

## Rite of Election Calls 96 Catechumens to the Church

By TARA CONNOLLY  
Staff writer

“The holy Church embraces you. We are so honored and privileged to see the Holy Spirit working through you to become a member of our Church,” said Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert to 96 catechumens during the Rite of Election.

Bishop Schlert presided at the Rite of Election and was the main celebrant for the Mass Feb. 18 at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown.

The afternoon ceremony, celebrated in English and Spanish, formally acknowledged the readiness of 96 catechumens – those preparing for the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) – to seek full communion with the Catholic Church.

The Rite of Election, which is celebrated annually on the first Sunday of Lent, marks the beginning of the final phase of preparation for those participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

The Call to Continuing Conversion is celebrated in individual parishes. This ceremony is for candidates who have been baptized in other Christian traditions who now seek to become members of the Catholic Church, or baptized Catholics who had no instruction in the faith and are now preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist.

In his homily, Bishop Schlert told the catechumens that although the Church upholds seven sacraments that are defined as “an outward sign instituted by Christ to give

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Catechumens and their godparents process into the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown for the Rite of Election. (Photos by John Simitz)

## Holy Family Manor Residents Anointed on World Day of the Sick

By TARA CONNOLLY  
Staff writer

“The most important thing in today’s Gospel of the man seeking to be healed – is that in his suffering, he encountered Christ,” said Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert Feb. 11 during a Mass for the World Day of the Sick at Holy Family Manor (HFM), Bethlehem.

Bishop Schlert celebrated the special Mass for an estimated 75 residents, family members and staff for the World Day of the Sick, a day introduced by St. Pope John Paul II to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses.

The day also coincided with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes and signals Catholic health ministry to reflect on caring for those who are sick.

“As we celebrate the World Day for the Sick, everywhere throughout the Catholic world we are reflecting on the great Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and the consolation the sacrament can bring,” said Bishop Schlert.

“We also celebrate Catholic health care. To all the dedicated employees and staff working here to be a presence of Christ – I say thank you,” he added.

Reflecting on the day’s Gospel recounting the healing of a man suffering from leprosy, Bishop Schlert said there are many ways to encounter Christ, like engaging

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Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, center, celebrates Mass for World Day of the Sick for Holy Family Manor residents, with concelebrants Father Anthony Drouncheck, HFM chaplain, left, and Msgr. Anthony Wassel, seated right. (Photos by John Simitz)

## U.S. Bishops Declare National Call-In Day to Urge Congress to Protect ‘Dreamers’

WASHINGTON (CNS) – After the Senate failed Feb. 15 to garner the 60 votes needed to move a bill forward to protect the “Dreamers,” officials of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced a “National Catholic Call-In Day to Protect Dreamers” Monday, Feb. 26.

“We are deeply disappointed that the Senate was not able to come together in a bipartisan manner to secure legislative protection for the Dreamers,” the USCCB officials said in a joint statement Feb. 19.

“With the March 5 deadline looming, we ask once again that members of Congress show the leadership necessary to find a just and humane solution for these young people, who daily face mounting anxiety and uncertainty,” they said.

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"The Allentown Diocese in the Year of Our Lord"

# THE A.D. TIMES

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Fax: 610-439-7694  
E-mail: [adtimes@allentowndioocese.org](mailto:adtimes@allentowndioocese.org)

**President**

Bishop Alfred Schlert

**Secretary for External Affairs**

Matt Kerr

**Editor**

Jill Caravan

**Staff Writers**Tara Connolly  
Tami Quigley**Design & Production**

Marcus Schneck

**Advertising Contact**

Lori Anderson

**Office Assistant**

Priscilla Tatar

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APRIL 14, 2018: 9AM-3PM

DAY OF REFLECTION WITH FR. BERNARD EZAKI

APRIL 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2018 6:45-9:00PM

BOOK STUDY - "WHEN FAITH FEELS FRAGILE"

APRIL 18, 2018 6:45-9:00PM

TWILIGHT RETREAT WITH FR. CHRIS BUTERA

APRIL 9, 16, 23 & 30 6:45-9:00PM

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### Letting Love In:

From Agony to Acceptance

March 5, 12, 19, & 26 6:45 ~ 9:00 PM

OFFERING: \$15 PER SESSION/ 4 FOR \$50

Acceptance is one of the keys to spiritual freedom and inner peace. We are told to accept ourselves, others, and situations in our lives. It's much easier said than done. God is love, but even His love is not forced upon us. It too must be accepted. Join us on this Lenten journey as we explore acceptance from many angles including accepting others, ourselves — accepting pain and suffering. We will also reflect upon God's infinite love and acceptance for us and discern whether we are blocking or fully open to receiving His love. We will learn from Jesus' many examples exactly what true acceptance entails. Each evening will include a guided meditation, a presentation, music for reflection, and more.

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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](http://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](http://www.allentowndioocese.org) y haga clic en "Protección de la Juventud" en la parte superior derecha.



# Ash Wednesday at Immaculate Conception, Jim Thorpe



Above, Donna O'Donnell receives ashes on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14 from Father James Ward, pastor, at Immaculate Conception, Jim Thorpe. Ash Wednesday marks the start of the solemn 40-day season of Lent that prepares us for Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption. (Photos by John Simitz)

Above right, other Mass-goers line up to receive their ashes, which commemorate the ancient rite of placing the sign of the cross on the forehead with the reminder "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration the previous year.

Right, Father Ward celebrates Mass after receiving ashes on his own forehead.



## 'More Than Sacrifice' – Diocesan Stewardship Day Set for March 9

"More Than Sacrifice" is the theme for a Diocesan Stewardship Day planned for Friday, March 9 at St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield.

Keynote speaker will be Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, on the topic "Stewardship Begins at Home."

The day will begin with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Kurtz and Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert.



**Archbishop Kurtz**

### Archbishop Kurtz

In 2007 Archbishop Joseph Kurtz was appointed by His Holiness Benedict XVI as the fourth Archbishop and ninth bishop of the Archdiocese of Louisville. Previously he served as Bishop of Knoxville 1999-2007.

A native of Mahanoy City, Archbishop Kurtz was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Allentown in 1972. During 27 years of service within the Diocese of Allentown, he was deeply engaged in social services, diocesan administration and parish ministry.

His assignments included pastor of Notre of Bethlehem Parish; pastor of Annunciation BVM (St. Mary) Parish, Catasauqua; executive director of the

Catholic Social Agency and Family Life Bureau; and Diocesan coordinator of health affairs.

He also served in formation at St. Pius X Seminary, Dalton; as an instructor at Mary Immaculate Seminary, Northampton; and as assistant director and promoter of vocations for the Diocese of Allentown.

Archbishop Kurtz has served on numerous boards, including the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference; St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia; the National Catholic Partnership on Disability; Engaged Encounter; and Advisory Board to the Cause for Archbishop Fulton Sheen's beatification.

He led the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as president 2013-16 and now chairs the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty.

### Other topics and speakers

Other topics and speakers will be: "Building a School-Based Stewardship Community" presented by Paul Acampora, secretary of the Secretariat for Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Allentown.

"Hands on Stewardship: Living Our Faith in Service" presented by Milissa Else, director of pastoral services and sales for Renew International, which assists dioceses and parishes across the United States with faith formation, evangelization and spiritual renewal.

"Practically Speaking: Our Roles as Stewards" presented by Msgr. Robert Wargo and Lisa Geosits. Msgr. Wargo is

pastor of St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, and a former Diocesan director of vocations. Geosits is advancement director for St. Joseph the Worker School, Orefield.

"Everyday Stewardship: Managing Our Parish Resources for Today/Tomorrow" presented by Msgr. Edward Sacks, a priest for the Diocese of Allentown who has served as faculty, principal and administrator for several Diocesan high schools; assistant superintendent for Diocesan schools; Diocesan director of the Catholic Charities Appeal (now the Bishop's Annual Appeal); and Diocesan vicar for development.

"Creating a Stewardship-Based School Communications Plan" presented by Paul Wirth and Megan Sherry. Wirth is director of utility communications for PPL, where he supervises all internal and external communications and messaging for electric customers, employees and other stakeholders. He has been chairman of the board of directors of Catholic Charities since 2013. Sherry has been teaching for three years and has been an advancement director for the past year.

### Registration

Deadline for registration is Friday, March 2.

To register, send name, address, phone, email, home parish/school and any special accommodations needed to Stewardship and Development, Diocese of Allentown, ATTN: Sr. Janice Marie Johnson, PO Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018  
St. Joseph the Worker Parish  
1879 Applewood Drive  
Orefield

*More  
Than  
Sacrifice*



**Parish Stewardship Day  
2018**

*Stewardship*  
Time, Talent & Treasure

## Rite

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grace,” an eighth sacrament does exist.  
 “The eighth sacrament is the Catholic Church because it fits all the criteria as an outward sign instituted by Christ to be visible to the world. It is an instrument of grace because the Church is the custodian of the other sacraments,” he said.

As the catechumens anticipate receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, Bishop Schlert told the catechumens that they have been receiving the eighth sacrament through their experience with the Church.

“You have already experienced the light, the work and the beauty of the Church,” he said.

“The Church goes on despite weak-

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Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert delivers the homily and expresses his support to the catechumens during the ceremony.

## Catechumens Harbor Strong Desire to Become Members of the Church

Donna Patterson, 52, is one of the catechumens looking forward to becoming a member of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, and she has five joyful reasons.

That's because when she receives the Holy Eucharist for the first time at the Easter Vigil, her mother will receive the Eucharist for the first time in 50 years, and her two aunts and uncle will return to church for the first time in decades.

Patterson, who didn't identify with a faith and attended different churches throughout her life, was raised with her older sister with Catholic beliefs through her nonpracticing mother.

“I tried a lot of churches. About five years ago, I felt something was missing,” she said.

She turned to a Catholic friend for advice, and after several conversations Patterson followed her friend's suggestion and researched the faith at [www.catholicscomehome.org](http://www.catholicscomehome.org).

“I never thought about being Catholic. As soon as I read the introduction, I instantly connected because it was everything I was feeling,” she said.

Patterson said she never considered becoming Catholic because of opposition from friends and misunderstandings of Church teaching. Nonetheless, she decided to attend a class for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA.)

“I still wanted to see what the faith was about. I went to a class and didn't feel obligated to continue. It was a very lively class. I enjoyed going because it was very eye-opening. I was expecting the worst, but everyone was accepting and open,” she said.

Through RCIA, Patterson discovered that a lot of Catholic traditions aligned with her beliefs and Church teaching began to make sense.

“It didn't come easy to me. There was never conflict – it was just new material to me,” she said.

“It's been a long journey. I am looking forward to participating in Communion. I am already a member of the Church community because I volunteer, attend Mass and have been welcomed by everyone,” she said.

Patterson will become a member of the Church at the Easter Vigil, March 31 at Holy Family, Nazareth.

“My mother has returned to confession and will receive with me. My aunts and uncle will be there, too,” she said.

By joining the Church, Patterson is excited to have family by her side and has been asked to serve as a godmother.

“It's amazing to see what one person can do by changing their life and accepting the faith. It pulls others toward God,” she said.

“I am excited to become part of the community and the direction the Church gives. There is so much going on in the world right now and it is so easy to do the wrong thing.”

Susan Beck, 56, another catechumen who will become a member of the Church at the Easter Vigil, was raised in a different faith and is engaged to Jerry Salak, a parishioner of St. Patrick, Pottsville.

After attending Mass with her fiancé for approximately five years, Beck said she began to love the Catholic faith and contemplated converting.

“The more I learned about the faith – the more it made sense to me,” she said.

Because of their different faith backgrounds, the couple planned to become legally married through a civil ceremony.

“Marrying in the Church was never the plan. It seemed too complicated,” said Beck.

Her desire to become part of the Catholic Church, the local parish and the faith community inspired her to begin RCIA classes.

“I saw all the wonderful things the Church does and I wanted to be part of it,” she said.

Being welcomed by Bishop Schlert and Diocesan clergy and faithful at the Rite of Election solidified her decision to become a member of the Catholic Church.

“The cathedral was absolutely beautiful. Each and every person was so welcoming. Bishop Schlert and so many others said they were praying for us. It was a beautiful day,” said Beck.



Catechumens listen to the homily during the ceremony that called them to the sacraments at Easter.



Above, catechumens stand as their names are called during the Act of Election.



Left, Jimmy Torres signs the Book of the Elect with the support of Anais Vega, right, and Father Allen Hof-fa, administrator of St. Joseph, Summit Hill.



Below, Bishop Schlert, left, witnesses a catechumen with his godmother sign the Book of the Elect.

**“We are blessed because the Lord founded the Church and is calling you to be part of it. We embrace you and thank God for calling you.”**

# Rite

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ness and sinfulness. We are blessed because the Lord founded the Church and is calling you to be part of it. We embrace you and thank God for calling you," said Bishop Schlert.

Now that the catechumens are called "elect," Bishop Schlert said they possess a grace-filled presence in the Church.

"These last few weeks have been intense work. Be certain that all of us here will be praying for you during the final leg of your journey," said Bishop Schlert.

While the catechumens are growing in holiness, Bishop Schlert cautioned them that the "evil one" does not want them to become part of the Catholic Church.

"If Jesus was tempted – so will you and I. You are truly seeking out the holiness of the Catholic Church, and the devil will do his best to discourage you," he warned.

"Be on guard, be alert and know that the power of

Christ overcomes the power of the evil one," stressed Bishop Schlert.

He then asked the elect to make their journey toward full communion with the Church with a great depth of the spirit.

"If you do so, you will be able to sustain your journey and we will embrace you at the Easter Vigil," said Bishop Schlert.

"It will be a great day for all of us because we will celebrate your entrance into the Church and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. All of us share in the joy, privilege and blessing of our Lord's resurrection because we, as the Roman Catholic family of faith, journey with you to eternal life," he said.

