisi House, with burial in Our Lady of the Angels Cemetery, Aston.



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ALL FAITHS WELCOME



Seminar to Discuss 'The Beauty of Love'

Everyone is invited to join the Diocesan Office of Adult Formation for the last of several "Theology of the Body" seminars, rescheduled from December.

"The Beauty of Love" will take place Saturday, Feb. 3 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Religious Education Building of St. Mary Parish, Kutztown.

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

This seminar is for anyone recognizing the need for a restored relationship with God, others and the created world.

Cost is \$20 per person. Register at www.allentowndioocese.org/icf. For questions, email adultformation@allentowndioocese.org or call 610-289-8900, ext. 2021.

MARCH FOR LIFE, WASHINGTON, D.C. BUS INFORMATION FRIDAY, JAN. 19

Parish	Departure Location	Time of Departure	Price	Contact	E-mail	Phone
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Bethlehem	7:30 a.m.	\$20 adults \$10 children	Tony Saldutti	Tsaldutti99@gmail.com	
Assumption BVM	Bethlehem	7 a.m.	\$25 adults \$100 family	Lisa Temple	Lisa_temple3@yahoo.com	281-507-8912
St. Jane Frances de Chantal	Easton		\$10 per person \$20 family	Sue Stigliano	stig-1@rcn.com	610-253-0510
Holy Family	Nazareth		\$15 per person \$25 family	Rich and Barb Voloshen	rbvolo@gmail.com	610-365-2100
Immaculate Conception BVM	Douglassville	8 a.m.	\$32 adults \$16 youth	Angela Peterson	icc_march4life@windstream.net	610-582-6993
St. Ignatius Loyola	Sinking Spring	8:30 a.m.	\$32 adults \$16 youth	Angela Peterson	icc_march4life@windstream.net	610-582-6993
St. Joseph the Worker	Orefield	7 a.m.	\$10 per person	Sue Mueller	Suemueller45@gmail.com	610-392-2957
Sacred Heart	Bath	7:30 a.m.	\$20 adults \$10 child No more than \$30 per family	Karen Brynildsen	nannybepop@ptd.net	610-762-2122
St. Thomas More	Allentown	8 a.m.	\$20 adults \$10 children	Tony Saldutti	tsaldutti99@gmail.com	
St. Benedict	Mohnton	7:45 a.m.	Free will offering	Parish office	stbenedict2020@dejazzd.com	610-856-1006
St. Ambrose	Schuylkill Haven	St. Ambrose 6 a.m., Cabela's parking lot 6:15 a.m.	\$50	Dana Seisler or Heather Smalley	dana.seisler@gmail.com	484-645-5613 570-573-3262
St. Columbkil	Boyertown	7 a.m.	\$50 adults \$25 students (includes dinner)	Candee Holzman	candeeh@stcolumbkil.org	484-431-2085
St. Joseph, Summit Hill	Nesquehoning	6 a.m.	\$25		lisasjpv@gmail.com nanberchtold@yahoo.com	570-645-2664 570-732-4001

Local prayer opportunities for those who cannot attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C.:

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Roseto will be offering a Family Holy Hour with a Sanctity of Life Reflection on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018 at 1 p.m.
- Sacred Heart, Bethlehem will be offering an Evening Prayer Service with Eucharistic Adoration and speaker on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018 – More details to follow.
- St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton will be offering Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, Jan. 19, 2018 after the 8:15 a.m. Mass ending with Benediction at 5 p.m.

Plenary Indulgence Available for Participants in Events Surrounding March for Life

Pope Francis has made available a Plenary Indulgence to participants in the events surrounding the March for Life, which will take place in Archdiocese of Washington and the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia next Thursday and Friday, Jan. 18 and 19.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines an indulgence as “a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions.”

An indulgence may be applied to both the living and the dead.

To gain this Plenary Indulgence, a person must go to confession, receive Holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the pope and take part in the events surrounding this year's March for Life.

Furthermore, the aged, sick and those truly unable to leave home to attend the March for Life events in the Washington area may also obtain the Plenary Indulgence by spiritually joining themselves to the 2018 March for Life ceremonies with the intention of fulfilling the other conditions as soon as possible.

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Spotlight on Seminarians for the Diocese of Allentown

Zachary Wehr, Third 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.

I entered the seminary after attending East Stroudsburg University for two years. From as early as I can remember, being a priest was always something that I thought was a possibility. After much prayer and discernment, I entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary because I believed that God was calling me to serve the Church and his people as a priest.

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

My family and friends are the most important people I have in my life. Each member of my family has supported and encouraged me in my vocation in their own particular way.

My mother, father, sister and grandparents have inspired me to continue on my journey toward the priesthood.

My extended family and friends from high school have also been a great support.

Finally, I would be remiss not to mention my brother seminarians. They have been both a great support and inspiration for me during my time in the seminary.

What are some of your interests or hobbies?

There are a few things that I enjoy doing in my free time. I have recently

picked up two new hobbies which I really enjoy: skiing in the winter months and playing golf in the warmer months.

I also enjoy cooking and spending time with my family and friends. I have always enjoyed being outdoors, so when I have the chance I still like to go hiking and camping.

What is life like as a seminarian?

The life of a seminarian is hard to explain in a few sentences.

We begin each day with Morning Prayer and Mass followed by class. In the afternoon we have time to work out, work on assignments and get involved with different groups/clubs at the seminary.

We gather each day before dinner to pray Evening Prayer. While praying is not the only thing that we do in a day's time, it is the most important. Being a seminarian means being in daily conversation with God.

The "community" aspect of the seminary is one of the greatest aspects of seminary life. There is a deep bond of friendship and fraternity that is fostered through our daily prayer and interactions with one another.

I am unbelievably grateful for my brothers here at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. I have made great friends, many of whom I would have never met had I not entered the seminary.

I thank God for my seminary experience up to this point and can't wait to see the great plans that God has in store for me and my brother seminarians.



Zachary Wehr, right, diocesan seminarian, spends time with his sister, Emily, during a ski trip.

Culture of Encounter: Family Holy Hours

The Office of Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry is partnering with 12 parishes in each deanery to offer a monthly Eucharistic holy hour specifically for families from November 2017 through October 2018.

Bring your whole family to encounter Christ. Stay for a few minutes or for the whole hour. Babies, toddlers, children, teens, young adults, and adults are all welcome.

Prayer resources will be provided for both children and adults in English and Spanish. Some Holy Hours will provide an opportunity for silent prayer, while others will have planned prayer services. Holy Hours at parishes with a large His-

panic population will be bilingual.

Pick up a postcard at the parish for the schedule, or visit www.allentowndiocese.org/encounter. To sign up for text message reminders, text your Deanery's code to 81010: @BerksFHH, @LehighFHH, @NorthFHH, @SchuylCar.

Upcoming holy hours in January and February are:

Berks Deanery – Sunday, Feb. 25, 1 p.m., St. John Baptist de la Salle, 420 Holland St., Shillington.

Northampton Deanery – Sunday, Jan. 21, 1 p.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 560 N. Sixth St., Bangor; Sunday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m., St. Anthony of Padua, 900 Washington St., Easton.

Lehigh Deanery – Sunday, Jan. 28, 11:15 a.m., Assumption BVM, 2181 Washington Ave., Northampton; Sunday, Feb. 18, 11:30 a.m., Annunciation BVM, 122 W. Union St., Catasauqua.

Schuylkill-Carbon Deaneries – Sunday, Jan. 28, noon, Sacred Heart, 259 Lafayette Ave., Palmerton; Sunday, Feb. 11, 12:30 p.m., St. Joseph at St. Ann, 49 N. Line St., Frackville.

Cultura del Encuentro: Horas Santas Familiares

La Oficina de Juventud, Adultos Jóvenes y Ministerio de Familia se ha asociado con las doce parroquias en cada decanato para ofrecer mensualmente una Hora Santa de Adoración Eucarística específicamente para las familias desde noviembre de 2017 hasta octubre de 2018.

Traiga a toda su familia al encuentro de Cristo. Quédese unos minutos o durante toda la hora. Bebés, niños pequeños, niños, adolescentes, adultos jóvenes

y adultos son bienvenidos.

Se proporcionarán recursos de oración para niños y adultos en inglés y español. Algunas Horas Santas brindarán una oportunidad para la oración silenciosa, mientras que otras tendrán servicios de oración planificados. Las horas santas en las parroquias con una gran población hispana serán bilingües.

Recoja una postal en la parroquia para el horario, o visite www.allentowndiocese.org/encounter.



The Nov. 26 holy hour for families at St. Paul Church, Allentown.

Switch to an Online Subscription

To transfer your print subscription of The A.D. Times to instead receive an email notification with a link to each new issue posted on the diocesan website, send the following information to adtimes@allentowndiocese.org: Email address, name, address, parish, daytime phone number and subscriber number.

Courage and EnCourage groups

Persons with same-sex attraction have always been with us. There is now formal outreach from the Catholic Church in the way of support groups and information for such persons. The Diocese of Allentown conducts Courage group meetings

monthly for those dealing with this issue.

Does a member of your family have same-sex attraction? Are you having difficulty dealing with the issue? Encourage is a ministry of the Catholic Church giving faithful witness to Catholic teaching

with compassion. Group meetings are held monthly in the Diocese of Allentown.

For more information on Courage and EnCourage: 610-334-9147 or www.courage.org.

Forty Hours Help Inspire Vocations at Allentown Central Catholic

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

"Years of grace have been poured out upon our school through the blessing of Forty Hours. Graces flowing down like a waterfall in abundance from the throne of our King have blessed this family and our students in so many ways, and inspired them to seek to live out heroic vocations," Father Mark Searles, chaplain of Allentown Central Catholic High School (ACCHS), said in his homily at the closing of the Dec. 14-15 Forty Hours at the school.

"Several men have been called to be courageous soldiers and sharers in the sacred priesthood of Jesus Christ, bringing that same Eucharist to hungry and lost souls," Father Searles said.

"Several women have called to be heroic missionaries, carrying the grace and love they received in this family into the world as religious sisters, brides of Christ testifying to his infinite love.

"And many men and women who truly encountered Christ in the Eucharistic heart of this school have entered into the profound unity of the sacrament of marriage where they can share the love they have found in Jesus and send their own children back to join us at ACCHS."



Father Mark Searles prays with students before the Blessed Sacrament Dec. 15 during the close of Forty Hours at Allentown Central Catholic High School (ACCHS) (Photos by John Simitz)

"So many of our young people who have gone on to the priesthood and religious life have said that they received an affirmation of their vocation sitting in front of the Blessed Sacrament at Forty Hours," said Mary Ellen Strohl, ACCHS campus ministry retreat coordinator.

Father John Rother, assistant pastor of St. Catharine of Siena, Reading, and Father Brendan Laroche, assistant pastor of Holy Infancy, Bethlehem, are the newest priests who graduated from ACCHS, and Philip Maas is a seminarian.