After the homily the catechumens received affirmation from Bishop Schlert of God's call in their lives. The catechumens responded to the bishop's call to Jesus by expressing their desire for the sacraments and inscribing their names in the Book of the Elect.

Next Bishop Schlert declared them "elect" and committed to the sacraments of the church to be received at the Easter Vigil. They will be baptized, confirmed and receive Holy Eucharist.



Above right, Jacqueline Valencia enters her name into the Book of the Elect with support from Miguel Lemus, parishioner of St. Paul, Reading.



Right, Crystal Delgado signs the Book of the Elect with encouragement from her sister, Sadie Delgado.



Left, Joseuien Aceuedo becomes "elect" after signing the Book of the Elect under guidance from Sister Margaret Pavluchuk, director of religious education at St. Peter the Apostle, Reading.

# Sick

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in prayer, reception of the Holy Eucharist and through other people.

"But we must remember that in sickness and our frailty – there are encounters with Christ. Jesus even uses sinfulness and doubt to have encounters of love with him," stressed Bishop Schlert.

He then pointed to other melancholy

scenes in the Gospels, like the man born lame, Lazarus, the grieving sisters and the blind man.

"What we see most in the Gospels is Jesus encountering people in their sickness, illness and frailty," said Bishop Schlert.

Although sickness is not a way one would choose to encounter Christ, Bishop Schlert maintained that the encounter has great and deeper meaning.

"They can be grace-filled moments. That is the great hope that illness and

frailty brings us. It gives us the opportunity to encounter Christ through others. Even when the world thinks it is too tough of a situation – it is a way for us to see Christ and glorify him," he said.

"Through your personal courage –

you bring us our own courage because our own time for suffering will come," said Bishop Schlert.

He also lauded the HFM staff for ex-

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A resident at Holy Family Manor sings a hymn during Mass for World Day of the Sick.



Bishop Schlert anoints Ruth Neff with blessed oil while performing the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

## 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 Hispanic population will be bilingual.

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

The next two holy hours in each deanery:

Berks Deanery – Sunday, Feb. 25, 1 p.m., St. John Baptist de la Salle, 420 Holland St., Shillington; Sunday, March 11, 1 p.m., St. Ignatius Loyola, 2810 St. Albans Drive, Sinking Spring.

Lehigh Deanery – Sunday, March 4, 1 p.m., Holy Trinity, 4456 Main St., Whitehall; Sunday, April 15, 1:30 p.m., St. Thomas More, 1040 Flexer Ave., Allentown.

Northampton Deanery – Sunday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m., St. Anthony of Padua, 900 Washington St., Easton; Sunday, March 18, 1 p.m., St. Rocco, 658 School St., Martins Creek.

Schuylkill-Carbon Deaneries – Tuesday, March 13, 6 p.m., St. Joseph, 526 North St., Jim Thorpe; Sunday, April 8, 2:30 p.m., St. Joseph, 426 W. Ludlow St., Summit Hill.



## 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.allentowndioocese.org/encounter](http://www.allentowndioocese.org/encounter).

## Sick

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tending physical, emotional and spiritual care to the manor's over 200 residents and their family members.

"If we don't provide health care with Catholic faith, compassion and dignity – then we are not fulfilling the mandate of Christ. Thank you for acting in the true mandate of Christ and allowing him to permeate this building," he said.

Bishop Schlert and concelebrant Fa-

ther Anthony Drouncheck, chaplain of Holy Family Manor, performed the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for each resident.

Bishop Schlert then led the residents, family members and staff in a litany of prayers asking God to restore their

strength, free them from pain and sin, and to sustain them.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is administered to bring spiritual and physical strength in times of illness. The sacrament conveys several graces and imparts gifts of strengthening in the Holy

Spirit against anxiety, discouragement and temptation, and conveys peace and fortitude.

Msgr. Anthony Wassel, HFM resident and pastor emeritus of Assumption, Sacred Heart and St. Joseph, Mahanoy City, also concelebrated the Mass.

*"As we celebrate the World Day of the Sick, everywhere throughout the Catholic world we are reflecting on the great Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and the consolation the sacrament can bring."*



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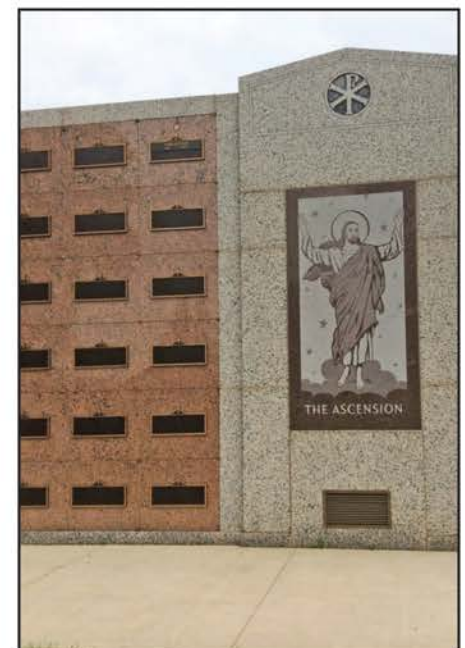
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Allentown, PA 18106



# Sunday Scripture

Sunday, Feb. 25  
Second Sunday of Lent

First reading  
**Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18**  
Responsorial Psalm  
**Psalms 116:10, 15-19**  
Second Reading  
**Romans 8:31b-34**  
Gospel  
Mark 9:2-10

Sunday, March 4  
Third Sunday of Lent

First Reading  
**Exodus 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17**  
Responsorial Psalm  
**Psalms 19:8-11**  
Second Reading  
**1 Corinthians 1:22-25**  
Gospel  
**John 2:13-25**

## Recommended to Your Prayers by Pope Francis

# Apostleship of Prayer Intention for March

Evangelization: Formation in Spiritual Discernment – That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

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

# Prayer Requests for Priests

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

- 1 – His Holiness Pope Francis
- 2 – Pope Emeritus Benedict
- 3 – Bishop Alfred Schlert
- 4 – Bishop Emeritus Edward Cullen
- 5 – Msgr. Joseph DeSantis
- 6 – Msgr. Edward Domin
- 7 – Father Bruno Dongo
- 8 – Father Walter Downs
- 9 – Father Anthony Drouncheck
- 10 – Father Ladislaus Dudek
- 11 – Father Edward Essig
- 12 – Father John Extejt
- 13 – Father Bernard Ezaki

- 14 – Father Joseph Favole-Mihm
- 15 – Deceased priests
- 16 – Msgr. Victor Finelli
- 17 – Father Robert Finlan
- 18 – Msgr. Robert Forst
- 19 – Father John Frink
- 20 – Permanent deacons
- 21 – Father Kevin Gallagher
- 22 – Father Daniel Gambet
- 23 – Father Joseph Ganser
- 24 – Father Angel Garcia-Almodovar
- 25 – Father Andrew Gehringer
- 26 – Father Robert George
- 27 – Father John Gibbons
- 28 – Father David Gillis
- 29 – Msgr. William Glosser
- 30 – Msgr. Gerald Gobitas
- 31 – Msgr. John Grabish

# In Memoriam

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

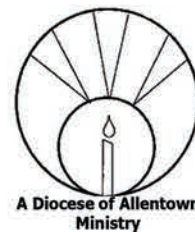
- 2 – Father Michael Begany, 1962
- 2 – Father Joseph Andel, 1988
- 2 – Deacon Clement Musalavage, 1997
- 4 – Father Stanley Musuras, 1973
- 4 – Deacon Franklin Chiles, 2013
- 4 – Deacon Francis Cosgrove, 2016
- 6 – Father Emeric Kucharic, 1963
- 6 – Msgr. Stephen Krystyniak, 1973
- 6 – Father John Dunajski, 1990
- 6 – Father Charles McNulty, 2003
- 7 – Father Cyril Birmelin, 1964
- 7 – Father Joseph Basovsky, 1992
- 8 – Father Joseph Mizak, 1968
- 10 – Father Robert Dougherty, 1992
- 10 – Deacon Richard Braun, 2010
- 10 – Deacon William Wagner, 2016
- 11 – Father John Bambrick, 2016
- 13 – Deacon Joseph Costa, 2013
- 16 – Father William Mooney, 1988
- 18 – Father Frederick Fasig, 1963
- 18 – Father Richard Holzhauser, 1968
- 18 – Father Bruno Zietsch, 1976
- 18 – Msgr. John McPeak, 1993
- 18 – Father Leonardo Iacono, 2003
- 19 – Father Ladislaus Sarama, 1966
- 20 – Father James Sweeney, 2002
- 21 – Father Francis Adolf, 1968
- 24 – Msgr. James Sullivan, 1971
- 24 – Msgr. Raymond Merman, 2017
- 25 – Msgr. Frederick Melley, 1993
- 27 – Father Paul Welkie, 2003
- 28 – Msgr. Joseph Baran, 1984
- 29 – Msgr. Thomas Birch, 2013
- 30 – Father William Nahn, 2013
- 31 – Father Joseph Feeny, 1993



# We Are Remembered Ministry 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Mass

Wednesday, April 4th 2018 at 7:00 PM

Saint John the Baptist Church, Allentown, PA



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As we prepare to mark the 27<sup>th</sup> Year of the "We Are Remembered Ministry", we invite you to gather and celebrate our Annual Easter Mass. St. John's Church, has again graciously welcomed us to use the beautiful setting of their parish home! Please indicate on the enrollment form if you plan on joining us for this very special Liturgy. We minister and welcome all who mourn the death and passing of a loved one. As a sponsor, it is important that you enroll the name of your loved one(s) each year. This will ensure their inclusion in the enrollment list appearing in the AD Times after the Anniversary Mass. As always, "The Book of the Remembered" will be available for your remembrances from 6 - 6:50 PM and again after our Mass. Our friends who have helped us in past years will again provide us with a social & spring flowers/gifts. If you'd like to help, please contact us by email: frjim.stmj@gmail.com (include your phone # and email address).

**Directions:** Saint John the Baptist Church, 924 N. Front St. Allentown, PA 18102  
St. John the Baptist is located on North Front Street in Allentown one block North of American Parkway.  
Ample parking is provided in the rear of the Church.

*The work of the ministry is sustained by your generosity and prayer!*

Your generosity & prayerful support allows the ministry to continue. We ask a \$5 donation for each name enrolled to cover expenses. Every name submitted will be enrolled regardless of donation.

**Enrollment Deadline: Wednesday March 28th**

Mail to: We Are Remembered Ministry  
P.O. Box 20082  
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0082



27<sup>th</sup> We Are Remembered Anniversary Mass Enrollment

Sponsor(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I (We) will attend the Anniversary Mass (# Attending \_\_\_\_\_)

Unable to attend

Name(s) of the Deceased (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

## The 'Fake News' of the Immigration Issue

In the presidential campaign of 2016, the phrase "fake news" became a well-known expression and has come to be used in all sorts of ways.

Perhaps it would be appropriate for us to use "fake news" when speaking of the issue of immigration.

When forming our opinions on the subject of immigration, what do we use as the basis of those opinions? I suggest that we make sure that our opinions are based on correct information *and* on Catholic teaching.

One area that could easily be considered fake news is the idea that criminal activity, especially gang activity and illegal drug activity, is the main reason that people are migrating to the United States.

Although no one could deny that illegal drugs and criminals do come in the country illegally, they would be a very, very small percentage of immigrants who come to the United States of America.

The vast majority of people who are migrating to the United States are fleeing poverty, violence, corruption and other realities that are making it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to live life in peace or in health. And without dignity, respect or the opportunity to improve

life for oneself or one's family.

This truth applies to people who migrate here from any part of the world – Central and South America, Middle East, Africa, Europe – anywhere.

In El Salvador three years ago, a man told me of his daily fear that his 15-year-old daughter would be kidnapped and he would never see her again, and he would have no help from police or anyone.

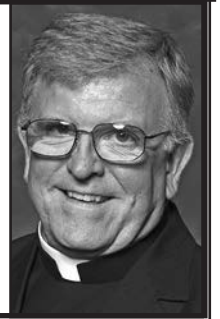
The accounts in recent years of thousands in Syria being physically persecuted for being Christian. And this is all happening in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

For this reason, Pope Francis has launched "Share the Journey," a two-year challenge to all people, especially Catholics, "to welcome our brothers and sisters with our arms truly open, ready for a sincere embrace, a loving and enveloping embrace."

For some people, thinking this way about people who migrate to this country would be very different. But it would also be very much in line with Catholic social teaching.

This social teaching states that countries have the right to regulate their borders and control immigration, and to do so with justice and mercy. It also states that people have the right

*By Father George Winne, assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception BVM and Sacred Heart of Jesus churches, Allentown, and spiritual director of the Hispanic Apostolate Charismatic Renewal.*



to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families.

As Pope Francis said to Congress when visiting here in September 2015, "Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves."

"In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities. The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us."

May we all work and pray together for the protection of our country, and also for the respect and dignity of all people.

This issue, by the way, is a pro-life issue. Our Catholic faith is life-giving. Our Catholic social teaching is life-giving.

## 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](http://www.courage.org).

### PRINCIPAL Notre Dame High School Easton, PA

Notre Dame High School, located in Bethlehem Township, PA, is seeking applicants for the Principal position effective with the 2018-19 school year.

As the chief administrator of the school, responsibilities include:

- Lead and direct its religious and academic programs
- Educational development of students--setting expectations for student achievement and behavior.
- Professional development of teachers -- consulting with teachers regarding instructional practices, classroom management, and school procedures.
- Supervise all aspects of the school's operation, including facilities maintenance/operations, food service, transportation, fund-raising, enrollment and tuition.
- Represent the school to all its constituents, including faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, neighbor and business communities.

Requirements:

- Practicing Catholic with a commitment to the principles of Catholic education
- Master's Degree in Education or School Administration
- Principal certification or ability to obtain within 1 year
- 5 years of experience in school administration
- Demonstrated successful budgetary and fiscal management
- Leadership and public relations ability

Please submit application, resume, background clearances, appropriate certifications, salary history with cover letter by Thursday, March 22, 2018 to:

Office of Education  
1425 Mountain Drive North  
Bethlehem, PA 18015-4722  
Or email the same to:  
[resumes@allentowndioocese.org](mailto:resumes@allentowndioocese.org)  
No phone calls please.  
EOE M/F/D/V

### Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum

The Diocese of Allentown is seeking a full-time Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum. This position provides leadership in areas of curriculum, professional development and supervision in matters and programs pertaining to the elementary and secondary schools of the Diocese. The Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum acts as a liaison for the Chancellor and Superintendent of Catholic Education with principals, teachers, pastors and religious communities. The Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum shall give witness to the Roman Catholic Church's teaching, moral truths and values, both in his/her personal and professional life.

Primary responsibilities include:

- Oversight of Administrators Development Program which requires periodic meetings with Principals and monitoring through school and classroom visits.
- Organizing the Middle States accreditation program.
- Administering the Diocesan testing program.
- Assisting with the development of Catholic curriculum, including curriculum workshops.

Qualified candidates must have a Master's Degree in Education with PA Teaching Certificate and a combination of at least 10 years teaching and administrative education experience. Candidates will be practicing Catholics and must be committed to the mission of Catholic education. Certified Catechist, PA Administrative Certification and experience in Catholic education and/or with Diocesan structure preferred.

For immediate consideration applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and references by March 22, 2018 to:

Diocese of Allentown  
Attn: Human Resource Office (ASOC)  
P.O. Box F  
Allentown, PA 18105-1538  
[resumes@allentowndioocese.org](mailto:resumes@allentowndioocese.org)  
EOE M/F/D/V



## Ministerio Hispano

# 'Recordando el Pasado con Agradecimiento, Viviendo con Alegría el Presente y Caminando con Esperanza Hacia el Futuro'

Por BERNARDA LIRIANO  
Directora, Oficina de Asuntos Hispanos

La Oficina del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Allentown, hace un recorrido de los últimos programas y eventos que se llevaron a cabo durante los meses de agosto, septiembre y octubre del 2017.

Recordando el pasado con agradecimiento. Bendecidos por el apoyo de líderes laicos, la oficina ofreció un segundo encuentro parroquial de agentes en la parroquia Nuestra Señora de la Merced. Presentes estuvieron agentes de la Pastoral hispana parroquial acompañados de su Párroco Rev. Keith Laskowski y el diácono Isidro González.

El Encuentro Parroquial contribuyó al diálogo y discernimiento pastoral entre las comunidades del Ministerio Hispano. Concluyó con la asignación y entrega de material de estudio de formación para los coordinadores del ministerio litúrgico.

En el mes de septiembre ofrecimos un día de Espiritualidad para los Ministros de la Sagrada Comunión y los Proclamadores de la Palabra donde se llevó a cabo los encuentros parroquiales, como seguimiento de las necesidades presentadas en las comunidades de la Parroquia María Auxiliadora y Nuestra Señora de la Merced.

Gracias al apoyo de la Sra. Blanca Torres, Diácono José Santos y Diácono Isidro González, quienes colaboraron con las presentaciones del día. El apoyo de los Párrocos de ambas Parroquias, quienes hicieron presencia durante la mañana de formación. El día fue enfocado en la importancia y espiritualidad de ambos ministerios, así como material de apoyo disponible para los participantes.

En el mes de octubre, ofrecimos un taller de Pintura acrílica donde la Sra. Sandy Santos de Domínguez puso al servicio de la comunidad sus dones, e inspiró a un grupo de mujeres y jóvenes adultos a encontrar a Dios también por medio del arte. El grupo concluyó un cuadro con la imagen de Nuestra Madre María con el niño Jesús en brazos en forma de Mosaico.

Una bella oportunidad de fraternidad y oración por medio del arte. También acompañamos a la parroquia Sagrado Corazón en el rosario al aire libre en honor a nuestra Señora de Fátima. Ese rosario fue organizado por la Señora Freida Mercado y su familia con el apoyo de la parroquia Sagrado Corazón.

Agradecidos por el gran número de



Rev. Frank Kaminski, SJ dirige el Día de Reflexión: "Día de Descanso en el Señor" en el Centro Jesuita de Wernersville del 16 de septiembre, 2017. (Fotos courtesy of Bernarda Liriano / Fotografías cortesía de Bernarda Liriano)



En frente de izquierda a derecha, Rev. Robert Wiesenbaugh, SJ y Rosemary Rodriguez Guerra durante la reflexión "Encontrando a Dios en todas las cosas."

personas que concluyeron la Escuela de Formación Ignaciana, ofrecimos un día de Reflexión en la Casa Jesuita en Wernersville con el apoyo del Rev. Frank Kaminski, SJ quien fue el presentador. También contamos con el apoyo del Rev. Robert Wiesenbaugh, SJ y el Rev. John Barron, SJ quienes nos acompañaron.

En Allentown se ofreció una Jornada de Oración Ignaciana en la parroquia María Auxiliadora donde participaron más

de 60 personas, entre ellos varios jóvenes adultos. Seguida por una Segunda Etapa de Día de Oración Ignaciana. Para ambas etapas la participación fue a nivel diocesano.

Parroquias participantes de la diócesis de la región de Berks: San Pedro, San Pablo, San José y Santa Margarita. De la región de Lehigh Valley: San Pablo, Sagrado Corazón, María Auxiliadora, Santa Infancia y Nuestra Señora de la Merced.

Una participante de Lebanon y dos de Plainfield NJ.

En el mes de noviembre una delegación de 10 personas participamos del retiro Ignaciano de fin de semana de segunda etapa en la Casa de Loyola, NJ.

Nuestra Oficina agradece a la comunidad laica que día tras día se esfuerza por contribuir con el crecimiento y la labor evangelizadora de nuestra comunidad. Embajadores parroquiales que brindan el apoyo directo a la Oficina diocesana del Ministerio Hispano y líderes de pequeñas comunidades. Gracias a los sacerdotes, diáconos y religiosas que día a día continúan dando de sí para brindar el apoyo a la comunidad.

A final de octubre la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano llevó a cabo la Reunión Anual Diocesana donde se otorgaron seis placas de agradecimiento por la labor pionera en el ministerio hispano en la diócesis. Tres sacerdotes y tres religiosas fueron homenajeados durante la noche.

Muy agradecidos por su entrega de tantos años, un reconocimiento fue entregado a Mons. John Grabish, Mons. Robert Biszek, Mons. John Campbell, Hna. Isabel Sell, IHM, Hna. María Kane, IHM, y la Hna. Constanza Ravasio, PSSJ.

Tuvimos una noche de muchas bendiciones donde pudimos agradecerles en nombre de toda la comunidad hispana y fuimos privilegiados de escuchar una breve historia de los comienzos del Ministerio Hispano en nuestra Diócesis por Rev. Mons. Grabish. Presente en la Reunión Diocesana: sacerdotes, religiosas, diáconos, líderes laicos a nivel diocesano representantes de movimientos, embajadores parroquiales y representantes de la Escuela de Evangelización San Andrés.

En Acción de Gracias compartimos en noviembre con el grupo de Jóvenes Adultos MIES (Misioneros de Esperanza). Una oportunidad para escuchar las necesidades actuales entre los jóvenes de nuestra comunidad y motivación a enfrentar los obstáculos sin miedo. Los presentes recibieron un libro como obsequio para compartir durante sus próximas reuniones. El grupo de jóvenes continúa reuniéndose dos veces al mes en Allentown. Calendario de reunión disponible en línea y en las parroquias de la región.

La Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón y miembros de la Escuela de San Andrés concluyeron las cinco sesiones del

Por Favor mira HISPANO pagina 10 ►►



Rev. Frank Kaminski, SJ compartiendo la oración final del día "Abre mis Ojos."



Participantes se introducen por nombre y parroquia a la que pertenecen durante la Jornada de Reflexión en la Parroquia Maria Auxiliadora del 9 de septiembre 2017.

# Hispano

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V- Encuentro. Un Encuentro Parroquial fue dirigido por Rev. George Winne en noviembre en la Parroquia Sagrado Corazón. Tuvimos la bendición de acompañarles durante el proceso y el encuentro Parroquial. Ahora continuamos viviendo el presente con alegría por los frutos que continuamos recogiendo de todos aquellos que han plantado antes de nosotros y por los que continúan hoy en día en la viña del Señor.

El 10 de febrero del 2018 nos reunimos para celebrar el Encuentro Diocesano Camino al V Encuentro Nacional. Rev. George Winne acompañó a la comunidad durante el Encuentro compartiendo

varios de los temas del día junto a Bernarda Liriano. También contamos con la presencia del Obispo Alfred A. Schlert quién dirigió unas palabras de agradecimiento a todos los presentes.

Un grupo de delegados Diocesanos representaran a nuestra Diócesis en el Encuentro regional en abril que se celebrará en Trenton NJ y luego una delegación planifica continuar el caminar hacia el Encuentro Nacional en Grapevine Texas en setiembre del 2018.

Embajadores Parroquiales, y líderes de la comunidad a la luz de las prioridades discernida en el Encuentro Diocesano, continuamos trabajando en las mejores prácticas para implementar y continuar el proceso de unidad y fortalecimiento del liderazgo en el Ministerio

Por Favor mira HISPANO pagina 11 ►►



Participantes comparten durante el almuerzo en la Jornada de Reflexión. En la parte de atrás, Padre Andrew Gehringer saluda a los participantes.



Hna. Martha Zammatore, OSF acompaña a los participantes durante la oración de apertura con una canción de entrada durante la Jornada de Reflexión.



Carmen Figueroa de la Parroquia de Santa Infancia comparte sobre su reflexión durante el Día de Oración Ignaciana del 28 de octubre 2017.



Participantes comparten sobre la experiencia del día con el grupo.



Participantes de distintas parroquias de Allentown durante el taller de Pintura acrílica de octubre 14 y 21, 2017.



Las participantes después de terminar su lienzo pintado en estilo mosaico en el taller de pintura acrílica.



Sandy Domínguez da instrucciones durante el taller de pintura al grupo e introduce la paleta de colores.

# Hispano

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Hispano en la Diócesis de Allentown. Un tiempo de oración, discernimiento y acción. Caminando con esperanza hacia el futuro, decimos unidos que si se puede.

Para el mes de marzo, 2018 la Oficina de Asuntos Hispanos con el grupo regional de Hombres del Reino ha organizado una mañana de reflexión para los hombres. Mons. John Campbell ofrecerá una enseñanza para profundizar en el en-

tendimiento de la celebración de la Santa Misa el 10 de marzo de 9:30 am a 12:30 pm en la Parroquia María Auxiliadora en Allentown. Este día de reflexión es abierto a todos los hombres a nivel diocesano.

Un retiro espiritual diocesano en preparación a la Semana Santa con el tema: "Si el Grano de Trigo no Muere" presentado por Rev. Frank Kaminski, SJ está pautado para el 24 de marzo, 2018 en la Casa Jesuita de Wernersville.

Otras oportunidades de crecimiento espiritual ya confirmadas para el 2018

Por Favor mira HISPANO página 12 ►►



Mons. Rev. Juan Grabish durante la reunión Diocesana Anual del Ministerio Hispano comparte un resumen de los inicios del Ministerio Hispano en la Diócesis de Allentown del 26 de octubre, 2017.



Rev. Andrew Gehringer hace entrega de placa de reconocimiento a Mons. Robert Biszek por los años de entrega y servicio a la comunidad hispana.



Sacerdotes, Religiosas, Diáconos y Embajadores prestan atención durante la reunión Diocesana Anual del Ministerio Hispano.



Mons. Thomas Orsulak da la bienvenida durante la reunión Diocesana del Ministerio Hispano.



Rev. Keith Laskowski, párroco de la Parroquia Nuestra Señora de la Merced, saluda y agradece a los lectores y ministros durante el Día de Espiritualidad para lectores y Ministros de la Sagrada Comunión del 30 de septiembre en la parroquia María Auxiliadora.



Participantes escuchan enseñanza y reflexión durante el Día de Espiritualidad para los Lectores y Ministros de la Sagrada Comunión.



Rev. George Winne durante la etapa de preparación del proceso del V encuentro de la Parroquia Sagrado Corazón.



Pamela Patiño comparte una reflexión durante el Encuentro de Agentes de Pastoral de la Parroquia Nuestra Señora de la Merced en Easton.

# Hispano

►►Continúa de la página 11

son, un día de espiritualidad y reflexión en la vida interior para el 19 de mayo y un retiro espiritual de fin de semana en noviembre 16-18, 2018. Para reservaciones y mayor información visite nuestra página en internet, [www.allentowndio-cese.org/oha](http://www.allentowndio-cese.org/oha).

También encontrarás más información

de las actividades de los Movimientos y grupos Apostólicos hispanos en nuestra diócesis. Síguenos en Facebook o comuníquese a nuestra oficina al 610-289-8900 ext. 2025. Unidos a Cristo por la Evangelización en el Ministerio Hispano, contamos con tu presencia y apoyo en los programas y eventos futuros.

“Que todos sean uno, como tú, Padre, estas en mí y yo en ti. Que ellos también sean uno en nosotros, para que el mundo crea que tú me has enviado” (Jn. 17,21).



En frente de derecha a izquierda, Hna. Clara Luz Pichardo, Rev. George Winne y la Sra. Rubby Yunez hacen entrega de la cruz del V Encuentro a los participantes durante el Encuentro Parroquial de la Parroquia Sagrado Corazón, Allentown.



Feligreses de la Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón se unieron para rezar el Rosario en honor a Nuestra Señora de Fátima al aire libre el 14 de octubre. En el grupo también presentes, Rev. George Winne y Rev. Juan Gibbons.