Religious sisters who have graduated from the school and entered the Sisters of Christian Charity (SCC) are: Sister Elizabeth Kovacs (Elizabeth Kovacs); Sister Marie Jose (Sara de la Rosa); Sister Maria Angeline (Rachel Weiss) and Sister Josephine (Lauren Wagner).

Sister Immaculata Marie (Marie Policare) is a Dominican Sister of St. Cecilia (OP), having entered the Nashville Dominicans.

Father Searles

"My own vocation was nourished with the Eucharist when I was in high school," said Father Searles. "Our youth group prayed in front of the tabernacle, speaking to the Lord from our hearts in silence and with beautiful music to give him thanks and praise.

"Even though we didn't know at the time the Lord was molding and shaping our hearts, and my own was being conformed in some small ways to have the courage to follow the path towards the priesthood."

Father Searles recalled St. Faustina said, "Holy Communion assures me

that I will win the victory; and so it is. The bread of the Strong gives me all the strength I need to carry on my mission and to do whatever the Lord asks of me."

"The Bread of the Strong and the Bread of Life is what makes Central Catholic a mighty Viking Nation and a family with a Eucharistic heart," Father Searles said.

"We are so blessed and praised by Jesus Christ that we try to teach every single one of our kids that they are loved and called to share Christ's love in the world. I believe that because of Forty Hours, they will share that love and continue to grow in it long after their time here on Fourth and Chew streets in Allentown."

Strohl

Strohl explained Forty Hours began 15 years ago when Father Frans Berkhout was principal of ACCHS. He had placed Strohl and John Gribowich, now a priest in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, in charge of campus ministry "with a directive to work on increasing our Catholic identity."

"Father Berkhout felt that it was essential that a Catholic high school student graduate with a proper understanding of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confession," she said.

Father Berkhout is now assistant pastor of St. Jerome, Largo, Florida.

"We know that students learn best through experience. Father Gribowich proposed an experience of Forty Hours, a two-day retreat for our students. This retreat would be appealing

to young people with activities and guest speakers that would really engage adolescents. Adoration has become an essential part of an ACCHS student's spiritual formation ever since," Strohl said.

"Adoration involves the whole person, involves all of our senses: the candles, the monstrance, the music, the incense, prayer, kneeling. A student's entire body and mind is asked to respond. They respond to the silence so beautifully."

Father John Gribowich

Father Gribowich, former ACCHS faculty member, was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Brooklyn in 2015 and is assistant pastor of St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Jamaica, Queens, New York.

"The key thing about adoration is trying to be counter-cultural in a noisy

"The key thing about adoration is trying to be counter cultural in a noisy world. The Church offers this to us to strengthen the Body of Christ."



Above, Sisters of Life (SV) Sister Gianna Maria speaks during the closing of Forty Hours. A native of Delaware, she works in the Bronx, New York in vocations ministry in the postulant house.

Right, Sister alumnae and students gather in Rockne Hall for Eucharistic Adoration.



Please see VOCATIONS page 22 ▶▶

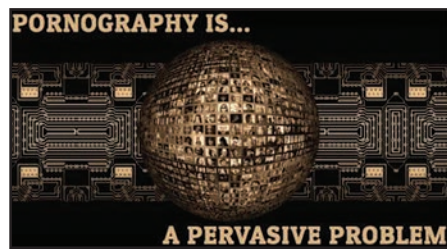
'Parenting the Internet Generation' to Help Protect Families from Pornography

Pornography is a pervasive problem today for people of all ages, especially teens. However, many parents aren't sure how to protect their families, beyond using traditional internet filters.

These topics will be addressed in "Parenting the Internet Generation," a special presentation Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at the University Center of DeSales University, Center Valley.

Speaker Matt Fradd will offer parents a detailed look at the way pornography harms us and offer practical strategies that parents need to implement to protect their children from the lies of an oversexualized culture.

Fradd is a Catholic apologist and chastity speaker. He works with the internet-accountability company Covenant Eyes, to help protect families from online por-



nography and assist individuals in overcoming porn addiction.

The free event is being sponsored by the Diocese of Allentown Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization.

Participants are asked to register at www.allentowndiocese.org/family-ministry. For questions, call 610-289-8900, ext. 2028.

'Faith and Spirits' to Discuss Shroud

What is the Shroud of Turin? Where does it come from? What can relics like this tell us about Christ?

These questions and more will be discussed during "Faith and Spirits" Monday, Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at P.J. Whelihan's Pub, 1101 Rocky Road, West Lawn.

The informal discussion will be presented by Sister Rose Mulligan of Immaculata University.

"Faith and Spirits" was created by the Diocesan Office of Adult Formation to provide a forum for all adult Catholics to learn more about their faith in a com-

fortable setting. It is offered at various locations throughout the Diocese with a variety of engaging speakers and intriguing topics.

All adults are welcome. There is no charge for attending and no registration is required. There will be menus available for ordering food and drink at your expense.

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.

Salesian Center to Host 13th Heritage Week

The Salesian Center for Faith and Culture will host the 13th annual Heritage Week at DeSales University, Center Valley, a series of events celebrating the legacy of St. Francis de Sales, patron of DeSales University.

The week will begin Sunday, Jan. 21 at 8 p.m. with Mass of St. Francis de Sales in Connelly Chapel. Guest homilist will be Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert.

Monday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. in the DeSales University Center, special guest speaker for the biomedical ethics forum will be Yvonne Florczak-Seeman, author, anti-abortion activist and educator. The topic of discussion will be "The Dignity of Woman, I Am Pro-Woman," recognizing the 45th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision Roe v Wade.

Ellen Kraft, Esq., active member of the Northampton County and Pennsylvania Bar Associations, will speak at the Law and Society Forum in the University Center, Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m.

The University Center will be the site of the Town Hall on Social Communications Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.,

featuring Patrick Novecosky, publicist, author, journalist and communicator. He will speak about "Finding Truth in a World of Fake News."

The week will close Thursday, Jan. 25 at 8 p.m. in the University Center with the R. Wayne and Joan Kraft Memorial Lecture. Special guest Father Thomas Kevin Kraft will discuss the influence of St. Francis de Sales in the married spirituality of Elisabeth Leseur.

All events are free and open to the public. No tickets are required.

For more information, contact the Salesian Center at 610-282-1100, ext. 1244 or visit www.desales.edu/salesian.

Established in 2000, the Salesian Center for Faith and Culture's mission is to promote the interaction of faith and culture in a mutually beneficial engagement, through academic initiatives that focus on the authentic integration of social concerns and gospel values.

The center supports intellectual activity in research studies, dialogue events including public forums and lectures, and partnership programs.

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Thursday, February 1st Robin & Jim 7-10 p.m.

Thursday, February 8th The Chase Band 7-10 p.m.

Thursday, February 15th Michael Sherer 7-10 p.m.

Thursday, February 22nd Kato 7-10 p.m.

HERITAGE WEEK

January 21 to 25, 2018

A celebration of the legacy of St. Francis de Sales, Patron of DeSales University

Missionary preacher, ecumenical reformer, bishop of Geneva, renowned spiritual director, author of religious classics, founder of a religious order, patron of the deaf ... the exemplary life of **ST. FRANCIS DE SALES (1567-1622)** remains a spiritual treasure in the history of the Church.

Heritage Week at DeSales University celebrates the legacy of our patron saint by highlighting those facets of his life that correspond with academic areas in which faith and culture continue to be engaged in today's world.

Sunday, January 21
Celebrating the Bishop of Geneva
MASS OF ST. FRANCIS de SALES
Guest celebrant and homilist:
THE MOST REVEREND ALFRED SCHLERT, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of the Diocese of Allentown
8:00 p.m., Connelly Chapel

Monday, January 22
Celebrating the Christian Humanist
FORUM ON BIOMEDICAL ETHICS
On The Dignity of Woman
The 45th anniversary of Roe vs Wade
Featuring **YVONNE FLORCZAK-SEEMAN**
7:00 p.m., DeSales University Center

Tuesday, January 23
Celebrating the Cathedral Provost
SEMINAR ON LAW & SOCIETY
On Legal Ethics
featuring **ELLEN KRAFT, Esquire**
7:00 p.m., DeSales University Center

Wednesday, January 24
Celebrating the Patron of Journalists
TOWN HALL ON SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS
On Fake News
featuring **PATRICK NOVECOSKY**
7:00 p.m., DeSales University Center

Thursday, January 25
Celebrating the Doctor of the Church
THE R. WAYNE & JOAN KRAFT MEMORIAL LECTURE
Featuring **FR. THOMAS KEVIN KRAFT, OP**
8:00 p.m., DeSales University Center

ALL THE EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. NO TICKETS ARE REQUIRED.

For more information, please call 610.282.1100, ext. 1244, or visit www.desales.edu/salesian



DESALLES UNIVERSITY



THE SALESIAN CENTER FOR FAITH AND CULTURE

Death

Msgr. Joseph Dooley, Pastor Emeritus of St. Rocco, Martins Creek

Msgr. Joseph Dooley, 91, pastor emeritus of St. Rocco Church, Martins Creek, died Dec. 26 at Holy Family Manor, Bethlehem.



Born in Sharon Hill, Msgr. Dooley was the son of the late Daniel and Barbara (Boyle) Dooley. He was preceded in death by his brother, Father Daniel Dooley.

Msgr. Dooley attended Holy Spirit Elementary School, Sharon Hill; Sharon Hill Public School; and St. James Catholic High School, Chester. He later attended St. Philip Neri School for Delayed Vocations, Massachusetts, followed by St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, where he received a bachelor of arts degree.

He was ordained to the priesthood

May 10, 1956 by Archbishop of Philadelphia John O'Hara at Immaculate Conception Church, Germantown.

Msgr. Dooley's first priestly assignment was assistant pastor of the former St. Canicus Church, Mahanoy City, followed by assistant pastor, SS. Simon and Jude Church, Bethlehem, and assistant pastor, St. John Baptist de la Salle Church, Shillington.

Msgr. Dooley's first pastoral assignment was at the former St. Patrick Church, McAdoo. He was then named pastor, Immaculate Conception Church, Jim Thorpe, followed by pastor, St. Catharine of Siena Church, Mount Penn, and later to pastor, St. Rocco Church, Martins Creek.

Msgr. Dooley retired June 17, 2003 and was named pastor emeritus of St. Rocco, with residence at St. Joseph the Worker Rectory, Orefield.

Msgr. Dooley was named Prelate of Honor by His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, on

March 14, 1977.

During the course of his priestly ministry, Msgr. Dooley served as chaplain, Newman Club, Moravian College, Bethlehem; regional vocation director, Berks County; regional director, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Carbon County; diocesan director, St. Vincent de Paul Society; member, Diocesan Board of Education; regional director, Advisory Board, Social Action Bureau, Carbon County; regional director, Family Life Bureau, Carbon County; regional director, Holy Name Societies, Carbon County; regional director, Vocations Apostolate, Carbon County; member, Pius X High School Budget Board; Advisory Board member, Pius X High School; and president, Advisory Board, Pius X High School.