Entre el grupo de derecha tercera y cuarta en la foto, Bernarda Liriano y Rosemary Rodríguez comparten con el grupo de jóvenes MIES durante Acción de Gracias.



De izquierda a derecha, Sandra Amado, Bernarda Liriano, Obispo Alfred Schlerl y Rev. George Winne durante el Encuentro Diocesano de la pastoral Hispana el 10 de febrero, 2018.



El Obispo Schlerl comparte con miembros de la comunidad de la Escuela de Evangelización San Andrés de Reading durante el Encuentro Diocesano junto a la Hna. Adelina Rivas y el Rev. George Winne.



Mons. Rev. Thomas Orsulak comparte con los participantes durante el Encuentro Diocesano.

# Alvernia University Names Spring Commencement Speaker

John Hope Bryant, founder, chairman and CEO of Operation HOPE, will be awarded an Honorary Degree of Humane Letters before offering remarks to the Class of 2018 of Alvernia University, Reading at Commencement, Saturday, May 12 at 2 p.m. at Santander Arena, Reading.

Other ceremony highlights include the university's inaugural graduating class of Doctor of Physical Therapy students and the first graduating class of the university's groundbreaking, inner-city Reading Collegiate Scholars Program.

John Hope Bryant is an entrepreneur, author and founder of two businesses. He is founder, chairman and CEO of Operation HOPE Inc., the largest not-for-profit

provider of financial literacy, financial inclusion and economic empowerment tools and services in the United States for youth and adults.

Bryant is also chairman and CEO of Bryant Group Ventures and The Promise Homes Company, the largest for-profit minority-controlled owners of institutional-quality, single-family residential rental homes in the United States.

An advisor to the last three sitting



Bryant

U.S. presidents, Bryant was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the U.S. President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability for Young Americans. He also served as President Obama's chairman of the Subcommittee on the Underserved and Community Empowerment.

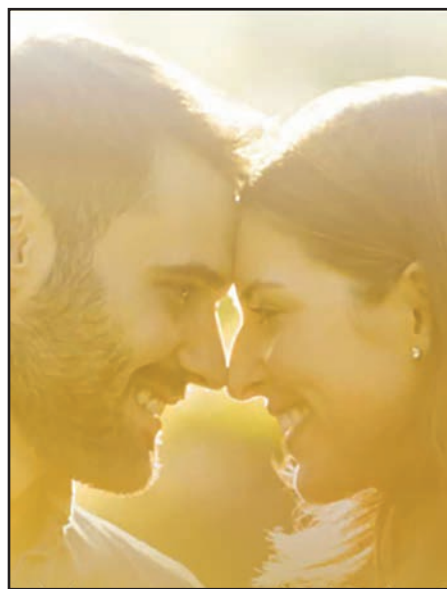
Bryant has received hundreds of awards and citations for his work, including Oprah Winfrey's Use Your Life Award and the John Sherman Award for Excellence in Financial Education from the U.S. Treasury.

Bryant received an honorable mention in Inc. magazine's "The World's 10 Top CEOs" article that spotlights global

servant leaders as the visionaries behind some of the most successful organizations. He was named American Banker magazine's Innovator of the Year in 2016.

Alvernia is a thriving university that empowers students through real-world learning to discover their passion for life, while providing the education to turn what they love into lifetimes of career success and personal fulfillment, helping them make the world a better place.

Situated on a scenic 121-acre suburban campus in Berks County, the university of more than 3,000 students offers more than 50 undergraduate majors and minors, and a range of graduate programs at the master's and doctoral levels.



## Register Early for Diocesan Marriage Conference

Early bird registration is now open for the Diocesan Marriage Conference on Saturday April 14.

The conference will be held 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Sinking Spring.

Theme of the day is "Together in Holiness: Where Spouses Discover God's Plan for Your Family."

Speakers include EWTN host Joy Pinto, Dr. Roland Millare, Deacon Joseph Nines, and Dr. Joshua Schulz and Mrs. Christine Schulz.

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert will be the celebrant at Mass.

"Couples live their marriage vocation most fully when they help each other grow in holiness on their common journey to Eternal Life," said Bishop Schlert.

Child care will be available. Sign up soon for the early bird discount, at [www.togetherinholiness.org](http://www.togetherinholiness.org).

For questions, call 610-289-8900, ext. 2028.

## 'Faith and Spirits' to Discuss Shroud of Turin

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 comfortable 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.allentowndioocese.org/faith-and-spirits](http://www.allentowndioocese.org/faith-and-spirits) or contact the Office of Adult Formation by email [adultformation@allentowndioocese.org](mailto:adultformation@allentowndioocese.org) or call 610-289-8900, ext. 2021.



*The Shroud of Turin*

PRESENTED BY:

**Sister Rose Bernadette Mulligan, I.H.M.**

**Monday, February 26, 2018**  
**TIME: 6:30 PM**  
 PJ Whelihan's Pub  
 1101 Rocky Road  
 Westlawn, PA



## 'Treasures of the Church' to be Displayed

The Diocese of Allentown Office of Adult Formation welcomes everyone to a teaching and exposition of sacred relics Monday, March 12 at 7 p.m. at St. Catharine of Siena Church, 4975 Boyertown Pike, Reading.

"Exposition of Sacred Relics: Treasures of the Church" will be presented by Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross.

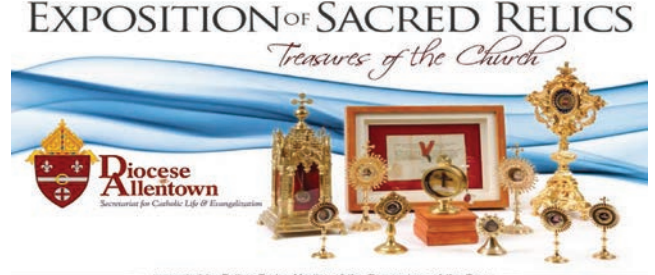
Over 150 relics will be shown, some believed to be as old as 2,000 years.

Among the treasures will be relics of St. Joseph, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Maria Goretti, St. Thérèse of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska.

In addition, there will also be present a piece of a veil believed to have belonged to Our Lady and one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world.

For more information, visit [www.treasuresofthechurch.com](http://www.treasuresofthechurch.com).

For questions, contact the Office of Adult Formation at [adultformation@allentowndioocese.org](mailto:adultformation@allentowndioocese.org) or 610-289-8900, ext. 2021.



**EXPOSITION OF SACRED RELICS**  
*Treasures of the Church*

Diocese of Allentown  
 Secretariat for Catholic Life & Evangelization

presented by Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross

See [www.treasuresofthechurch.com](http://www.treasuresofthechurch.com) for more information

The Diocese of Allentown Office of Adult Formation welcomes you to a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics. Over 150 relics will be shown, some believed to be as old as 2000 years.

Among the treasures will be relics of St. Joseph, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Maria Goretti, St. Thérèse of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska.

**HELD IN THE CHURCH AT ST. CATHARINE OF SIENA, READING ON**  
**MONDAY**  
**MARCH 12, 2018**  
**AT 7:00 PM**

**4975 Boyertown Pike**  
**Reading, PA**

## Institute for Catechesis and Formation Offering Courses

The Diocesan Institute for Catechesis and Formation (ICF) is offering the following courses.

ICF courses are meant for any Catholic adult looking to grow deeper and learn more about the faith. There are no prerequisites. Cost is \$30. To register, visit [www.allentowndioocese.org/icf](http://www.allentowndioocese.org/icf).

ICF 106 – The Church. The Church is the place of encounter between God and

his people on earth. This course will provide a brief overview of the origins of the Church; her identity as One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic; and what it means to be "the Body of Christ" on earth.

Presented by Sister Catherine Brennan and scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 28, March 7, 14 and 21, at Nativity BVM High School.

ICF 201 – Prayer and Spirituality.

Deepen your relationship with Christ by learning the fundamentals of a Catholic prayer life and spiritual dispositions. Participants will examine what it means to pray, why we pray, and how to have a fruitful prayer life. Practical exercises of traditional Catholic prayers and devotions will be covered so you will learn how to express yourself to God and how to hear his voice in your everyday life.

Presented by Father Clifton Bishop

and scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, March 10 and 17, at Assumption BVM, Bethlehem.



## 'Protecting the Pope' Focus of Theology on Tap Session

By TAMI QUIGLEY  
Staff writer

Father Frederick Riegler presented "Protecting the Pope: What We Knew Then, What We Know Now" as featured speaker of Theology on Tap Feb. 12 at Bar Louie in the Promenade Shops, Center Valley.

While St. Pope John Paul II was loved and adored by many during his papacy, there are always dangers associated with being a public figure. Father Riegler spoke about his experience assisting the Secret Service in their protection of now St. Pope John Paul II during his 1979 visit to Philadelphia.

Father Riegler's testimony touched on the 1981 assassination attempt and what we know now about the parties who threatened the safety of St. Pope John Paul II during his papacy.

Father Riegler is pastor of St. Isidore, Quakertown, Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The Diocesan Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry (OYYAFM) sponsored the evening, which wrapped up with a question-and-answer session.

Thea Aclo, director of OYYAFM, welcomed those gathered. Also attending were Alexa Doncsecz, assistant director of OYYAFM; and Francesca Frias, the new assistant coordinator of OYYAFM.

Theology on Tap is a monthly series sponsored by OYYAFM. The series is designed to welcome young adults ages 21-35, single or married, together in a casual setting where they can grow in the faith and share community with one another. It originated in the Archdiocese of Chicago, Illinois.

Then on the faculty of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, Father Riegler was given the task of helping the Secret Service with arrangements when St. Pope John Paul II visited the seminary during his 1979 visit to the city.

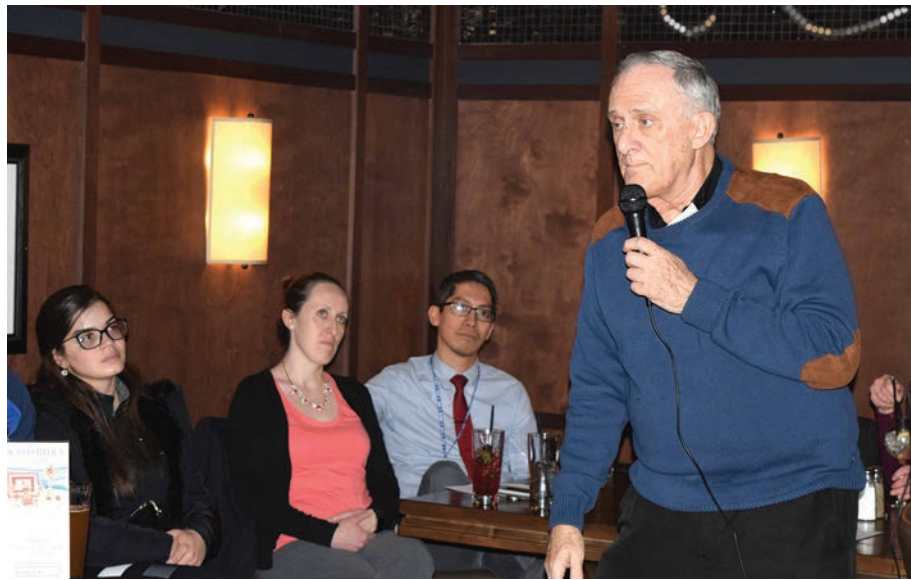
"I met with the head of the Secret Service in the Philadelphia area," Father Riegler said, noting the arrangements centered on securing the seminary building and securing the people there so the Secret Service would know precisely who would be there when the pontiff came to speak in the chapel after celebrating Mass on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

"It was relatively easy securing the building," Father Riegler said. Those who would be there included seminarians, faculty members, and parents of faculty members, including Father Riegler's mother. Invited dignitaries were mostly politicians, including "Joe Biden, then a



Above, Father Frederick Riegler presents "Protecting the Pope: What We Knew Then, What We Know Now" at Theology on Tap Feb. 12 at Bar Louie in the Promenade Shops, Center Valley. Among those attending are, from left, Jen McHugh, Erin Miller, Helen Smith and Brett Kita. (Photos by John Simitz)

Below, among those listening to Father Frederick Riegler make a point are, from left, Francesca Frias, Thea Aclo and her husband Allan Aclo.



relatively new senator from Delaware."

The Secret Service's focus on details showed Father Riegler just how thorough the agency was. They even had to make sure no one snuck onto the bus carrying seminarians from the Mass back to the seminary for the Pope's visit.

"The day the Pope arrived at St. Charles the Secret Service had a sniper team in the bell tower ... but they denied it to the press," Father Riegler said. "I learned about the 'deniability' of the Secret Service in its job," he said, explaining they made public only information

that had to be known.

Father Riegler said the Secret Service had two major concerns: a rogue assassin and a professional assassin. "A rogue assassin works alone, so is difficult to get and leaves no trail." He added that's why the Secret Service always believed Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated President John Kennedy, was a rogue assassin.

"The Mass on the Parkway was a wonderful experience. We even got a police escort back to St. Charles," Father Riegler said.

St. Pope John Paul II was running late, and when he arrived at St. Charles spoke for about 20 minutes. "Because he was running late, the faculty members were not personally presented to him," Father Riegler said. "My mother did shake his hand, and she didn't wash it for three days."

Though Father Riegler was not able to be presented to the Pope that day, he had previously met him when the future pontiff was Cardinal Karol Wojtyła and visited St. Charles.

Father Riegler recalled when the Pope came up South Broad Street in Philadelphia he rode in a car with an open roof, as this was before the popemobile.

Unbeknownst to the Secret Service, St. Agnes Hospital had a surprise planned, sending many balloons up in the air as the Pope approached. "The balloons made popping sounds. The Secret Service heard the noise, pulled the Pope down to the floor, and someone said, 'Floor it' as the car went 60 miles per hour up Broad Street.

"The people wondered why the car was going so fast, but St. Agnes never

told the Secret Service about the surprise," Father Riegler said.

Fast forward to May 13, 1981, when Mehmet Ali Agca attempted to assassinate St. Pope John Paul II in Rome.

"I thought, we protected him here, but in Rome he almost gets killed. He didn't have much protection in Rome, just a few Swiss Guards."

Father Riegler at first believed Agca was a rogue assassin. "I thought he was a Muslim terrorist with a grudge, but then I learned he had worked for the Bulgarian KGB. Nothing was ever done by the KGB at that level without approval by the Presidium," he said, referring to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union.

"This was not the work of a rogue assassin. This was approved by the highest level of Soviet leadership," he said, noting at that time it was Leonid Brezhnev and Yuri Andropov.

Why would they target the Pontiff? Because months before, Solidarity, the first non-communist union in Poland, was formed. "The Soviets saw this as a threat ... and saw John Paul II as a threat. It's highly likely his assassination attempt was approved at the highest level."

Father Riegler said the Soviet archives were open after the fall of communism, but were closed again under Vladimir Putin, a former KGB agent.

Father Riegler recalled the Polish government declared martial law to shut down Solidarity Dec. 13, 1981. Lech Walesa was the founder of Solidarity and later the first post-communist president of Poland.

When Solidarity was shut down, the only people who could work were the ones with jobs with Poland.

In 1982, enter Cardinal John Krol, then Archbishop of Philadelphia and a friend of the Pope's, also of Polish descent; the future Cardinal John Foley, a "protégé" of Cardinal Krol, according to Father Riegler, and then editor of The Catholic Standard and Times; and Ed Pizek, the founder of Mrs. Paul's Frozen Seafood and also of Polish heritage.

Father Riegler said the trio made a number of trips to Warsaw, flying first into Rome to pick up "diplomatic packets."

Father Riegler said the CIA was transporting money to the Vatican, which was picked up by the Philadelphia trio in the "diplomatic packets" and taken into Poland. "The CIA transferred an estimated \$50 million into Solidarity to help the movement," he said.

He noted George H.W. Bush, the former head of the CIA, was vice president at the time. "It doesn't take too much to connect the lines. And they did this right under the noses of the Polish KGB."

"Lech Walsea always said the Church helped him, but so did the U.S. government."

Discussing the relationship between President Ronald Reagan and St. Pope John Paul II, Father Riegler said, "Ronald Reagan was elected, in part, to talk tough with the Soviet Union, and he did. And he was very hard-nosed about it after the assassination attempt on his life," he said, noting the March 30, 1981 assassination attempt by John Hinckley.

"John Paul started to contact Reagan, and told him, 'You're on the right track. We must resist communism,'" Father Riegler said. "Reagan didn't need much encouragement."

After the attempts on their lives, "Both knew they had limited time to do what they had to do, though there were huge risks for both," Father Riegler said. "John

Please see POPE page 15 ▶▶



Enjoying Father Frederick Riegler's presentation are, from left, Clare Behe, Catherine Elliot and Matt Brumley.



## An Afternoon Tea for Mothers and Daughters

The Diocese of Allentown Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry will host a “Mother Daughter Tea” on Sunday, March 18 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the University Center of DeSales University, Center Valley.

During this special afternoon, participants will explore God’s precious gift of human fertility in a respectful, loving atmosphere, establishing a foundation for dialogue between mothers and daughters within the family.

Katelyn D’Adamo, an energetic young speaker from Generation Life, will offer practical and empowering tips on modesty, virtues and responsibility.

Elisabeth Laskowski, a health care professional trained in the Creighton

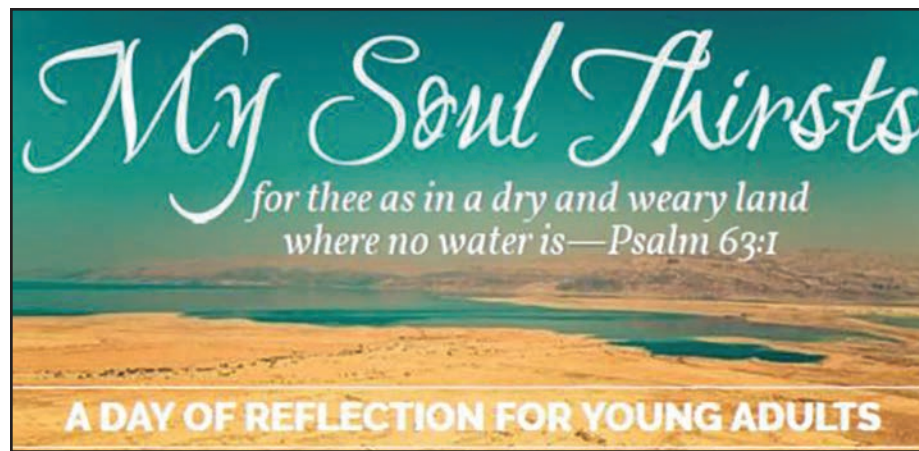
Model FertilityCare System, will discuss physical and emotional changes that occur, as well as a discussion on the sacredness of life.

Both presentations will emphasize respect, understanding and appreciation for God’s gift of fertility.

The afternoon will also include games, door prizes and a Q&A session. There will be light refreshments and take-home resources for mothers to share with their daughters.

Registration is \$30 for each mother and up to three daughters (ages 9-13 only please), at [www.allentowndiocese.org/tea](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/tea).

For questions, call 610-289-8900, ext. 2021.



## ‘My Soul Thirsts’ Theme for Young Adult Retreat

Catholic young adults from across the Diocese of Allentown are invited for an opportunity to step away and connect with God and others, Saturday, March 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Mariawald Renewal Center, 1094 Welsh Road, Reading.

Theme for the day, “My Soul Thirsts,” is based on Psalm 63:1: “My soul thirsts for thee as in a dry and weary land where no water is.”

Spiritual director will be Father Stephan Isaac, assistant pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring.

The day will include talks by Father Isaac, Mass, Eucharistic adoration, opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, time for personal prayer and reflection, and a chance to engage with the other young adults present.

Cost is \$10 and includes lunch. Register at [www.allentowndiocese.org/ya-retreat](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/ya-retreat).

For questions, email [adoncsecz@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:adoncsecz@allentowndiocese.org) or call 610-289-8900, ext. 2021.

## Young Adult Book Club to Discuss ‘The Hint’

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, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. at Whole Foods (Coffee Bar), 750 N. Krocks Road, Allentown.

Join the group for a discussion of the short story “The Hint of an Explanation” by Graham Greene, which can be found online.

For more information, visit the group’s



Facebook page, “Lehigh Valley Inklings: Young Catholic Book Club.”

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Father Frederick Riegler, right, chats with, from left, Alexa Doncsecz, Helen Smith and Brett Kita.

## Pope

►Continued from page 14

Paul was willing to play ball with the American government.”

Together, the president and the Pope helped bring about the fall of communism.

“The KGB even had two priests in the Vatican who were KGB agents. They were caught after the Pope’s death.”

Theology on Tap events are free of charge. Food and beverage can be ordered from the menu at the event site. For more information, visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/tot](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/tot) or email [adoncsecz@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:adoncsecz@allentowndiocese.org).

## Our Lenten Obligation

Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who himself recommended it as necessary to his followers, and gave them the example of his prayer and fasting.

The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

### Who must fast?

All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60<sup>th</sup> year on his/her 59<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### Who must abstain?

All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

### What does fasting mean?

The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

### What does abstinence mean?

The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

### Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/or abstinence?

Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty to do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care. Those who are ill or have a similar serious reason are excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

### Are there other obligations we should fulfill?

Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their "Easter Duty." They are required to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (Feb. 18 until May 27, 2018). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time.

Catholics also are encouraged to make Lent a time of more intense prayer and to practice almsgiving and other works of charity. Parishes are encouraged to continue participation in Rice Bowl.

## Nuestra Obligación de Cuaresma

La ley eclesiástica considera todos los viernes y el tiempo de Cuaresma como los días y tiempo de penitencia. La práctica de la penitencia es una parte de nuestra fe y vida cristiana. Cuando hacemos penitencia, imitamos a Jesús, Él mismo recomendó como necesario para sus seguidores y les dio el ejemplo de su oración y ayuno.

La obligación de Cuaresma, según lo determinado por los católicos en los Estados Unidos por nuestros obispos, requiere que se observe el ayuno el miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo. La ley de la abstinencia se observa el miércoles de Ceniza y todos los viernes de Cuaresma.

### ¿Quién debe ayunar?

Todos los católicos que están entre las edades de 18 y 59. La obligación cesa cuando se haya cumplido los 59 años.

### ¿Quién debe abstenerse?

Todos los católicos que tienen 14 años y mayores.

### ¿Qué significa el ayuno?

La observancia del ayuno significa que los obligados pueden tomar sólo una comida completa en el día de ayuno. Dos comidas más ligeras (Que no igualen a una comida completa) pueden tomarse para mantener la fuerza de acuerdo a las necesidades de uno.

### ¿Qué significa la abstinencia?

La ley de la abstinencia prohíbe el consumo de carne, incluidas las aves de corral. Abstinencia voluntaria se refiere a abstenerse de los placeres lícitos en un espíritu de penitencia.

### ¿Puede alguien ser dispensado o excusado de ayunar y/o la abstinencia?

Los individuos de una causa justa pueden ser dispensados por su párroco o un sacerdote con facultad para hacerlo. En nuestra diócesis todos los sacerdotes pueden dispensar las personas que están comprometidos con su cuidado pastoral. Los que están enfermos o tienen una razón similar seria están excusados de la observancia del ayuno y la abstinencia. Se les recuerda a los católicos que no deben excusarse a sí mismos de esta obligación.

### ¿Existen otras obligaciones que debemos cumplir?

Los católicos están obligados a cumplir con lo que se ha llamado su "deber de Pascua." Ellos están obligados a recibir la Sagrada Comunión durante el tiempo de Pascua. En los Estados Unidos esta obligación puede ser cumplida a partir del Primer Domingo de Cuaresma hasta el Domingo de Trinidad (18 de febrero hasta el 27 de mayo del 2018). Los que tienen conciencia de pecado grave se les recuerda de la obligación de confesar sus pecados al menos una vez al año durante este tiempo.

También se les anima a los católicos a hacer de la Cuaresma un tiempo de oración más intensa y de practicar la limosna y otras obras de caridad. Se anima a las parroquias a continuar su participación en la Operación Plato de Arroz.



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Apply at [www.thefutureofhealthcare.org](http://www.thefutureofhealthcare.org) or call Erin McCaw at (610)378-2310.



# Operation Rice Bowl Continues Lenten Tradition of Giving

By TAMI QUIGLEY  
Staff writer

The sight of a small, cardboard container shaped like a rice bowl placed in the dining room or kitchen has been a common sight during Lent for families in the Diocese of Allentown since Operation Rice Bowl began 1975.

A total of \$6,174,910 has been collected through Operation Rice Bowl in the Diocese since 1976.

A simple sight, a simple plan – but it helps so many people around the world. That’s the miracle of Operation Rice Bowl. And the miracle continues today.

It’s become a Lenten staple that families or groups eat a simple meal one day a week during Lent and contribute the funds that would have been spent on a more elaborate meal to Operation Rice Bowl to aid the world’s hungry.

Together with a rabbi and three ministers, Msgr. Robert Coll – pastor emeritus of Assumption BVM, Bethlehem, now retired to Naples, Florida – first organized Operation Rice Bowl as an ecumenical response to the African drought of 1974-75.

Each Wednesday during Lent, families in Allentown would hold a simple meal and place the savings from the meal into a “rice” bowl. The families would then place their offerings in a special bowl at their house of worship. Through Operation Rice Bowl, families or other groups enhance the Lenten experience through prayer, fasting, learning and giving.

Since 1980, Msgr. John Murphy, director of Operation Rice Bowl in the Allentown Diocese and director of the Diocesan Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, has supervised the Operation Rice Bowl collection in the Allentown Diocese. Msgr. Murphy subsequently forwards the collection to Mark Smith, secretary of the Diocesan Secretariat for Temporal Affairs and chief financial officer, and then to Bishop Alfred Schlert.

“The cross tells us of one who waits around the bend to bear our burden or even to lift us up if we fall, but he does not force any person to follow his way. The choice is ours ... it is mine, yours, up to each of us,” said Msgr. Murphy, pastor of St. Thomas More, Allentown.

“The cross continually reminds us that the victim on the cross was God’s only begotten son. He taught us to love one another as he loves us.

“There is one Gospel, one truth, one Lord. And the same Lord who cried out, ‘Father into your hands I commend my spirit’ was the same Lord who said ‘whatsoever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters you do unto me.’

“The people of the Diocese of Allentown each year generously, lovingly and unselfishly give their all to Christ so that they may give Christ to all.”



Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, the hospital founded by Padre Pio, in San Giovanni Rotondo, is benefitting from the generosity of the faithful in the Diocese of Allentown through Operation Rice Bowl.

town each year generously, lovingly and unselfishly give their all to Christ so that they may give Christ to all.”

Msgr. Murphy said Operation Rice Bowl bore \$147,527.65 last year. After \$3,799.97 for 2017 expenses and \$4,000 reserve for 2018, there was \$139,848.04 for distribution.

Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza (Home for Relief of the Suffering) received \$10,000. It is a private hospital in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, founded by St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio).

Inaugurated May 5, 1956, the hospital has adopted modern technologies and is considered one of the most efficient in Italy and Europe. It is known for its exceptional hygiene. The building is situated in the highest part of the city.

Bishop Schlert visited the Archbishop there and the hospital while he was in Italy for a Bishop’s conference.

“The work they do is amazing, and they deserve our financial help,” said Edward Liszka, administrative assistant for the Propagation of the Faith and St. Peter the Apostle Fund in the Diocese of Allentown.

Other programs that received grants from 2017 Operation Rice Bowl were:

Diocese of Allentown, \$26,848.04.