Vigil Service for Msgr. Dooley was held Jan. 2. Homilist was Msgr. Edward Sacks, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Bethlehem. Msgr. Daniel Yenusosky, vicar forane of the Le-

high Deanery and pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Whitehall, presided.

Mass of Christian Burial for Msgr. Dooley was celebrated Jan. 3 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Bethlehem by Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert.

Homilist was Father Bernard Ezaki, assistant pastor of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church, Easton.

Main concelebrants were Bishop Emeritus of Allentown Edward Cullen; Msgr. David James, vicar general; Msgr. Gerald Gobitas, secretary for clergy, chancellor and rector, Holy Family Villa; Msgr. Sacks; Father Joseph Kweder, administrator of St. Rocco; Father Anthony Drouncheck, chaplain of Holy Family Manor, Bethlehem; Father E. Michael Camilli, senior priest at Holy Guardian Angels Church, Reading and spiritual director of Holy Family Villa, Bethlehem; and Father Ezaki.

Interment took place in Holy Savior Cemetery, Bethlehem.

Death

Deacon John Allison, Served in Chaplaincy Programs

Deacon John Allison, 90, of Reading died Dec. 16.

Surviving are his loving wife of 45 years, Barbara (Plank) Allison; a son, John (and Noreen) Allison Jr.; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Mary (Correnti) Allison.

Deacon Allison was ordained to the



permanent diaconate Oct. 16, 1982 by Bishop of Allentown Joseph McShea in the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown.

Bishop McShea assigned him to the

Chaplaincy Program, St. Joseph's Hospital, Reading, and to St. Paul Church, Reading. He was later assigned to the Chaplaincy Program,

Wernersville State Hospital, Wernersville, and to SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Reading, where he served until his retirement in July 2011.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrat-

ed Dec. 22 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Reading. Msgr. Thomas Orsulak was principal celebrant.

Burial was in Gethsemane Cemetery after the Mass.



**ENCUENTRO DIOCESANO
CAMINO AL**

**V ENCUENTRO NACIONAL
DE PASTORAL HISPANA/LATINA**

FECHA: 10 DE FEBRERO, 2018

**LUGAR: PARROQUIA ST. MARY, KUTZTOWN
14833 Kutztown Rd, Kutztown, PA 19530**

HORA: 9:00 AM A 2:00 PM

¿QUIÉN ESTÁ INVITADO?

Delegados parroquiales del V ENCUENTRO que han participado de las 5 sesiones, el Encuentro Parroquial y/o representantes invitados de la Oficina de Asuntos Hispánicos.



PARA MAYOR INFORMACIÓN
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**Próximo Encuentro Regional
de HOMBRES DEL REINO**

**Miércoles 24 de enero, 2018
Iniciando con la Santa Misa a las 7P.M.**

Presentador: : **Rev. George Winne**

Tema: **"Regresar a la casa del Padre"**

*"Volveré donde mi padre y le diré:
Padre, he pecado contra Dios y contra ti"
(Lc 15,18).*

**PARROQUIA: SAGRADO CORAZÓN
336 N.4th St. Allentown, PA 18102**

Contactos: 484-764-0679 -610-730-5213
Oficina de Asuntos Hispánicos: 610-289-8900 ext. 2025

"Sean santos, porque yo soy santo". (1 Pe. 1, 16)

¡TE ESPERAMOS!



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The Peace Light Continues to Burn Brightly at Notre Dame of Bethlehem

Msgr. Thomas Baddick, pastor of Notre Dame of Bethlehem Church, received the "Peace Light" during a school Mass Dec. 8.

"What a journey it took," he said, "traveling from Bethlehem in the Holy Land to Catasauqua Road in Bethlehem."

Since 2002 a child from Austria gets the "Peace Light" from the Grotto of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The light is carried in two blast-proof miners' lamps on an Austrian Airlines jet from Tel Aviv, Israel to Vienna, Austria. From there, it is distributed across Europe, and eventually to New York City.

Then it goes to various organizations, especially the Boy Scouts of America, who spread it throughout the country leading up to Christmas.

Notre Dame has received the Peace Light the past 10 years, thanks to Jim Sorenson, a Scout Leader and father of Notre Dame School science teacher Cathy Schneible. He faithfully makes the journey to New York to receive the Light.

At the school Mass third-grader and Cub Scout Ethan Whalen had the honors of carrying the Peace Light in the entrance processional.

At the altar, all the altar lights and the Advent Wreath were lighted. After Mass, all the vigil candles burning in the Mary Shrine room were put out, then relighted with the flame of the Peace Light.

For the remainder of the year the Peace Light will continue to burn brightly at Notre Dame Church in all the candles in the Shrine Room.

The Austrians ask that all recipients of the Peace Light embrace this simple challenge: "We gladly receive this light as a sign of our willingness to be channels of peace, by our words and actions."

Notre Dame of Bethlehem Church and School gladly has accepted this challenge.

If any Scout groups or parishes would like to receive the Peace Light, contact Msgr. Baddick at 610-866-4371 or tbaddick@allentowndioocese.org.

Msgr. Thomas Baddick lights the Peace Light, carried by Ethan Whalen.

America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally

Right, local participants in the America Needs Fatima Public Square Rosary Rally gather Oct. 14 at Abundant Graces, 3348 Easton Ave., Bethlehem. This was one of over 20,000 rallies that took place across the country that day, offering reparation for the sins and offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and prayer for the conversion of the United States. Captain of the event was Carolyn Lipsky of Notre Dame of Bethlehem Parish.



Bikers and their bikes blessed

Members of the New Minersville Fire House Bikers Association attended the 10:30 a.m. Mass as a group Sept. 24 at St. Matthew the Evangelist, Minersville. After the Mass, Father Leo Maletz, pastor, assisted by Deacon James Henninger, invoked the intercession of St. Columban, patron saint of bikers, and blessed both bikers and their bikes.

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- Entrance Fees range from \$18,600 to \$28,800 (75% refundable) and \$1,200 monthly fee plus utilities



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610-349-4382

Priest Shares Stories of Working With St. Teresa of Calcutta

By ALEXA DONCSE CZ
Special to The A.D. Times

“What are the first words that come to your mind when you hear the name Mother Teresa?” Msgr. Michael Mannion posed this question to approximately 30 young adults at the Nov. 20 Theology on Tap event at Corked Wine Bar, Bethlehem.

Msgr. Mannion, a priest of the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey, shared memories of time spent with the now saint as he presented the topic “Working Beside a Saint: Stories of St. Teresa of Calcutta.”

In response to Msgr. Mannion’s question, young adults shared words such as “humility,” “selflessness” and “love.” For each new word proposed by a member of the audience, Msgr. Mannion shared a story from his work with St. Teresa in which she exhibited that value.

“She was 4’11”; Time Magazine said she was the most powerful woman in the world. She never knew how to shoot a gun, never committed an act of violence – how did she make peace?” Msgr. Mannion asked. “She prayed and she was stubborn, in that order.”

When Msgr. Mannion first met Mother Teresa, he was volunteering as a student in a Prenestina, a poor area of Rome, in the 1960s and ’70s. The locals suggested he meet the Indian sisters who were serving there, so he did. It wasn’t long after that one of the sisters, Sister Victoria, told him that their Mother Superior was coming to Rome and needed to be picked up.

“I knocked on Bishop Hickey’s door and asked, ‘Bishop, can I borrow your car tomorrow? I need to pick up some nun at the airport.’ So I borrowed his car and picked up Mother Teresa.”

When they arrived at the convent in another poor section of Rome, Mother Teresa told Msgr. Mannion that they needed a priest to celebrate Mass the next day. He told her he was not yet ordained.

“She said, ‘Can you get us a priest?’ So I knocked on the bishop’s door again and said to him, ‘I need your car again, but this time I need you in it, to go say Mass for these sisters and their superior, Mother Teresa.’”

“They really hit it off,” Msgr. Mannion went on. “And later when Bishop Hickey became the Archbishop Cardinal of Washington, he made sure there were five or six homes for Mother Teresa in his archdiocese. These were homes for the homeless, for unwed mothers, contemplative homes for prayer.”

At the time of Msgr. Mannion’s ordination, Mother Teresa sent him a picture. On the back of it she wrote, “Be only



Msgr. Michael Mannion shares his memories of Mother Teresa during the Nov. 10 Theology on Tap event at the Corked Wine Bar in Bethlehem. (Photos by Alexa Doncsecz)

all for Jesus, through Mary. Be a holy priest.” This was a rare and special gift because she almost never allowed her picture to be taken.

“Every time someone took her picture she said Jesus had to bring a soul into Heaven,” Msgr. Mannion added.

After he became a priest, Msgr. Mannion felt called to serve the poor and reached out to Mother Teresa to ask if he could join her in her missionary work. She advised him not to come, saying that Americans were being killed on the streets.

“I asked her, ‘If I come, will you put me up?’ She responded with four words: ‘Yes, but don’t come.’ So, obviously, I went.”

Msgr. Mannion went to Calcutta thinking he could dig ditches, but they asked him to work with lepers.

“We had a van with medical supplies where three or four of us would pile in to go help the lepers,” he explained. “Usually they came to us not from where they lived, but from other parts of the city. If they came from where they lived, other people from where they lived would know they were lepers and they would burn their houses down.”

Msgr. Mannion would give shots to the lepers and clean their wounds, showing them a bit of love and kindness.

“I remember my first time giving shots, and causing tremendous pain as I tried to find the right vein in such small

arms,” Msgr. Mannion reflected. “But then I got to see that person recover. As time went on, I had less compassion for the pain and more commitment to the life.”

“If I let too much emotional compassion get in the way, by the time I got the needle in, that little child would be dead. The price of the pain was the survival of the child.”

“Sometimes in life we go through pain, but often the place of the wound is the place of healing. Sometimes you have to take a person back into their pain and talk about the pain, and it’s only after this that they’re able to truly heal.”

“Mother had a habit when someone was dying. She would hold their face in her hands and she would tell them ‘When you see Jesus, tell him I love you. Tell him that we prayed with you.’”

Msgr. Mannion shared that as one man was dying he told Mother Teresa, “I’ve lived as an animal, but I died as a human being.”

“Mother was someone who had God’s gift to comfort the afflicted, and to afflict us if we got too comfortable – always with a heart of love,” Msgr. Mannion said. “She believed that by the grace of Christ, everyone could do what she was doing, and that everyone has a way to serve the poor.”

“It may not always be a financial poverty. Sometimes it is a spiritual poverty.”

Msgr. Mannion described Mother’s outreach to women who had received abortions, and how she would carry around religious medals to give them after praying with them.

“Can you imagine the power of that, when you’ve had a couple abortions and you think God doesn’t love you?” Msgr. Mannion said. “Many of these women were then motivated to get involved in the pro-life movement, to get involved in

Please see STORIES page 15 ▶▶



Young adults listen to Msgr. Mannion’s reflections about Mother Teresa and her service.