Catholic Relief Services, \$33,000.

Missionaries of Charity of St. Teresa of Calcutta, which has some sisters serving in Mahanoy City in the Diocese of Allentown, \$10,000. These funds are used for caring for the poorest of the poor in India and remembers the gracious and charitable work that St. Teresa of Calcutta (commonly known as Mother Teresa),

did during her lifetime.

Angelic Sisters of St. Paul, who serve in Easton in the Diocese of Allentown, \$2,500. The sisters serve God’s people in many ministries. In the Philippines, they own and run the Mother of Divine Province School. Marikina is a Catholic preschool, grade school and high school for boys and girls recognized by the Department of Education and is a member of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines.

Diocese of Virac, Cattanduanes, Philippines, \$2,500. Eighty-seven percent of the people live below the poverty line. Missionaries continuously attend to the spiritual and pastoral needs of the Catholic faithful. The Diocese is journeying to its 50th year in 2024, preaching the Gospel of the Lord.

Adrian Dominican Sisters, in Michigan, \$2,500. The sisters have been involved in foreign missionary efforts for more than 60 years. Presently they are ministering in the Dominican Republic and the Philippines. Their missionary work includes working with the poor in primary and secondary education, working with the sick, abused and imprisoned, as well as pastoral ministry and family work.

Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary, in Bryn Mawr, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, \$2,500. Initially founded in 1924

for the education of women in Nigeria to educate, heal and do pastoral, social and community development work, they are an exclusive missionary society working in nine countries of Africa and in Brazil and Mexico.

Diocese of Pathanamthitta, India (Syro-Malankar Rite), \$2,500. This is a new Diocese serving 14 million people in the country and 45,000 Catholic faithful. The priority of the Diocese is to provide formation to 63 seminarians to the priesthood, to strengthen the existing rural missions, and to provide support for humanitarian activities, such as care for autistic children, men with physical and mental disabilities, and inmates of the destitute home for senior women centers of the Diocese.

Dominican Sisters of Charity, \$2,500. The sisters teach in a school in the village called Sahdara, Pakistan, and 800 students attend school there. They also care for orphans, the sick and families with financial needs.

School Sisters of St. Francis, Pittsburgh, \$2,500. The sisters’ specific mission is to minister to the needs of people through teaching and other ministries.

There are two mission countries, Barberton, South Africa and Kazakhstan in Central Asia, where the sisters operate a home at St. John’s Mission for the children who have HIV/AIDS. They also educate students who cannot go to local schools, and provide catechesis, proper nutrition and medication. They also try to unite them with family members.

The sisters also work in predominantly Muslim countries and provide the Catholics living there medical care, clothing, food and at times shelter.

SSVM Missions (Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara), \$2,500. The sisters have been working in the United States since 1994, mostly with Hispanic communities in poor areas of Phoenix, Arizona; Brooklyn and Harlem, New York; Bridgeport, Connecticut; Philadelphia and Avondale; and Washington, D.C. They also do mission work throughout the world, including Africa, South America, the Holy Land and Eastern Europe.

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ, \$2,500. The sisters do mission work in the continent of Africa, serving Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Tchad; and many places in Europe. In the United States they serve

**“The people of the Diocese of Allentown each year generously, lovingly and unselfishly give their all to Christ so that they may give Christ to all.”**

Please see RICE page 18 ▶▶

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## Catholic Foundation Endowment Funds Help to Ensure Future of Our Catholic Schools

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Allentown joined with other schools throughout the country as they participated in the 2018 Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28-Feb. 3.

Organized around this year's theme of "Learn, Serve, Lead and Succeed," faculty and administrators, together with parents and students, celebrated the many gifts and blessings offered by our schools.

Catholic schools have a stabilizing influence for families, as well as the communities where they are located. Keeping our schools strong today and ensuring their future are two of the main reasons individuals and parishes have made the decision to invest in an endowment fund in the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania.

"Education endowment funds generate future income for our schools and provide the children in our parishes access to a premier Catholic education and a chance to succeed," said Pete Waldron, executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania.

"Scholarships, teacher excellence efforts and STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and math) educational programs are top funding needs, and the Catholic Foundation will work with parishes, schools and their individual donors to create endowments that will fund these educational priorities."

The Catholic Foundation, a charitable organization independent from the Diocese of Allentown, began organizing four years ago. It was designed to manage assets, generate perpetual income and provide financial stability for Catholic parishes, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations in the five-county footprint of the Diocese. Currently it is managing almost \$5 million in assets in 21 separate endowment funds.

From its beginnings, the Catholic Foundation has helped individual donors, educational institutions, organizations and parishes to recognize endowments as a means to support their causes, not only today, but for future generations. A school or scholarship endowment means that funds will be available year after year, and often bridges the gap between tuition revenue and other contributed revenue, such as special events and annual fund.

There are 16 education endowment funds managed by the Catholic Foundation. In addition to diocesan parish and regional elementary schools, endowments also support special learning centers and Catholic high schools.

The Reverend Stephen J. Halabura Endowment goes toward the education of Diocesan seminarians. The endowment fund established for John Paul II Center for Special Learning, Shillington pro-

vides for the education of students with developmental and intellectual disabilities attending that school.

Since the Catholic Foundation's inception, it has paid out an estimated \$172,000 in annual distributions to schools or institutions designated from each educational endowment. It expects to pay out an estimated \$160,000 this year.

Three of the endowments provide an annual disbursement to the Eastern Pennsylvania Scholarship Foundation, which then provides scholarship funding to offset the tuition for students who qualify for financial aid. These are the Catholic School Scholarship Endowment Fund, Berks County Catholic School Endowment Fund and the Hispanic Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Nina Arant, program manager-scholarships for the Eastern Pennsylvania Scholarship Foundation, has seen the impact these endowments have had on families in the Diocese.

"Having the annual distributions from these three endowments held by the Catholic Foundation is immensely important to our schools," said Arant.

"This funding provides scholarship aid to students and their families, and often makes the difference in allowing them to continue their education in our Catholic schools. The endowments create scholarships that our schools can count on each year to distribute to those with the greatest financial need."

Other Catholic Foundation endowments have named specific schools as the recipients of their annual disbursements. Most endowments were started with either a bequest or existing funds from individual parishes or school-related organizations. These donors recognized their money would go farther and last longer with the professional fund management offered through the Catholic Foundation.

Allentown Central Catholic High School's Green and Gold (G&G) Fund is an example. Bob Buck, G&G treasurer and CPA with Buckno Lisicky and Company, saw the value immediately.

"It made sense to move the Green and Gold Fund into the Catholic Foundation," Buck said. "With access to a broader investment portfolio, our fund will earn a better rate of return, grow faster and work harder to support educational programs at Allentown Central Catholic High School."

The Scalici Family Fund, donated by Tom and Amy Scalici, was created in October 2017 and supports three worthy causes important to the Scalici family: St. John Vianney Regional School, Allentown; Mercy School for Special Learning, Allentown; and Catholic Charities.

"An endowment fund with the Catholic Foundation provides consistent annual



Immaculate Conception BVM Church, Douglassville is among the parishes that have education endowments to support their schools. Pictured, Immaculate Conception Academy celebrated 100 days of school Feb. 9 by dressing in silly, clashing clothing and collecting nonperishable food items for the local food bank. The Student Council Executive Board set a goal of at least 100 items, and by Feb. 14 students had collected 282. For information on how to help, visit website [www.icaberks.org](http://www.icaberks.org) or Facebook [www.facebook.com/icaknights](http://www.facebook.com/icaknights). Student Council Executive Board and mission representatives are, from left: front, Briana Devine, Brandon Longo, Gabriella Clemente, Makenzie Hine, Matthew Leininger, Whitney Femino, Violet Dolena; middle, John Mullin, Sabrina Knipe, Delaney Hyer, Gabriella Fontana, Abby Wolf, Charlotte Dolena, Sean Reilly, Aubrey Hunt; back, Molly McFadden, Maggie McFadden, John Battistelli and Anna Schlegel.

## CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

*Securing the Future of Our Faith.*

funding that will support an organization perpetually," said Scalici. "Over time the gift will grow, which means the annual amount distributed to them will grow accordingly."

Five Diocesan parishes also have education endowments to support their schools: Assumption BVM, Pottsville; St. Anne, Bethlehem; Immaculate Conception BVM, Douglassville; St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton; St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield; and St. Theresa, Hellertown.

Those funds provide financial aid for families or support for educational programming.

Education endowment funds at the Catholic Foundation include:

ACCHS Green and Gold Education Endowment Fund

- Assumption BVM School Endowment Fund
- Reverend Joseph A. Barnes Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Berks County Catholic School Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Bishop Thompson Scholarship Endowment Fund

- Catholic School Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Rev. Stephen J. Halabura Seminary Endowment Fund
- Hispanic Scholarship Endowment Fund
- John Paul II Center for Special Learning Endowment Fund
- Albert J. Neupauper Education Endowment Fund
- St. Anne (Bethlehem) Education Endowment Fund
- St. Jane Frances de Chantal Education Endowment Fund
- St. Joseph the Worker Angel Scholarship Endowment Fund
- St. Theresa School Endowment Fund
- Scalici Family Endowment Fund
- Charles A. Wagner Scholarship Endowment Fund

To start, contribute or remember a fund in your will/trust for your favorite Catholic elementary school, high school or special learning center, please contact Waldron at 610-439-7681 or [petewaldron@catholicfoundationEP.org](mailto:petewaldron@catholicfoundationEP.org).

## Death

### Deacon Manuel Ramirez, Served at Holy Infancy

Deacon Manuel "Manny" Ramirez, 70, of Bethlehem died Feb. 8 at St. Luke's Hospice House, Bethlehem.

Surviving are his loving wife of 47 years, Jeanne (Lopiccolo) Ramirez; a son, Joseph Ramirez, and his wife Jessica; two grandsons and a granddaughter.

Deacon Ramirez was ordained to the permanent diaconate Dec. 1, 1979 by Bishop



Francis Mugavero at St. James Cathedral, Brooklyn, New York.

Upon relocating to the Diocese of Allentown, in July 2001 he was appointed by Bishop Edward Cullen to Holy Infancy Church, Bethlehem, where he served for 16 years.

Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 15 at Holy Infancy. Main celebrant and homilist was Father Andrew Gehringer, pastor of Holy Infancy, and regional priest coordinator of Hispanic ministry for Lehigh and Northampton deaneries

Interment took place in Brooklyn, New York after the Mass.

## Rice

Continued from page 17

in the Diocese of Rockford, Illinois; Syracuse, New York; Gallup, New Mexico; St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Anchorage, Alaska; Phoenix, Arizona; Des Moines, Iowa; Belleville, Illinois; and Petersburg, Florida.

Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown, \$10,000. This Diocese is unable to do charitable works due to its recent struggles.

Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, \$2,500. Sister Joelle Mrozowski, a former teacher at St. Thomas More School, Allentown, is doing mission work in Puerto Rico. She reached out to the parish and the Diocese of Allentown for assistance.

Diocese of Knoxville, Tennessee, \$10,000 to building fund for the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Bishop's Discretionary Fund, \$5,000.

For information on Operation Rice Bowl, contact Liszka at [ed@stmchurchallentown.org](mailto:ed@stmchurchallentown.org).

# 'Souper Bowl' Champs for Diocesan Ecumenical Soup Kitchen

Employees of the Diocese of Allentown helped the Diocese tackle hunger and become a champion on "Souper Bowl" Friday, Feb. 2.

They were invited to show their team spirit before the actual Super Bowl by making a \$5 donation to dress down and wear their favorite sports jersey or team logo apparel.

A total of \$455 was collected, enough to sponsor Catholic Charities "Food for a Day" program at the Ecumenical Soup Kitchen, which serves the working poor, homeless, elderly, children, those between jobs, individuals on fixed incomes, and those who have nowhere else to turn to receive at least a hot, nutritious meal.

Participating from Catholic Charities is Madeline Falcone. Also participating was the Office of Hispanic Affairs.



Gathered to show their team spirit are employees of offices located at Bethlehem Catholic High School – Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization, Permanent Diaconate and Safe Environment – from left, Colleen Kleintop, Thea Aclo, Carol Peitrich, Maria Loch, Nancy Kantz, Alexa Donsecz and Bob Olney.



Cheering on their team from the Chancery are, from left, Maria Rush, June Donsecz and Mary Ellen Ingeno.



Another Chancery participant is Angela Stanek, center.



Showing their spirit at the Secretariat for Catholic Education are, from left, Kathleen Bondi, Phil Fro-muth, Sister Anita Patrick Gallagher, Nina Arant, Janice Delvecchio, Stephanie Schweder-Kratzer, John Bakey and Alex Cirko.



Gathered to cheer on their teams from offices at 1515 Martin Luther King Drive (MLK), Allentown – Secretariat for Temporal Services, Secretariat for External Affairs, Secretariat for Stewardship and Development, Human Resources, Catholic Mutual and Information Technology – are, from left: front, Annette Etchberger, Deana Cestare, Ginny Downey; middle, Priscilla Tatara, Sister Janice Marie Johnson, Janis Geist; back, Bob Hahn, Bob Eash, Judith Stewart, Liz Bartolai, Fran Boyko, Gary Allen, Oscar Cuba and Dan Stonehouse.

For more information on the "Food for a Day" program at the diocesan Ecumenical Kitchen, visit website <http://www.allentowndiocese.org/catholic-charities/ecumenical-kitchen>.



Another fan at MLK is Tom Kern, left.



Some of the MLK employees let their rivalry get out of hand.



Above, two other MLK participants are Michele Mullikin, front middle, and Tabatha Benner, back third from left.

Left, one more for his team at MLK is Craig Acklen, back right.