Thea Aclo, director of the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry, introduces Msgr. Mannion.



Msgr. Mannion presents a relic of Mother Teresa to the Office of Youth, Young Adult at Family Ministry. Accepting are Theo Aclo, right, director, and Alexa Doncsecz, assistant director.

Stories

▶▶Continued from page 14

their churches, and to help heal others.”

Finally, Msgr. Mannion spoke of Mother Teresa’s own experience with suffering.

“She went through a dark night of the soul,” he said. “If you read any of the mystics – John of the Cross, Therese of Lisieux – seeking an intimate closeness to God challenges us in a deep and profound way, but also introduces us to a lot of struggles.

“How do you most identify with Christ? Mother sought to identify with Christ in the cross. God blessed her with identification with the crucified Christ, and that meant some deep struggles. Ultimately it led her to a deeper experience of Christ that was not unlike the great mystics.

“Whenever something happens to us, it makes us either bitter or better; they learn how to use your wound as a gift, and that is part of the secret of Mother Teresa.”

Msgr. Mannion was in Washington the day Mother Teresa died, Sept. 5, 1997, at age 87. He described it as a very sad morning.

He ended his presentation on a note of encouragement, challenging the young adults to go out and contribute to the world according to God’s plan for their lives.

“You have a gift that Mother didn’t have, and she had a gift that you don’t have. She understood that the body of Christ is a mosaic with many different colors and shapes of glass,” he explained.

“I pray that something of this story tonight motivates you to want to do something beautiful for God.”

Jan. 22 ‘Theology on Tap’ on J.R.R. Tolkien

The next Theology on Tap, “The Catholicism of J.R.R. Tolkien,” will be Monday, Jan. 22 at Bar Louie in the Promenade Shops, 2960 Center Valley Parkway, Center Valley.

Many know of the English author Tolkien for his famous works of fantasy such as “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings.” Throughout his long life, Tolkien remained devoted to his Catholic faith, and his beliefs are often reflected in his work.

Father Christopher Landis, a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, will discuss the Catholic roots of Tolkien’s life and literature.

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.allentown-diocese.org/tot or email Alexa Doncsecz at adoncsecz@allentowndiocese.org.



Monthly Theology on Tap
For married & single young adults

January 22, 2018 @ 7 PM
The Catholicism of J.R.R. Tolkien

Rev. Christopher Landis,
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Bar Louie, Promenade Shops
2960 Center Valley Pkwy., Center Valley



Many know of the English author J.R.R. Tolkien for his famous works of fantasy such as *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Throughout his long life, Tolkien remained devoted to his Catholic faith, and his beliefs are often reflected in his work. In this Theology on Tap presentation, Fr. Landis will discuss the Catholic roots of Tolkien’s life and literature.

 Diocese of Allentown Young Adult Ministry  @AllentownYAM 

 Sponsored by the Diocese of Allentown Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry
For more information, contact Alexa Doncsecz at Adoncsecz@allentowndiocese.org.



New Book Club Forming for Young Adult Catholics

From Tolkien to Thomas Merton – from Shakespeare to St. Augustine – from Jane Austen to Julian of Norwich – great works of literature have the power to challenge and strengthen our Christian faith.

“Lehigh Valley Inklings,” a new book club for young adult Catholics ages 21 to 35, will meet once a month to explore a classic through the lens of Catholicism.

The next meeting will be Friday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. at Whole Foods (Coffee Bar), 750 N. Krocks Road, Allentown.

Join the group for a discussion of J.R.R. Tolkien. The reading for this meeting is the short story “Leaf by Niggle,” which you can find online at <http://augustinecollective.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2.1-Leaf-by-Niggle-Reading.pdf>.

The themes of this story resonate with Tolkien’s work in crafting the world of “Lord of the Rings” and “The Hobbit.”

Youth Ministry Programs Have ‘aMAZEing time’

The youth ministry programs of St. Catharine of Siena and Holy Guardian Angels, both in Reading, collaborated in fall to share an “aMAZEing time.” Pictured is the group after a tasty meal together, which involved a brief lesson on being “flashlights” in a dark world (Matthew 5:14-16), in preparation for using their personal flashlights at the exciting corn maze and other attractions of Mast Farms in Morgantown.



Retreat for Those Who Minister to Youth

Those who minister to the youth of the Diocese of Allentown are invited to “The Petros Retreat” Saturday, Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem.

The prayerful morning will include

time to reconnect with God and experience the joy of Christian community. Sacraments, grace, coffee and lunch will be offered.

Deadline to register is Friday, Jan. 19, at www.allentowndiocese.org/petros.



Youth Groups Invited to Teen Trivia Night

Youth groups are invited to the second “Teen Trivia Night: Catholic Edition” Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m.

The event will be hosted by reigning champs, the youth group of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1115 Walnut St., Ashland.

There were also be a talk, “Anchoring the Soul in Hope,” featuring guest speaker Mary Matunis.

Dinner will be provided. Teams from local parishes (youth confirmed and up) are invited to compete. Trophy to the winning team; winner asked to host next competition. Teams should consist of 8 to 10 individuals; parishes may enter more than one team.

Teams are asked to register by emailing Sue Klinger at sklinger@trinitymatners.com.



Upcoming Confirmation Rallies

Have you registered your seventh- or eighth-graders for “Confirming Faithful Families” yet?

Rallies for confirmation candidates throughout the Diocese are sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry, and retreat

teams from the Diocesan Catholic high schools.

Upcoming rallies are (all Saturdays):
Feb. 3 at St. Thomas More, Allentown.
Feb. 24 at Notre Dame High School, Easton.

March 10 at St. Ambrose, Schuylkill

Haven.

Parish leaders are asked to register their group by emailing Alexa Doncsecz at adoncsecz@allentowndiocese.org.

Parents are asked to register at <http://www.allentowndiocese.org/cff>.

Fall Is Championship Season for Many Diocesan Schools

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

“The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.”

These words of Vince Lombardi – who knew a little something about winning – can be seen shining in teams throughout the Diocese of Allentown, who have achieved celebrated successes and given their best in this year’s fall sports season.

Allentown Central Catholic High School (ACCHS)

The Allentown Central Catholic High School (ACCHS) Vikings girls’ cross-country team placed second in the PIAA (Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association) 2A Championship and were District 11 PIAA 2A champions.

David Ackerman, head coach of cross country/track and field and an English teacher at ACCHS, said Emily Deschler won the EPC (Eastern Pennsylvania Conference) Championship and the District 11 PIAA 2A Championship, leading her team to the district championship.

She placed fifth in the PIAA 2A Championship, her second fifth place finish in a



The Allentown Central Catholic High School girls’ cross-country team, which placed second at the PIAA 2A Championship, from left, Olivia Lucci Herzog, Emmie Janis, Miranda Gulyez, Emily Jobes, Alyssa Deschler, Emily Deschler, Sydney Harris, Devon Montanari, Amanda Svetz, Paige Egan and Gabrielle Sacks. (Photo courtesy of David Ackerman)

row at states and her third medal at states, leading the girls’ team to a second-place finish.

Emily’s sister Alyssa also fared well, earning All EPC honors with her fifth-place finish, placing second to her sister at districts, and earning a medal at states

with her 17th-place finish.

Sydney Harris earned medalist honors by placing eighth at the district championships.

Sophomore Emilie Wright won a district title in golf.

The volleyball team, which won a dis-

trict championship, were runners-up in states.

Berks Catholic High School (BCHS), Reading

Bill Hess, assistant principal for athletics and discipline at Berks Catholic High School (BCHS), said in football the Saints were the BCIAA (Berks County Interscholastic Athletic Association) League Champion and the District 3 4A Champion.

BCHS was the BCIAA Section 2 champion in golf. In field hockey, the school was the BCIAA Section 2 Champion. BCHS was BCIAA Section Champion in tennis.

The BCHS Youth Football Mites team was the 2017 champion of the Berks County Youth Football League. The championship game took place Nov. 12, 2017. It was the team’s first championship. The Saints defeated Exeter 21-18 in the championship game and went 10-0 for the season.

Marian High School, Tamaqua

Tina Caparell won the 1A State Championship in cross country.

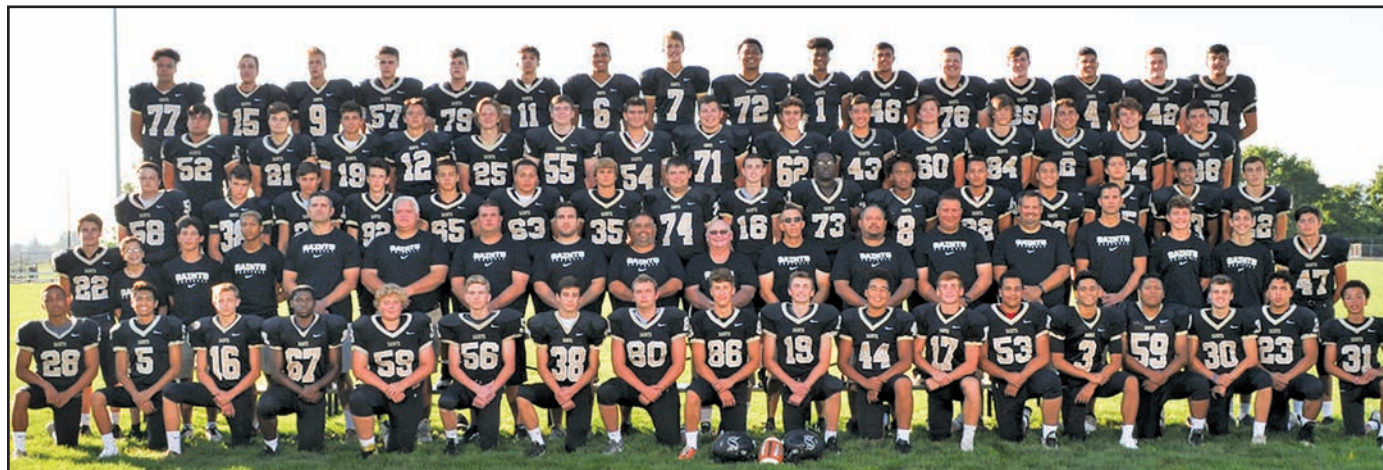
Nativity BVM High School, Pottsville

Jennifer Daubert, director of development at Nativity, said the girls’ volleyball team was crowned the District XI Class A runner up in volleyball after a five-set defeat to Marian High School, Tamaqua Oct. 31.

Notre Dame High School, Easton

The boys’ cross-country team of Notre Dame High School was Colonial League champions and District XI AA Champi-

Please see CHAMPIONS page 17 ▶▶



The Berks Catholic High School (BCHS), Reading football team, the BCIAA (Berks County Interscholastic Athletic Association) League Champion and the District 3 4A Champion, from left: front, Colby Newton, Jacob Arquisola, Brigham Kobularcik, A'Lundas Isaac, Owen Anton, Andrew McConnell, Nolan Larkin, Jase Fowler, Jamin Smith, Jack Burke, C.J. Carwil, Anthony Myers, Ariel Jaquez, Luis Garcia, Luis Santos, Bobby Hughes, Angel Arias, Clayton Gibbs; second row, Jaden Bookser, Kevin Zambito, Joseph Albert, Angel Urena, Jasen Esposito, Ray Serafin, Phil Bennethum, Vince Serafin, Bill Hess, Rick Keeley, Keith Leamer, Chama Carwil, Neil George, Dave Stahler, Alex Swavely, Stephen Brennon, Josh Bolton, Nick Gonzalez; third row, Max Murphy, Michael O'Neill, Johnny Schlouch, Greg Schwenk, Riley Adams, Enrique Albino, Quinn Foley, Gino Gaspari, Will DeYoung, Mohamed Sheriff, Kyle Roberts, Ricardo Albino, Tyler Martin, Guillermo Monzon, Jaden Vazquez, Jordan Breiner; fourth row, Nico Myers, Tom Molteni, Lincoln Lutz, Jack Hagelbarger, Drew Feightner, Dan Fromuth, Vito Gentile, Braden Hecker, Thomas Esterbrook, Niko Sarangoulis, Dylan Patrick, Owen Wolfe, Cooper Lutz, Matt Hagelbarger, Riese Grim; back, Charlie Haubrich, Trevor Leamer, Terry Derr, Jackson Gofus, Evan McEldery, Brendan Redmond-Smith, Brandon George, Luke Painton, John Blanco, Tyrese Dargan, David Jones, Owen Winters, Matt Hughes, Tre Dabney, Izaiah David, Andrew Chiarelli. Not pictured is coach Jake Latchum. (Photo courtesy of VSN Photography)

Education

The Diocese of Allentown has a vibrant and vital 21st century Catholic school system.



- Our schools emphasize academic excellence and Catholic formation.
- Fully 96 percent of our high school students go on to college.
- Our schools enhance evangelization.
- When non-Catholics attend Catholic schools, the result often is the student and his or her family embraces the faith.



The BCHS BCIAA Section 2 champion in golf, from left: front, Cole Naso, Austin Bortz, Ryan Goldschmidt, Michael Fioravante, Henry Pilliod, Patrick Goldschmidt, Benjamin Alban, Bryce Shelley, Dominic Riccione, Andrew Gombar; second row, Garrett Heidecker, Kaitlyn Munter, Bella Duddy, Aubrey Hanley, Carley Scicchitano, coach Mike Spear, coach Barry Rientek, Taylor Miller, Hunter Hirneisen, Katie Morelli, Hannah Zientek, Chet DePue; back, Christian Anewalt, Michael Duddy, Jake Bobb, George Leonhardt, Alex Cloak, Jack Zanecosky, John Iswalt, Nick Fioravante, Andrew Schreffler. (Photo courtesy of VSN Photography)



The BCHS BCIAA Section 2 Champion in field hockey, from left: front, Xue Shao, Olivia Geishouser, Mia Hess, Emma Wright, Julia Harris, Olivia Martz-Wagaman, Amara Midouhas, Lauryn Sirgey, Emily Heck, Allie Forkin; second row, Sydney Grim, MacKenzie Partsch, Crystal Scolastico, Olivia Chiarelli, manager Sarah Lala, Mia Corbacio, Belle Bressler, Kennedi Kutz, Ayanna Park; back, Molly Duncan, Shawn Menden, Kyra Birmingham, Aislin Reinert, Lilly Derr, Madeline Iswalt, Abby Franey, Megan Yoder. (Photo courtesy of VSN Photography)

Champions

►Continued from page 16

ons. John Koons earned a state medal by finishing 14th at the state championships

in cross country.
 The boys' soccer team took the District XI AA championship.
 In girls' tennis, Logan Lencheski and Emma Anmolsingh were District XI AA doubles champions.



The BCYS Youth Football Mites team wins its first championship as the 2017 champion of the Berks County Youth Football League. Players include: Liam Atkins, Chase Bauer, Jonathan Bennett, Giovanni Brendlen, Dante Casantini, Jack Charilli, Zane Conlon, Aidan Curley, Aidan Dauble, Nick Defazio, Samuel Diaz, Armanni Dominguez, Brendlen Giovanni, Madyx Gruber, Gabe Iswalt, Ezra Jackson, Asa Jarjusi, Aiden Jiminez, Aiden Johnson, Luke Jordan, Trey Keating, Jackson Kozik, Jason Leininger, Jake Linderman, Jaheim Lusane, Amado Morales, Liam Myers, Liam Ottinger, Grant Partsch, Palmer Reber, Peter Schmehl, Clayton Smith, Maverick Stinsky, Trey Stricker, Zach Suski, Mathew Thomas, Ricardo Tinoco and Caleb Tobin. Coaches are Joe Conlon, Bryan Gofus, Matt Bauer, Tom Curley, George Fields, Ralph Jiminez, Steve Stinsky, Barry Suski and Sean Thompson. (Photo courtesy of Stephanie Conlon)



The boys' cross country team of Notre Dame High School, Easton, Colonial League champions and District XI AA champions. John Koons was District XI AA gold medal winner. (Photo courtesy of Cheryl Fenton)



The boys' soccer team of Notre Dame High School, District XI AA champions. (Photo courtesy of Cheryl Fenton)



The BCYS BIAA Section champion in tennis, from left: front, Liz Orlando, Casey Emkey, Caitlyn Changco, Gigi Nawa, Vicki Zandier, Erin Maloney, Olivia Butler, Felicia Nawa, Sofia Woytovich; second row, Nicole Krepps, Rachel Kostival, Rebekah Schnatz, Lizzie Goodman, Katy Burke, Mary Banco, Kacie Kirkpatrick, Caroline Kominick; back, Hannah Landau, Lauren Naso, Olivia Vagnoni, coach Lauren Urban, Catherine Maher, Leah Williams, Bella Ditsky. (Photo courtesy of VSN Photography)



The girls' volleyball team of Nativity BVM High School, Pottsville, the District XI Class A runner ups, display their silver medals, from left: front, Briana Kenton, Allison Bolich, Brianna Honish, Livia Lieberman, Luca Walborn and Morgan Jacoby; second row, Kaitlyn Zemantauski, Jordyn Lubinsky and Emily Flanagan; back, Brittany Kenton, Cheyanne Morgan, Emily Yordy, Julia Klembara, Samantha Heenan, Allison Clarke and Kierstyn Strausser. (Photo courtesy of Jennifer Daubert)



Girls' tennis District XI AA Doubles champions Logan Lencheski, left and Emma Anmolsingh of Notre Dame High School flank coach Tom D'Angelo. (Photo courtesy of Cheryl Fenton)

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@allentowndioocese.org; fax, 610-439-7694; THE A.D. TIMES, P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538.

Items must be received by Thursday of the week before publication.

Please type or print. Please notify THE A.D. TIMES if bingos and other regularly listed events are cancelled for the summer or other holiday periods, and again when they resume.

THE A.D. TIMES publishes only newly announced, church-affiliated trips on a regular basis. The entire previously announced repeating trip list is published only as space permits. Please notify THE A.D. TIMES when seats are filled for a trip so it can be removed from the repeating list.

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

Saturday, Jan. 13

Prayer Pilgrimage, peaceful prayer to end abortion, Helpers of God's Precious Infants; Mass, Notre Dame of Bethlehem, 8 a.m., celebrant Father George Winne; followed by rosary at Allentown Women's Center, 9:15 a.m.; 610-674-4624, sched-ule40dfi@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/helpersallentown/.

Sunday, Jan. 14

Breakfast Buffet, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, 8:30-11:30 a.m., adults \$7, children \$4, children under 3 Free, also Sundays, Feb. 11, March 11 and April 8.

Roast Beef Dinner, social hall, Holy Ghost, Bethlehem, 3-5 p.m., adults \$10, children 12 and under \$6, 610-867-9382.

Monday, Jan. 15

"Working Together to End the School to Prison Pipeline," interfaith prayer breakfast, Lehigh Conference of Churches, 457 Allen St., Allentown, 9 a.m., \$20, register www.lehighchurches.org, information 610-433-6421, lpikens@lehighchurches.org.

Sunday, Jan. 21

Breakfast, Knights of Columbus Council 14464 and Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bath, at Sacred Heart, 7-11 a.m., adults \$8, children \$4, under 6 free, special this month potato pancakes.

Breakfast With Frosty, school hall, St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring, 8 a.m.-noon, adults \$8, children 6-12 \$4, sponsored by Knights of Columbus.

Heritage Week Mass of St. Francis de Sales, Connelly Chapel, DeSales University, Center Valley, 8 p.m., celebrant and homilist Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, 610-282-1100, ext. 1244, www.desales.edu/salesian, free and open to public, no tickets required.

Monday, Jan. 22

Heritage Week Forum on Biomedical Ethics, "The Dignity of Woman, I Am Pro-Woman," University Center, DeSales University, Center Valley, 7 p.m., presenter Yvonne Florczak-Seeman, 610-282-1100, ext. 1244, www.desales.edu/salesian, free and open to public, no tickets required.

"The Catholicism of J.R.R. Tolkien," Theology on Tap for married and single young adults, Bar Louie, Promenade Shops, 2960 Center Valley Parkway, Center Valley, 7 p.m., presented by Father Christopher Landis, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, sponsored by the Diocese of Allentown Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry, adonsecz@allentowndioocese.org.

Tax Preparation Assistance, to senior citizens and those with lower incomes, by junior and senior accounting students, DeSales University, Center Valley, part of U.S. Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, schedule appointment 610-282-1100, ext. 1868, through Wednesday, March 28.

Tuesday, Jan. 23

Heritage Week Seminar on Law and Society, "On Legal Ethics," University Center, DeSales University, Center Valley, 7 p.m., presented by Ellen Kraft, Esq., 610-282-1100, ext. 1244, www.desales.edu/salesian, free and open to public, no tickets required.

Serra Club of Bethlehem Meeting, Monocacy Manor, Bethlehem, dinner 6 p.m., speaker Sister Virginelle of School Sisters of St. Francis.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

Heritage Week Town Hall on Social Communications, "Finding the Truth in a World of Fake News," University Center, DeSales University, Center Valley, 7 p.m., presented by Patrick Novocosky, 610-282-1100, ext. 1244, www.desales.edu/salesian, free and open to the public, no tickets required.

"Life in the Spirit" Seminar, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, 7-8:30 p.m., seven-week session through March 21, 610-217-1739, lifeinthepiritad@gmail.com.

Thursday, Jan. 25

Heritage Week Kraft Memorial Lecture with special guest Father Thomas Kevin Kraft, discussing the influence of St. Francis de Sales in the married spirituality of Elizabeth Leseur, University Center, DeSales University, Center Valley, 8 p.m., 610-282-1100, ext. 1244, www.desales.edu/salesian, free and open to public, no tickets required.