### Marian Volleyball Team Earns Silver

The volleyball team of Marian High School, Tamaqua reached the PIAA 1A State Final at Richland High School in November and earned a silver medal. The state championship appearance marked the school's third trip across four years. Team members are, from left: front, Josh Fallabel, Jacob McNelis, Caroline Snerr, Katie Spillman, Antonia Galasso, Tatiana Zeleniak, Julia Hoben, Macie Mazalusky, Emily Meier, Rebecca Dzurainin, Jamison Wheeler, Gianna Agosti, Nina Zeleniak, Elizabeth Cartier, Rachel Krajcirik, Lauren Nietz; back, head coach John "Doc" Fallabel, Max Nolter, Gina Picconi, Isabella Blasko, Carly Kosciolik, Alivia Karchner, Elena Beckett, Hailey Kurnow, Allison Slakopfer, Chris Fallabel, Jasmine Mooney, Grainne Kelly, Claudia Stroia and Chrissy Donati.

*St. Benedict Parish*  
**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lenten Taize Service**  
**Sunday, March 11, 2018**  
**6:30pm**



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**610-856-1006**

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*Any questions please contact Andrew Angstadt at 610-856-1006 or email at [andang@hgaschool.org](mailto:andang@hgaschool.org)*



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Hora: **9:30 AM A 12:30 PM**

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FECHA: **SÁBADO 24 DE MARZO, 2018**  
 HORA: **8:30 AM A 3:30 PM.**

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# Bishop Schlert Presides at Holy Hour With Religious Sisters

By TAMI QUIGLEY  
Staff writer

Nearly 70 religious sisters serving in the Diocese of Allentown gathered for a Holy Hour with Evening Prayer Feb. 2 at St. Mary, Kutztown. Bishop Alfred Schlert presided at the Holy Hour for all the consecrated religious sisters serving in the Diocese on the World Day of Prayer for Those in Consecrated Life.

During the evening prayer, Bishop Schlert began the celebration with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Assisting were Msgr. Thomas Koons, administrator of Assumption BVM, Northampton, Diocesan vicar for religious and judge on the Diocesan Tribunal; and Father Keith Mathur, episcopal master of ceremonies and director of the Diocesan Office for Divine Worship.

Bishop Schlert led the sisters in the chanting of three psalms, after which Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC) Sister Marie Clark offered the reading.

In his homily, Bishop Schlert reflected on the term "Sponsa Christi" (spouse of Christ).

Those in consecrated life are called in a special way to this unique vocation to be spouses of Christ. Sometimes in our current society that might sound like a diminutive term; a term that might appear weak or overly

**Bishop Schlert commended the religious sisters for their strength in spreading the Gospel in education, health care and social services.**

dependent on another, but in reality it is a term of strength.

Bishop Schlert reflected on how being a religious sister is not for the faint-hearted.

Observing the life of his three great-aunts, all of whom were religious Sisters of Mercy of Plainfield, New Jersey, Bishop Schlert reflected on how the congregation provided a high degree of education and training to these women. At a time when the majority of lay women in society (1930s-40s) did not have access to this kind of responsibility, the Church had already given it to women.

Bishop Schlert commended the reli-

gious sisters for their strength in spreading the Gospel in education, health care and social services.

After the homily, the sisters sang the "Magnificat," Mary's hymn of praise; offered intercessions on behalf of the universal Church; and chanted "The Lord's Prayer."

Bishop Schlert concluded the evening prayer service with benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

During the grace before meals at the ensuing dinner, Bishop Schlert blessed candles as part of the traditional Candlemas (Presentation of the Lord) tradition. Father Mathur assisted Bishop Schlert in presenting each of the sisters with candles that were blessed by Bishop Schlert.

Msgr. Koons thanked the women for their presence at the evening prayer service and dinner.



Above, Bishop Alfred Schlert greets members of the Sisters of St. Joseph at a dinner after a Holy Hour and Evening Prayer in celebration of the World Day of Prayer for Those in Consecrated Life Feb. 2 at St. Mary, Kutztown, from left: front, Sister Joan Dugan, Sister Mary Jane Dunleavy and Sister Stephanie Bator; back, Bishop Schlert and Sister Meg Cole. (Photos courtesy of Father Keith Mathur)



Left, Bishop Alfred Schlert with members of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the dinner, from left: front, Sister Miriam Dennis Sculley, Sister Teresa Paul, Sister Marian Bernadette Chuk and Sister Marie Eugene Reed; back, Sister Anita Gallagher, Bishop Schlert and Sister Lorraine Holzman.

### 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.allentowndioocese.org/the-diocese/vocations](http://www.allentowndioocese.org/the-diocese/vocations).



## Women Invited to 'Preparing Our Souls for Our Savior'

The Diocese of Allentown Commission for Women invites all women to a Lenten retreat Saturday, March 24.

"Preparing Our Souls for Our Savior" will be 9 a.m. to noon at the Diocesan Shrine of St. Therese of Lisieux, 1 E. Garibaldi Ave., Nesquehoning.

Retreat presenter will be Father Allen Hoffa, rector of the shrine.

The day will begin with check-in at 8:30 a.m., followed by Mass in the shrine church at 9 a.m. Also included will be continental breakfast, spiritual reflection, a holy hour and Stations of the Cross.

Cost for the day is \$10. Register online at [www.allentowndioocese.org/cfw-spirituality](http://www.allentowndioocese.org/cfw-spirituality).

For more information, call Joanie Norelli at 917-406-4879 or e-mail [cfw@allentowndioocese.org](mailto:cfw@allentowndioocese.org).

**THE DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN COMMISSION FOR WOMEN INVITES YOU TO THE**

*Preparing our Souls for our Savior*

**LENTEN RETREAT**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018**

**9AM -NOON | COST: \$10**

Diocesan Shrine of St. Therese of Lisieux  
1 E. Garibaldi Ave, Nesquehoning PA 18240

# 'The Man Talk' Draws 140 Men to Session on Authentic Catholic Masculinity

By TAMI QUIGLEY  
Staff writer

Men were the talk of the town, so to speak, as "The Man Talk" took center stage Feb. 6 at DeSales University, Center Valley.

"God loves us and sees us as his children, not as the mistakes we make," speaker Fradd told the 140 men attending the evening presentation in the University Center.

Fradd laid out a vision for authentic Catholic masculinity and a plan for how to achieve it during the session co-sponsored by the Diocesan Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization and DeSales University.

Fradd tackled such questions as 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?

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

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

A native of Australia who now lives in Georgia, 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.

"Our sexual culture hates chastity and purity because it can't attain it," Fradd

**"Cultivate good manly friendships and grow in virtue together."**



Matt Fradd presents "The Man Talk" to approximately 140 men Feb. 6 at DeSales University, Center Valley. (Photos by John Simitz)

said, adding when someone doesn't like pornography they may be called a prude, old-fashioned and uptight.

Fradd, himself a husband and father, said he converted to Christ at age 17 after attending World Youth Day with St. Pope John Paul II in Rome in 2000.

"Think of a man growing in virtue. Maybe he messes up once in a while, looking at porn," Fradd said, explaining such a man can go to confession and get back on track.

"But many men say they struggle with porn. There's no struggle – they chose to do it."

"It can be discouraging when you see how far you have to go," Fradd said of the journey to being virtuous.

There is encouragement, Fradd said, in the words of St. Pope John Paul II: "We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures, we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his son Jesus."

"The Father still looks at us as his son, not the sum of all the bad we have done,"

Fradd said.

Fradd outlined the five rules every man must break if he wants to fill his deepest desires and follow God's commands.

### Never Get In a Fight

Never get in a fight. "I think men like movies where they fight for something noble, like his beloved, his country, his children. To sanitize it to say all forms of aggression are bad is not true."

"Our culture doesn't seem to respect male friendships. I need men in my life that I respect," Fradd said. "I see a man who loves his wife and children and sacrifices for them and I say, 'I want to be like him.'"

"Facebook gives us the illusion we have many 'friends.' But you really can't have more than three to five close friends," Fradd said.

And while it's good for men to get together to pray, it's also important to get together regularly "to have a bloody cigar and talk about what makes us human."

"Fight for your faith. Understand why we believe what we believe," Fradd said.

To grow intellectually in your faith, Fradd suggested such resources as Catholic Answers at <https://www.catholic.com/> and his website and podcast "Pints With Aquinas" at <http://pintswithaquinas.com/>.

### Start Thinking About Sex

Fradd said men don't think about sex ... at least not in God's way.

"Think about what is sex, what is its essence? God made sex and it's holy."

Fradd proposed reading "Love and Responsibility" by Karol Wojtyla – the future St. Pope John Paul II – as a good resource on this topic.

### Don't Give in to Peer Pressure

"Don't give in to peer pressure – that's true if they are not good peers," Fradd said. "Cultivate good manly friendships and grow in virtue together."

### Never Risk It All

Never risk it all? On the contrary, "We need to risk everything for Jesus Christ," Fradd said, noting some men are called to marriage, some to missionary work and some to the priesthood.

### We Shouldn't Ask Directions

Delving into the fifth rule, Fradd said, "We travel through life and think we have it all together. But we have to have humility to ask directions, such as from a good spiritual director.

"Don't be afraid to ask for help."

Noting that the season of Lent is approaching, Fradd spoke about silence.

"All men's miseries derive from not being able to sit in a quiet room alone," Fradd said, quoting Blaise Pascal.

"We're not at peace with ourselves, so we try to escape ourselves," Fradd said.

He said this Lent he is going to be much stricter with the amount of his Internet use and give up distractions.

"Cultivate that silence," he advised.



Above, men of all ages enjoy Fradd's energetic and engaging presentation.

Right, "The Father still looks at us as his son, not the sum of all the bad we have done," Fradd tells the men at DeSales University Center.



Above, Michael D'Agostini, parishioner of the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, front in white quarter-zipped sweater, is among the men listening to Fradd make a point during the evening session co-sponsored by the Diocesan Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization and DeSales University.

Below, Fradd chats with men after the presentation.





# Notre Dame of Bethlehem Supports Parishioner in Search for Kidney Donor

By TAMI QUIGLEY  
Staff writer

Scott Bedics was the picture of health until one day in June 2016 when he passed out at home, was rushed to the hospital and diagnosed to be in the end stage of kidney failure.

“One day he was perfectly healthy and the next day he has a serious, life-threatening chronic disease,” said his mother Joann Bedics.

Now, Scott, 51, and his parents Bill and Joann are searching for a live kidney donor, with a lot of help and heart from their parish, Notre Dame of Bethlehem.

“Thanks to the prayers of many and to the skill of Scott’s doctors, he appears to be very well. However, despite the many medications that he takes and the special diet that he follows faithfully, his kidney function numbers have fallen to the point that he has needed to begin dialysis,” Joann said.

“He does peritoneal dialysis, which can be done in his own bedroom as he sleeps. He has not yet experienced any of the symptoms that can occur in patients on dialysis,” she said.

Joann explained instead of going to a dialysis center three times a week for four to five hours, Scott is on his machine at home seven days a week for approximately eight hours each night. “In addition, he still works at his job on a computer, thank heaven, which he needs to help meet his medical expenses.”

“With God’s help, Scott is trying to find a healthy living kidney donor so that he can return to a more normal lifestyle.”

Joann said thanks to Notre Dame parish’s retreat community, he has had several potential donors, but each one has been eliminated by the hospital due to an illness which was previously unknown to the potential donor. “That’s a good thing. These potential donors, though eliminated, learned of their illnesses and are being watched or treated to prevent that disease from becoming an active problem to them.”

Joann said Scott is on the list to receive a cadaver kidney at University of Pennsylvania Hospital. The average time it takes to receive a kidney from this list is between four and six years. “The only way to shorten this waiting time is to go



Gathering after the Saturday Vigil Mass Feb. 17 at Notre Dame of Bethlehem are, from left: front, Msgr. Thomas Baddick, Madeline Potter, Scott Bedics, Joann Bedics and Bill Bedics; back, Lindi Bartolotto, Amelia Bartolotto, Chris Nigh and George Hudson. (Photo by John Simitz)

out and find your own living donor,” she said.

“Scott’s Dad and I sent in prayer requests to our parish retreat community’s prayer request email contacts, Mike and Kathy Grasso. This request was then forwarded to about 200 retreat participants. We asked not only for prayers but also for donor volunteers.

“Many responded and began the testing but were eventually eliminated for various medical reasons.”

“During these testing periods for the potential donors Scott is given no information from the hospital due to HIPPA regulations. The only way he finds out how the testing is going is if the donor informs him. Another notable fact is that only one donor continues along the process at a time.

“Scott is back at the beginning again with no prospective donors, but his spirits are good, and he feels OK. He remains confident that soon a new, completely healthy donor will contact him. Only God knows, and we accept his will.

“I do want to stress how wonderful it is to have a whole parish supporting you

by frequently mentioning that they are praying for Scott, by reaching out to ask Scott how he’s doing, by just smiling and saying hello. We’ve been members of Notre Dame only about six years but they are our parish ‘family’”

She said at Christmastime, the 55+ Club created a spiritual bouquet for Scott. “What a wonderful, loving gift. Scott has his own little support group at the Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass. He loves to sing during Mass and they have all expressed their appreciation for his singing and for his positive spirit. He tells his Dad and me that so many parishioners say hello to him, church is like a home to him.”

Msgr. Thomas Baddick, pastor of Notre Dame, said in the past few years, two parishioners have received successful kidney transplants, “And we involved the entire parish family by actively praying for them. We prayed that they might find a donor, as well as prayed for them up to surgery, and prayerfully celebrated their successful surgery.”

One of the parishioners was Jason Parlo, who THE A.D. TIMES featured in an article. “His family had painted a large message on their family van, and someone saw it and called them. The donor started attending Mass here at Notre Dame with the Parlo family, leading up to the surgery,” Msgr. Baddick said.

“It was a joy to administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for

both of them at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass the weekend before surgery. It was a beautiful moment, and the love and prayers of the entire congregation were powerfully present. I look forward to doing the same for Scott someday.