Friday, Jan. 26

Lehigh Valley Inklings, book club for young adult Catholics ages 21-35, Whole Foods Coffee Bar, 750 N. Krocks Road, Allentown, 7 p.m., discussion this month on short story "Leaf Niggle" by J.R.R. Tolkien, <http://augustinecollective.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2.1-Leaf-by-Niggle-Reading.pdf>, Facebook Lehigh Valley Inklings: Young Catholic Book Club.

Saturday, Jan. 27

Collection for Catholic Relief Services, at Diocese of Allentown parishes, also Sunday, Jan. 28.

Spaghetti Dinner, parish hall, St. Elizabeth Regional School, Whitehall; seating times 4, 5:30 and 7 p.m.; advance tickets adults \$9, children 5-12 \$7, under 5 free; at door \$10 and \$8; early seating special 4 p.m. \$9 and \$6; 917-251-9696, celestedee05@gmail.com.

Wednesday, Jan. 31

"An Evening with St. Thomas Aquinas – the Theologian," Bishop Barren's "Catholicism: Pivotal Players," St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 7-9 p.m.

Charismatic Healing Mass, SS. Philip and James, Phillipsburg, 7 p.m., celebrant Father Cliff Bishop of Diocese of Allentown, 732-514-7160, dmhealing@aol.com, enensley@aol.com, 908-200-6763.

Saturday, Feb. 3

"The Beauty of Love," Theology of the Body seminar, Religious Education building, St. Mary, Kutztown, 9:30-11:30 a.m., \$20 per person, www.allentowndioocese.org/icf_adultformation@allentowndioocese.org, 610-289-8900, ext. 2021.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

"The Man Talk," speaker Matt Fradd on vision for authentic Catholic masculinity, sponsored by Diocese of Allentown Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization, McShea Building, DeSales University, Center Valley, 7 p.m., no charge, register www.allentowndioocese.org/man-talk; questions 610-289-8900, ext. 2028.

Wednesday, Feb. 7

"Parenting the Internet Generation," speaker Matt Fradd, sponsored by Diocese of Allentown Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization, University Center, DeSales University, Center Valley, 7 p.m., no charge, register www.allentowndioocese.org/family-ministry, questions 610-289-8900, ext. 2028.

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 \$4, children 3 and under free, 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, 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 Connected," 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, salternk@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 Catech; 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 underemployed 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.

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.

Calendar

▶▶Continued from page 18

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, schedule40dff@gmail.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.stfrancisctr.org.

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.stfrancisctr.org.

Saturday, Jan. 13 – Sunday, Jan. 21

Seven-Day Directed Retreat, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, \$720, register www.jesuitcenter.org, questions mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, 619-670-3642.

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.stfrancisctr.org.

Friday, Jan. 26 – Sunday, Jan. 28

Weekend Directed Retreat, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, \$200, register www.jesuitcenter.org, questions mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, 619-670-3642.

Wednesday, Feb. 14

"Lent: A Season of Grace" Ash Wednesday program, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (includes lunch) or 5-9 p.m. (includes dinner), \$50, register www.jesuitcenter.org, questions mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, 610-670-3642.

Thursday, Feb. 15

"Gospel Companions – Icons of the Paschal Mystery," twilight retreat, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 6:45-9 p.m., \$25, presented by Sister Nancy Lampietro, 610-867-8890, stfranciscenter@gmail.com, www.stfrancisctr.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 21

Lenten Taizé, Retreat Center Chapel, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 6:45-9 p.m., free will offering, led by Sister Barbara DeStefano and Sister Anita Kuchera, 610-867-8890, stfranciscenter@gmail.com, www.stfrancisctr.org.

Friday, March 16 – Sunday, March 18

"Who Cares for the Caregiver?" weekend retreat for personal and professional caregivers, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, \$200, register www.jesuitcenter.org, questions mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, 619-670-3642.

Friday, March 23 – Sunday, March 25

"Standing on the Edge of Holy Week," weekend retreat, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, \$200, register www.jesuitcenter.org, questions mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, 619-670-3642.

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.

Thursdays, Jan. 11, May 16

Bingo, Knights of Columbus Council 4397, Family Center, St. Thomas More, Allentown, 6:30 p.m., doors open 6 p.m.

Sundays, Jan. 21; Feb. 4, 18; March 4, 18; April 8, 22; May 6, 20; June 3, 24; July 8, 22; Aug. 5, 19; Sept. 9, 23; Oct. 7, 21; Nov. 4, 18; Dec. 2

Bingo, Knights of Columbus Council 618, St. Stephen's Hall, Shenandoah, 2 p.m., doors open noon, food and refreshments available, 570-590-3270, 570-590-1188.

Sundays, Jan. 21, Feb. 18

Meat Bingo, social hall, St. John the Baptist, Allentown, 1 p.m., doors open noon, \$11 for 15 games, refreshments available, 610-432-3505.

Sunday, Feb. 11

Mardi Gras Bingo, St. Vincent de Paul, Society, Incarnation of Our Lord, Bethlehem, 2 p.m., doors open noon, advance \$20, at door \$25, 610-866-3391.

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.

Newly announced

Tuesday, Jan. 16

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

Wednesday, Jan. 17

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall to Hollywood Casino, Grantville, \$25, 610-264-3721.

Friday, Jan. 19

March for Life buses, see page 8.

Thursday, March 8

St. Thomas More, Allentown to Philadelphia Flower Show, \$68, 484-951-0400, johara21135179@aol.com.

Tuesday, March 20 – Wednesday, March 21

Prime Time Club, St. Thomas More, Allentown to Atlantic City, three casinos (Sugar House, Resorts and Tropicana), \$125, 610-965-9960.

Thursday, March 22

55+ Club, Notre Dame of Bethlehem to Hollywood Casino, Grantville, \$30, 610-866-0360.

Saturday, March 24

St. Thomas More, Allentown to Broadway (choice of "Hello Dolly" \$150, "Carousel" \$147, "Jimmy Buffet's Escape to Margaritaville" \$135, "Come From Away" \$145), 484-951-0400, johara21135179@aol.com.

Wednesday, April 11

"Seniors in Action" Holy Trinity, Whitehall to "Jesus," Sight and Sound Theatre, Lancaster, \$86, 610-262-6058.

Tuesday, April 17

Prime Time Club, St. Thomas More, Allentown to "The Duprees," Mount Airy Casino, Mount Pocono, \$59, 610-965-9960.

Tuesday, April 24

Prime Time Club, St. Thomas More, Allentown to "Jesus," Sight and Sound Theatre, Lancaster, \$98, 610-965-9960.

Thursday, May 3

St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown to "Jesus," Sight and Sound Theatre, Lancaster, \$106, 610-433-6102.

Saturday, May 19

St. Thomas More, Allentown to Broadway (choice of "My Fair Lady" \$153, "Anastasia" \$152, "Mean Girls" \$185), 484-951-0400, johara21135179@aol.com.

Tuesday, June 26

St. Thomas More, Allentown to Yankees at Phillies, section 112, \$60, 484-951-0400, johara21135179@aol.com.

Saturday, June 30

St. Thomas More, Allentown to Nationals at Phillies with fireworks, section 419, \$30, 484-951-0400, johara21135179@aol.com.

Wednesday, Aug. 22

St. Thomas More, Allentown to "Sponge Bob Square Pants" on Broadway, \$134, 484-951-0400, johara21135179@aol.com.

Previously announced

Friday, Jan. 19

St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to March for Life, Washington, D.C., \$10 (donations accepted), suemuller45@gmail.com, 610-392-2957.

Thursday, Jan. 25

55+ Club, Notre Dame of Bethlehem to Mohegan Sun, Wilkes-Barre, \$25, 610-866-0360.

Thursday, Feb. 1 – Thursday, March 1

Travel Club, Assumption BVM, Slatington to Costa del Sol, Spain, \$3,411, 610-767-3036.

Monday, Feb. 19 – Friday, Feb. 23

Bethlehem Catholic High School, alumni cruise from Miami, Florida to the Bahamas, \$399, 610-866-0791, ext. 322 or 323.

Wednesday, March 14

Golden Agers, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall to "Steel Magnolias," Hunterdon Hills Dinner Theatre, \$89, 484-264-7723.

Tuesday, March 20

Friendly Fifties, St. John Byzantine, Northampton to "Neil Diamond," Mount Airy Casino, \$65, 610-767-4881.



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Sunday Scripture

<p>Sunday, Jan. 14 <i>Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</i> First reading 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 Responsorial Psalm Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 Second reading 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 Gospel John 1:35-42</p>	<p>Sunday, Jan. 21 <i>Third Sunday of Ordinary Time</i> First reading John 3:1-5, 10 Responsorial Psalm Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Second reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Gospel Mark 1:14-20</p>
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Plan a Retrouvaille Weekend for Your Marriage

Is your marriage going down the right road? Or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage. Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, as they have done in their own marriages. It is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths, as well as nonreligious couples. The next program will begin the weekend of Feb. 16 at the Family Life Center in Malvern. Additional weekends will be held in April and August. For more information, or to register for a weekend, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

Silence

►Continued from page 1

of divine benevolence” that characterizes the entire liturgy and “establishes an opening of earth to heaven.”

After the hymn, the priest invites the assembly to pray and observes a moment of silence so that the faithful may be conscious of the fact that they are in God’s presence and formulate their petitions, the pope explained.

This silence, he said, is not just an absence of words but a time to listen “to other voices: that of our heart and, above all, the voice of the Holy Spirit.”

“Perhaps we come from days of toil, of joy, of sorrow and we want to tell the Lord, to invoke his help, to ask that he be near us; we have family members and friends who are ill or who are going through difficult trials,” the pope said.

The priest’s posture – with hands out-

stretched in supplication – is also an important sign as it is an imitation of Christ with his arms open on the cross, the pope said.

“In the crucifix, we recognize the priest who offers pleasing worship to God; that is, filial obedience,” he said.

Pope Francis said that pondering the prayers and gestures, which are “rich in meaning,” Christians can make “many beautiful meditations” that can benefit their spiritual lives.

“To go back and meditate on the texts, even outside of Mass, can help us to learn how to turn to God, what to ask, which words to use,” the pope said. “May the liturgy become for all of us a true school of prayer.”

Pope Francis plays a drum held by someone in the crowd during his general audience at the Vatican Jan. 10. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Churches No Longer Exempt from FEMA Disaster Aid

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is revising its policies to no longer exclude houses of worship from applying for federal aid to recover from damages caused by natural disasters.

The policy change was outlined in the agency’s revised 217-page manual: “Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide” issued Jan. 2.

This change is not just for damage caused in future disasters but also affects claims made by churches last year from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma because it can be applied retroactively to claims made “on or after Aug. 23, 2017.”

An introduction to the new FEMA manual credits the change in policy to a Supreme Court decision last June, which ruled that Trinity Lutheran Church in Missouri should not have been denied a public benefit just because it is a church.

The court’s 7-2 decision specifically referred to the church-run preschool and said it should not be excluded from a state grant program to refurbish its playground surface just because it is a religious entity.

“In light of the Trinity Lutheran decision, FEMA has considered its guidance on private nonprofit facility eligibility,” the agency’s new document says, pointing out that houses of worship would not be excluded from eligibility for FEMA aid on the basis of the religious character or primarily religious use of the facility.

Daniel Blomberg, an attorney for the Becket Fund, representing Texas churches and Florida synagogues that have sued FEMA over not getting federal disaster aid, welcomed the policy change.

“Better late than never,” he said in a statement.

“By finally following the Constitution, FEMA is getting rid of second-class status for churches, which in the words of the Supreme Court was ‘odious’ to the First Amendment. We will watch carefully to make sure that FEMA’s new policy is implemented to provide equal treatment for churches and synagogues along-



Debris surrounds the altar of the destroyed St. Peter Church in Rockport, Texas after Hurricane Harvey in 2017. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

side other charities.”

Carl Anderson, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, was similarly pleased with the FEMA decision.

“The destruction due to the flooding and hurricanes is of such a magnitude that the government must help in the response,” he said in a statement.

The Knights of Columbus have given \$1.4 million to repair or help rebuild churches that were destroyed or badly damaged in hurricanes last year in Texas, Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization also raised \$3.8 million for disaster relief in these areas.

Anderson said church repair has been a key component of Knights’ relief efforts, stressing that “help from both the government and the nonprofit sector in the restoring of churches and other spaces dedicated to religious activities will send

an important signal that these communities are coming back, that the spirit of the people is alive and well.”

It also helps these houses of worship with the many charitable and social services they provide, he added.

The battle over getting federal funds to restore storm-damaged church property has been in a legal tangle since last year when three Texas churches severely damaged by Hurricane Harvey were denied federal aid.

The churches filed a lawsuit against FEMA over its policy accusing the agency of religious discrimination. Two Florida synagogues damaged in Hurricane Irma similarly filed lawsuits.

The Texas churches appealed the agency’s decision to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, which denied them emergency relief but agreed to hear the case

in February. Another request for an emergency injunction for these churches has been pending at the Supreme Court.

The three churches are the Rockport First Assembly of God in Rockport, which lost its roof and steeple and had other structural damage, the Harvest Family Church in Cypress, and Hi-Way Tabernacle in Cleveland, which were both flooded.

President Donald Trump has said on Twitter that places of worship damaged in hurricanes should be able to receive federal aid from FEMA.

This past fall, the issue of FEMA disaster aid going to faith-based groups has been making its way through Congress. In late November, a committee approved the Disaster Recovery Reform Act which would open the doors for church groups to seek FEMA aid, but the bill was awaiting deliberation from the House floor.

Chairmen of the U.S. bishops’ Committee for Religious Liberty and the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs supported the measure in letters sent to members of the House and Senate.

The letters, signed by Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the religious liberty committee, and Bishop Mitchell Rozanski of Springfield, Massachusetts, chairman of the ecumenical committee, said the bill regarding FEMA aid and houses of worship “is not asking for special treatment, just equal treatment that conforms to constitutional protections.”

“It should be noted that in the aftermath of a natural disaster, houses of worship often play an irreplaceable role in the recovery of a community,” they wrote.

“Discrimination that treats houses of worship as ineligible for federal assistance in the wake of a natural disaster, beyond being a legal violation, hurts the very communities most affected by the indiscriminate force of nature.”

For New Year, Pope Urges Help for Refugees, Respect for Life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis began the New Year praying the world would demonstrate a marked increase in solidarity and welcome for migrants and refugees.

“Let’s not extinguish the hope in their hearts; let’s not suffocate their hopes for peace,” the pope said Jan. 1 before reciting the Angelus with a crowd gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

For the New Year’s celebration of World Peace Day and the feast of Mary, Mother of God, Pope Francis had chosen to focus on migrants and refugees and their yearning for peace.

“For this peace, which is the right of all, many of them are willing to risk their lives in a journey that, in most cases, is long and dangerous and to face trials and suffering,” the pope told an estimated

40,000 people gathered in the square around the Christmas tree and Nativity scene.

Pope Francis said it is important that everyone, including individuals, governments, schools, churches and church agencies, make a commitment to “ensuring refugees, migrants – everyone – a future of peace.”

Entrusting the needs of migrants and

refugees to the maternal concern of Mary, the pope led the crowd in reciting a traditional Marian prayer: “Under thy protection we seek refuge, holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our needs, but from all dangers deliver us always, Virgin, Glorious and Blessed.”

Pope Francis had begun the day celebrating Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica for the Marian feast.

St. Ambrose parish retreat dedicated to 100th anniversary of Fatima

Dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, the St. Ambrose retreat team, Schuylkill Haven hosted its annual parish retreat, Mary, Our Mother of Mercy, the weekend of Oct. 7-8.

The weekend began with a continental breakfast, feeding retreatants in body. On Saturday and Sunday speakers fed the souls of those gathered.

As the retreat itself began, the attendees sang two songs praising our heavenly mother, Mary. Saturday's songs recognized the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Knock.

Father Kevin Bobbin, chaplain of Bethlehem Catholic High School and the team's spiritual director, spoke about the retreat's theme, "Mary, Our Mother of Mercy," and asked "How is Mary present in our lives?"

Next came retired priest Father Robert Reiley, speaking about the importance of prayer in our lives, and in particular to the Blessed Mother and our Heavenly Father. Father Bobbin celebrated daily Mass after Father Reiley's talk.

After lunch the parish's pastor, Msgr. Edward Zemanik focused on the importance of Mary in the liturgy. He concluded with a question for everyone in the group: "Can we say yes, like Mary, to God?"

Then Father George Winne, assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception BVM and Sacred Heart of Jesus parishes, Allentown, completed the afternoon talks speaking to the group about Our Lady of Guadalupe with an introductory history of Our Lady of Fatima.

Everyone was given time for individual afternoon prayer at four prayer stations dedicated to Mary, Our Mother of Mercy and the appearances of Our Blessed Lady in various parts of the world. At 4 p.m. everyone came together again in the church to pray the fifth in a series of first Saturday of the month rosaries as requested by Our Lady of Fatima to Sister Lucia in December 1925.

In observance of the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary, white roses were placed in a vase at the feet of the Blessed Mother as the Rosary of Joy was prayed.

The retreatants next enjoyed a catered Italian dinner. Saturday evening came to an end when the group gathered together one last time for the candlelit Agape service.



Left, Deacon Robert Ellis from Blue Army at Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Asbury, New Jersey speaks to the retreatants at St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven.

Below, the retreat group spends time in prayer.



The second day again began with everyone singing "Immaculate Mary" and "As I Kneel Before You."

The retreat team was fortunate to host the traveling statue of Our Lady of Fatima, as well as Deacon Robert Ellis, national coordinator for the World Apostolate of Fatima, U.S.A., Inc., Our Lady's Blue Army.

The Fatima Centennial United States Tour for Peace began March 2016 and ended in December 2017. It commemorated the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Angel of Peace in 1916 and the Blessed Mother at Fatima, Portugal in 1917.

The goals of the World Apostolate in arranging this tour has been to allow Our Lady of Fatima to claim dominion over America through her Immaculate Heart and to bring the urgent Message of Fatima, the Peace Plan from Heaven, to a world in need.

The traveling statue brings the graces of Fatima and Our Lady's message of hope, peace and salvation to a country suffering under the weight of sin. It also encourages devotion through personal consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which was the mission given to Lucia by Our Lady and Our Lord.

Jesus relayed to Sister Lucia in 1936 that he wished to establish devotion to the Immaculate Heart in the Church next to the Sacred Heart.

Deacon Ellis spent the entire Sunday morning sharing the significance of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima to the children in 1917, as well as in life today and the future to come.

He elaborated on the retreat's earlier presentation that Father Winne touched on in his presentation about the apparitions themselves to the children of Fatima.

Deacon Ellis spoke about the "Unholy Trinity," which no one present seemed to realize is "the me, myself and I" syndrome that envelops so many in our world today. He spoke about how Adam, the male role model, represents authority, while Eve, the female role model, influences the authority.

Mary, the new "Eve," intercedes with her Divine Son, Jesus who is the new "Adam." Mary, our Mother of Mercy, through her motherly love and influence, intercedes for all of us today to her Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Deacon Ellis further explained that because of a darkened intellect and weakened will that has developed throughout history, Jesus sent Our Lady of Fatima to influence us from the early 20th century

into the future.

Prior to the group's Emmaus walk in the early afternoon, a retreat team member neatly tied the weekend retreat together, speaking about how mothers through daily living imitate Mary, Our Mother of Mercy; Mary, the Mother of Us All.

She concluded her presentation asking everyone to consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary using Pope Pius XII's Act of Consecration.

Father Bobbin closed the faith-filled weekend honoring Mary, Our Mother of Mercy with Sunday afternoon Mass praying for the intentions of all those present both days.

Retreat participants came away inspired and uplifted. A first-time retreatant felt that what she had learned and mostly forgotten in her early Catholic school education was brought to the forefront once again, renewing and refreshing her daily prayer life today.

A six-year participant in the retreat felt the grace of Christ present in a very influential way during the retreat. She referred to it as "an unexplainable feeling" present during the retreat itself.

All retreatants received a small booklet, "Reflections for Celebrating Mary's Feast Days," along with a music CD that many have been listening to since the retreat ended.



Father George Winne speaks to the group about Our Lady of Guadalupe.



A retreatant prays at the traveling statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

Vocations

▶▶Continued from page 1

world. The Church offers this to us to strengthen the Body of Christ,” Father Gribowich said in a recent interview.

Father Gribowich said in the silence of adoration the Body of Christ is strengthened, and this was manifested in the students and teachers at ACCHS. “When we encounter the Eucharist it strengthens how we encounter the Body of Christ in our brothers and sisters around us. That’s the lynchpin of why we were doing that.”

“I think it strengthens all different vocations,” Father Gribowich said of adoration, whether that vocation is a religious calling or married life. “It helps every person discern whatever they are called to – it’s an instilling way to discern things for everyone.”

Father Gribowich has been celebrant of a number of weddings for former ACCHS students since his ordination, the most recent Dec. 30. “They are really good couples who are going to church and taking their faith seriously. And the fact they want to be married in the Church these days says a lot.

“Good vocations come from good



Sister of Christian Charity Sister Josephine Wagner, a 2014 graduate of ACCHS, is happy to return to her alma mater for Forty Hours.

homes and families, all part of the Body of Christ.”

Sister Immaculata Marie Policare

“As a student at ACCHS, I never

wanted to waste time, and Forty Hours sounds like a long time,” said Sister Immaculata Marie, who is in her ninth year as a Dominican Sister of St. Cecilia.

She graduated from ACCHS in 2009 and entered the Nashville Dominicans the following August. Sister Immaculata Marie professed her final vows in July 2016 and is teaching second grade at St. Gertrude School, Cincinnati, Ohio.

“The formation I received at ACCHS not only prepared me for religious life, but also in a particular way made possible my entrance right after high school – as I said, I don’t like to waste time,” Sister Immaculata Marie said.

“My intellect was nurtured by rigorous theology courses, but more importantly my heart was sustained by daily Mass, frequent confession and retreat opportunities that allowed me to experience communion both with my peers and the larger Catholic world.

“I have especially fond memories of the school’s annual Forty Hours Devotion, where I learned the infinite value of extended time ‘wasted’ before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

“I now realize what a privilege it was to have so much time in adoration as a high school student. I pray that the many future religious vocations from ACCHS will also learn this beautiful lesson: that time spent with Jesus in the Eucharist is never wasted.”

Sister Maria Angeline

After graduating from ACCHS in 2007, Sister Maria Angeline entered the postulancy of the Sisters of Christian Charity and on Aug. 15, 2017 “had the grace of making my perpetual profession.”

“While I attended Central Catholic, I had the privilege of participating in the Forty Hours devotion each year,” Sister Maria Angeline said. “A few memories stand out in my mind from that time, including Father Berkhout taking a list of every student to the adoration chapel, and praying for each of us by name.

“The opportunity to sit quietly before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament was the perfect time to discern a vocation to the

Please see VOCATIONS page 23 ▶▶



The school family gathers for the close of Forty Hours.



Students participate in the Eucharistic Procession.

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.

Vocations

►Continued from page 22

religious life. I will be forever grateful to Central Catholic for providing a place to learn how to pray and to grow in my relationship with God – a place always centered on the Eucharist.

“My senior year, before the Eucharistic procession of Forty Hours, our class was in adoration and the priest asked for a show of hands of whose lives were changed by spending time in his presence.

“After many hands went up, Father looked at the Lord and said, ‘This is for you, Jesus.’ I still think of that moment and the Forty Hours devotion, when I thank God for my vocation.”

Sister Marie Jose de la Rosa

Sister Marie Jose graduated from ACCHS in 2007 and made her final profession as a Sister of Christian Charity Aug. 15, 2017. She is the director of nursing at the SCC’s personal care home/infirmarary in Danville.

“As I sat in the car one night, I pondered my experience at Allentown Central Catholic. After all, it has been 10 years since I graduated. Then a song of praise that used to play during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament came over the radio, and immediately, I was brought back to those moments that opened my heart to a love of Christ and to a vocation to the religious life,” said Sister Marie Jose.

“The foundress of the Sisters of Christian Charity, Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt, said, ‘The Blessed Sacrament is my life, my bliss. To it, do I owe the grace of my holy vocation.’ It was during our time before the Blessed Sacrament, especially during Forty Hours, that my heart was opened to the love of God.

“I did not know it at the time. I would leave school and carry on with life as usual: sports, dances, etc. But something was silently unfolding. God was preparing my heart for a vocation as a consecrated religious.

“During my four years there, the vocation to the religious life was always encouraged, along with marriage and the single vocations. Allentown Central Catholic focused on our universal call to holiness and encouraged each student to discern what route God was calling them to follow to answer that call.

“The fact that our entire school would stop its normal routine to give praise and adoration to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, taught me the priority that my faith should have in my life. The deep faith and example of the faculty gave me the courage to say ‘yes’ to whatever the Lord was asking of me.

“I treasure my years at Allentown Central Catholic, for it was there that the stones of faith that were laid by my family and the sisters and teachers at Our Lady Help of Christians in Allentown were brought together to lay a foundation that I could stand up to say ‘yes’ to being



Father Searles raises the monstrance during benediction.

“I pray that the many future religious vocations from Allentown Central Catholic High School will also learn this beautiful lesson: that time spent with Jesus in the Eucharist is never wasted.”



Students sing at the closing of Forty Hours.

a Bride of Christ.”

Sister Josephine Wagner

“When I was a student at Central, I always looked forward to the Forty Hours Retreat,” said Sister Josephine, a 2014 graduate of ACCHS and a second-year novice with the Sisters of Christian Charity.

“I still remember my first Forty Hours at Central and being so amazed when I walked into adoration. I had never been so close to Jesus for such a long period

of time. That was when my relationship with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament began.”

“When I first visited the Sisters of Christian Charity I was struck by their devotion to the Eucharist. The Forty Hours retreats were definitely instrumental to my vocation to religious life and I am so thankful that I was able to be part of them throughout my high school years.”

Forty Hours 2017

With the theme “Love One Another,”

Forty Hours began with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 8:30 a.m. Mass Dec. 14 until the closing at noon Dec. 15.

A praise session with music by Sean Malloy and Ryan Gutshall took place the evening of Dec. 14.

Parents, families and friends were welcome to spend time with our Lord in Masson Auditorium.

Forty Hours concluded with a closing procession and solemn benediction.

Upcoming Issues of The A.D. Times

Publication Date	Advertising Deadline	News Deadline
Jan. 25	Jan. 15	Jan. 18
Feb. 8	Jan. 29	Feb. 1
Feb. 22	Feb. 12	Feb. 15
March 8	Feb. 26	March 1
March 22	March 12	March 15
April 5	March 26	March 29
April 19	April 9	April 12
May 3	April 23	April 26

Publication Date	Advertising Deadline	News Deadline
May 17	May 7	May 10
May 31	May 21	May 24
June 21	June 11	June 14
July 12	July 2	July 5
Aug. 2	July 23	July 26
Aug. 23	Aug. 13	Aug. 16
Sept. 13	Sept. 3	Sept. 6
Oct. 4	Sept. 24	Sept. 27
Oct. 18	Oct. 8	Oct. 11
Nov. 1	Oct. 22	Oct. 25
Nov. 15	Nov. 5	Nov. 8

Grandeur

►Continued from page 1

Lamb have been section hiking the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. A few years ago, Father Lamb hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon with his nephew, Tim DeCapite, who was a guide for the trio on this trip.

“When Father Lamb got back from that trip he called us very excited and said, ‘We’ve got to do this!’ In fact, he was so excited he may have called even before he boarded the plane to come home. From then on, a trip has been on our radar, and Father Lamb did a tremendous job pulling this together.”

During the priest convocation in Hershey just prior to the trip, the priests did a couple of hours of training by hiking to the top of the ridge upon which the Appalachian Trail is located. “After the Appalachian Trail crosses the Susquehanna River heading north at U.S. 22/322, it makes a steep climb, almost 1,000 feet in 2 miles,” Msgr. Orsulak said.

Father Philip Rogers, pastor of St. Benedict Mohnton, and Father Guency Isaac, assistant pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring, accompanied them on the Hershey training.

“Incidentally, there were some patches of snow on top of the ridge, apparently having flurried a day or two before. Ironically, we saw no snow in Arizona elevations much higher,” Msgr. Orsulak said.

Highlights of the trip for Msgr. Orsulak were meeting Tim’s family, as well as spending 48 hours with him while hiking 20 miles; seeing the green of the Colorado River for the first time on the hike down the South Kaibab Trail; reaching the Colorado river; and celebrating Mass on the edge of Plateau Point with the river 1,500 feet practically underneath them.

“Tim pointed out 1,000-year-old Anasazi pictographs only moments before we gained the rim at the end of the hike,” said Msgr. Orsulak, who also highlighted “the spectacular colors of the canyon walls as the sunlight played on them, and the huge hamburger and local beer I had after the hike.”

“The spiritual highlight for me was the Mass. As Father Lamb said, no cathedral could be more beautiful. We each got a little time to pray on our own each day, each going off on his own after we set up camp in the afternoon and before we left camp in the morning.”

Father Lamb

Father Lamb said he had done this trip three years ago with his nephews and brother-in-law. “It was fantastic. Since Msgr. Orsulak and Father Gibbons and I had hiked some of the Appalachian Trail before, I called Msgr. Orsulak on my way



Pausing to take in the vast beauty of the Grand Canyon are, from left, Msgr. Thomas Orsulak, Father John Gibbons and Father Patrick Lamb.

home from the Grand Canyon telling him how wonderful it was and how we should do it. It took three years to set it up, but we finally got to go.”

Father Lamb’s nephew Tim is a dermatologist who works at the Navajo Indian Reservation in Tuba City, Arizona. His wife Megan is a pediatrician there. “They have been out there for eight years, and will be returning to Maryland, where they are originally from, in August 2018,” Father Lamb said.

“Tim has been on every trail on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon and was an excellent guide for us.

“There is some prep involved in terms of getting in shape – a lot of walking with a backpack on with weights in it. Being in shape helps to make the trip more enjoyable. That way you’re not hurting the whole time from carrying the backpack. So in Hershey at the convocation, we decided to hike part of the Appalachian Trail in Harrisburg to get in shape”

When they arrived by car to the foot of the Appalachian Trail, Msgr. Orsulak and Father Lamb proceeded to put on their backpacks. “Father Gibbons didn’t remember his, so he put on his back the only other heavy object in his trunk – his golf clubs,” Father Lamb said. “Yes, he



The group hikes the splendor of the Grand Canyon.

carried them up the mountain and even hit a few golf balls while he was up there.

“As we came down the mountain to get to our cars, a man who was in the parking lot saw us walking out of the woods – Msgr. Orsulak and I with our backpacks and Father Gibbons with his golf clubs. Without missing a beat Father Gibbons went up to the man and asked him, ‘Have you seen my ball?’ We should have gotten a picture of his face.”

“The beauty of the Grand Canyon is difficult to put into words. When I first saw the Grand Canyon back in 1979 it was the first time I understood what the term ‘breathtaking’ meant. The beauty and size and grandeur of the canyon is magnificent,” Father Lamb said.

“Two things stood out for me. One is the beauty of the sky and stars at night. The stars seem to be right in your face. It is so dark. The Milky Way is brilliant. It makes one feel very small and humble.

“We went to a place at the canyon called Plateau Point. We watched the sunset on the canyon. Again, this is hard to describe. The canyon looks different as the sun goes down. The colors change

constantly and are very beautiful.

“We celebrated Mass in a secluded spot. Talk about a God-given beautiful cathedral.”

Another highlight for Father Lamb was “simply spending time with my nephew, who I love, and two great priest friends. Just hanging out together was a gift. We are all so busy in this world, we don’t get to ‘waste time’ together too often. I’m ready to go back.”

Father Gibbons

“Hiking into the Grand Canyon is like being swallowed up in the grandeur of God,” Father Gibbons said.

“Then to celebrate Mass with two diocesan brother priests, during sunset, at a place called Plateau Point? Wow. It brought awesomeness, beauty, history and mystery into one point.

“That point is not just out in that spectacular point in Arizona, but somehow in our dear Lord. All of this is inside every Mass in which we all participate back here in our parishes in the Allentown Diocese.”

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