“The last few years, we’ve been seeking a donor for Scott, posting regular notices in the parish bulletin and website. We are with Scott and his parents, every step of the way.

“Unfortunately, successful candidates have been disqualified for medical reasons. Our adult retreat community consists of a couple hundred members, and we send regular emails to all members, asking for prayers, as well as serious consideration that they be tested as a potential donor.”

Joann said a potential donor of a living kidney should be healthy, have the same tissue type as Scott, and have a blood type that is compatible with Scott’s A positive blood. There are several types that are compatible, in addition to A positive.

Anyone interested in being a live kidney donor or who has a question about it may contact Scott at 610-439-5761 or sbedics@rcn.com, or Joann at 610-437-4116 or joannb33@rcn.com.

There is no obligation incurred for contacting them. The next step would be to fill out a questionnaire for the hospital, which will help the hospital determine if your kidney may be compatible.

**Anyone interested in being a live kidney donor or who has a question about the whole procedure may contact Scott at 610-439-5761 or [sbedics@rcn.com](mailto:sbedics@rcn.com), or Joann at 610-437-4116 or [joannb33@rcn.com](mailto:joannb33@rcn.com).**

## Upcoming Issues of The A.D. Times

Publication Date	Advertising Deadline	News Deadline	Publication Date	Advertising Deadline	News Deadline
March 8	Feb. 26	March 1	June 21	June 11	June 14
March 22	March 12	March 15	July 12	July 2	July 5
April 5	March 26	March 29	Aug. 2	July 23	July 26
April 19	April 9	April 12	Aug. 23	Aug. 13	Aug. 16
May 3	April 23	April 26	Sept. 13	Sept. 3	Sept. 6
May 17	May 7	May 10	Oct. 4	Sept. 24	Sept. 27
May 31	May 21	May 24	Oct. 18	Oct. 8	Oct. 11

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**Deaths**

**Religious Sisters**

**Sister de Paul Schmidt**, 105, of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of St. Francis, died Feb. 10 at St. Joseph Villa, Reading, where she had resided since 2004.

During her ministry as an elementary and secondary teacher, principal, tutor, attendance recorder, receptionist and superior, Sister served in Connecticut, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Texas. In the Diocese of Allentown she ministered at Sacred Heart, Reading; St. Casimir, Shenandoah; and St. Joseph Villa, Reading.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 15 at St. Joseph Villa Chapel, Reading, followed by burial in the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters' cemetery, Mount Alvernia.

**Sister Elizabeth Ann O'Hara** (for-

merly Sister J. James Augustine O'Hara), 86, a Sister of St. Joseph, died Nov. 2. She resided at St. Catharine Convent, Wayne.

In the Diocese of Allentown she served at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Bath in the early 1990s.

Mass was celebrated Nov. 7 at St. Joseph Villa, Flourtown, with burial in the villa cemetery.

**Sister Mary Franceline Marsh**, 101, a Sister of Mercy of the Mid-Atlantic Community, died Feb. 2 at McAuley Convent, Merion.

In the Diocese of Allentown she taught Latin at Allentown Central Catholic High School 1957-63. She also taught in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 16 at Convent of Mercy, Merion, with burial Feb. 17 in Sisters of Mercy

Cemetery, Merion.

**Sister Rita Clare Turek**, 85, of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of St. Francis, died Feb. 17 at St. Joseph Villa, Reading, where she had resided since 2018.

During her ministry as an elementary teacher, superior, principal, companion to the sick, housekeeping supervisor, driver and receptionist, Sister served in California, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Texas. In the Diocese of Allentown, she served at Sacred Heart Convent, Reading; St. Casimir, Shenandoah; The Bernardine House, West Lawn; and St. Joseph Villa, Reading.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 20 at Sacred Heart Convent Chapel, followed by interment in the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters' cemetery, Mount Alvernia, Reading.

**Sister M. Electa (Bernardine) Barlok**, 86, of the School Sisters of St. Francis U.S. Province, in her 67th year of religious profession, died Feb. 17 at Vin-

centian Home, Pittsburgh.

Sister entered from Assumption BVM Parish, Northampton.

She taught at various elementary schools in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and was principal in both Stowe and Bethlehem. She also taught at St. Francis Academy, Bethlehem, and ministered in parishes in Pennsylvania and in Westfield, Massachusetts. She handled correspondence for the Sisters' Prayer Ministry fund 2010-13 and served as librarian at Mount Assisi Convent. For the last nine years of her life she was dedicated to the ministry of prayer.

Preceding her in death were her parents, John Stephen and Mary Elizabeth (Makovsky) Barlok. Surviving are cousins.

Viewing will be Thursday, Feb. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Friday, Feb. 23 from 10 to 11 a.m. at Monocacy Manor, Bethlehem, followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. in Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at Monocacy Manor. Burial will follow in St. Francis Cemetery.

**We Are Remembered Easter Mass to be Celebrated April 4**

The 27th Annual Easter Mass sponsored by the Diocesan We Are Remembered Ministry will be Wednesday, April 4 at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, 924 N. Front St., Allentown.

"Brought together through the common bond of remembering our beloved dead," says the ministry, "we minister to parents whose children have died, and to all who have lost someone to death under tragic circumstances. All who grieve the loss of a

family member/friend are welcome."

Wednesday, March 28 is the deadline to have the names of loved ones printed in the memorial and the Book of the Remembered. This will ensure their inclusion in the enrollment list appearing in The A.D. Times after the anniversary Mass. It is important to enroll the name of your loved one each year.

The work of the ministry is sustained by generosity and prayer. We Are Re-

membered requests a \$5 donation for each name enrolled to cover expenses. Every name submitted will be enrolled regardless of donation.

"The Book of the Remembered" will be available for remembrances from 6 to 6:50 p.m. and again after the Mass.

Friends from past years will again provide participants with a social and spring flowers/gifts. To help, e-mail frjim.stmj@

gmail.com (include your phone number and e-mail address).

St. John the Baptist is on North Front Street in Allentown one block north of American Parkway. Ample parking is provided in rear of the church.

To register, see the form on page 7 of this issue. Registration should be sent to We Are Remembered Ministry, PO Box 20082, Lehigh Valley PA 18002-0082.

**Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Helps Healing From Abortion**

Are you carrying the emotional hurt associated with a past abortion? God in his mercy wants you to experience forgiveness and peace.

Come to a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Allentown. The next retreat will be the weekend of March 9-11.

For more information or to register, call 610-332-0442, ext. 2019 or 1-866-3Rachel, or email [projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org).



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Para obtener información de inscripción contactarse con:



**Miracles and the Mysteries of the Church**

University of Notre Dame theology professor John Cavadini will discuss "Miracles and the Mysteries of the Church" Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. at DeSales University, Center Valley.

The lecture, hosted by the Salesian Center for Faith and Culture at DeSales, and sponsored by the Notre Dame Club of the Lehigh Valley, is free and open to the public.

For details, email Kathy Link at [kathy-link33@gmail.com](mailto:kathy-link33@gmail.com).

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# Lehigh Conference of Churches Interfaith Celebration

The Lehigh Conference of Churches (LCC) hosted an Interfaith celebration of unity No.v 19 at Dubbs Memorial Community Center, Allentown.

Father Dr. John Krivak, Diocese of Allentown director of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue, joined with local religious leaders in signing a covenant agreement, representing peace-building and cooperation between various faiths and giving witness against racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and bigotry.

Father Krivak is also pastor of Annunciation (St. Mary) Church, Catasauqua, and the diocesan medical ethicist.

Commenting on the event, the Rev. Larry Pickens, ecumenical director of LCC, stated that "in a divided world in turmoil, there is need for healing in the land. In such times, it is incumbent upon religious leaders and people of faith to model cooperation and peacemaking."

Father Krivak added that the Allentown Diocese has always been firmly committed to working toward such cooperation and peacemaking. The covenant in its entirety reads as follows.



Father John Krivak, sixth from left, and the Rev. Larry Pickens, center, are among the local religious leaders displaying the Covenant among religious communities of the Lehigh Valley.

## Covenant Among Religious Communities of the Lehigh Valley

As communities of faith, we, the undersigned on behalf of our respective organizations, believe that our religions are the rich wellsprings from which we draw commitments to serve, support and benefit one another.

Our religions teach us that God is the creator and sustainer of the world and that responding faithfully to God requires us to commit to serve creation.

Responding to God requires us to strive together for the common good: the care of the earth for the generations to

come, the pursuit of justice for all, and the protection of our rights to practice and express our faiths as best as we can.

Responding to God requires us to take to heart a genuine concern for the well-being of each other. When our neighbors' well-being becomes our own concern, we can truly be faithful to God.

So, consistent with our religious teachings, we commit to stand together for those in the Lehigh Valley who are vul-

nerable and whose voices are not heard.

We commit to teach our children compassion for those whose struggles are different from our own. We promise to become a force for good. In order to achieve this vision we recognize that our respective communities in the Lehigh Valley have much work to do. With sincere effort, we commit ourselves:

- To deepen our understanding of each other's religions.

- To recognize that we do not agree on all things.

- To model respect for each other's religions.

- To work together on issues of human equality and social justice, consistent with our religious values.

Together we place our trust and hope in God, that God will bless and guide our efforts, and that God will turn our efforts into a blessing for us and our neighbors.



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Keynote Speaker: Father Chris Alar, MIC

March 10, 2018



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For more information and to register: [www.hbgdiocese.org/men](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/men)  
"Early Bird" Deadline for registration is February 26, 2018

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Thursday, March 22nd Michael Sherer 7-10 p.m.

Thursday, March 29th Kato 7-10 p.m.

## Church's Lenten Observance Dedicated to Shooting Victims, Families

**PARKLAND, Fla. (CNS)** – A parish community less than 2 miles away and directly impacted by the Feb. 14 school shooting at a Broward County high school is finding new purpose in Lent this year, according to the parish administrator.

“We decided to hold Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent as is our tradition, but this past Friday we decided to celebrate those stations in memory and in solidarity with those who died and all their families, and those at school who experienced this violence on Wednesday,” said Polish-born Father Ireneusz Ekiert, who became administrator of Mary Help of Christians Parish in December.

At least one member of the suburban parish northwest of Fort Lauderdale – 14-year-old freshman Gina Montalto, who had attended the parish elementary school – was among the deceased.

“We have a couple of families with kids who were wounded and one that has died,” the priest told the Florida Catholic, newspaper of the Miami Archdiocese. “This was a perfect opportunity to bring all those who died, and their families, those who suffered, all those who experienced that violence to bring them into prayer in the Stations today.”

Troubled 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz has been charged with 17 counts of first-degree premeditated murder after stalking the halls of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School with an AR-15 rifle on Valentine's Day. Fourteen more faculty and students were injured in the tragedy. Cruz had reportedly been expelled from the school for disciplinary reasons.

Father Ekiert said several kids from the parish who attend the high school “were also traumatized by the whole experience. We talked with them on Wednesday and again yesterday, and they are scared, they don't know what to do with it.”

Some 75 parishioners were on hand for the Stations



of the Cross, including members of the parish youth group, local public high school students and students from the parish school. The parish held another prayer

Parishioners of Mary Help of Christians Church in Parkland, Florida pray during an outdoor Stations of the Cross service Feb. 16 dedicated to the victims and survivors of the deadly mass shooting at nearby Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. (CNS photo/Tom Tracy)

vigil the night before and invited parishioners and others to pray the rosary at noon, 2, 4 and 6 p.m. the day after the shooting.

Father Ekiert said he never imagined being plunged into a horrific tragedy of this scope, especially in an otherwise quiet residential area that has become home to many South American transplants.

“Unfortunately, this event is very painful, very heart-breaking,” he said, “but people are coming together to pray. They were here on Ash Wednesday services in good numbers and yesterday we prayed the rosary all day every two hours for the victims and students.”

He added that the community will pray again this Sunday “for those who lost their lives or were affected by this violence.”

Local Catholic Charities counselors and others also were on hand to speak to student survivors.

“The kids in school and their parents were traumatized because students were locked in school for three and four hours, so yesterday and today we were trying to reach out to (parish and parochial school) families,” Father Ekiert said. “Thursday was difficult for everybody, but our families know that we are here for them, and they know the school is a safe place.”

“By participating in the suffering and pain of Christ, we are able to better understand our suffering and the sense that we are not alone in our suffering, that God understands our suffering, and that God is there with us in our suffering.”

## New Sitcom ‘Living Biblically’ Avoids Bad Language on Purpose

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – Just because the new CBS sitcom “Living Biblically” has landed a spot in the network's decades-dominant Monday night comedy lineup does not automatically guarantee it an audience.

So if viewers are going to be suspicious about a TV series dealing with faith, they don't need an excuse to change the channel. That's the view of Patrick Walsh, one of the executive producers of “Living Biblically.”

“I knew this show would get a lot of attention from religious viewers,” Walsh said Feb. 8.

“I knew that going in, just from internet comments, religious people get nervous and scared about religious comedy. They fear they would be mocked. I figured, why give them a reason to turn it

off?” he said. “We hope that the language would be clean enough for families to be able to discuss” the show after watching it together.”

“Living Biblically” is adapted from the A.J. Jacobs book of the same title, in which he kept a yearlong diary of trying to live his life entirely according to biblical precepts. It will air at Mondays at 9:30 p.m. on CBS starting Feb. 26.

In the adaptation, Chip (Jay Ferguson) is at a crossroads after his best friend dies and his wife (Leslie Kraft) announces she's pregnant. He gets it into his head that, by living according to what the Bible says, he'll be a better man, husband and father.

The series also stars Camryn Mannheim (“The Practice”) as his boss and Tony Rock (Chris' brother) as his

buddy at work, while Sara Gilbert is featured in half of the 12 shows made thus far – possibly because her “Roseanne” co-star Johnny Galecki (“The Big Bang Theory”) bought the rights to the book and is another executive producer of the show.

Other cast regulars include Ian Gomez (“Cougar Town”) as Father Gene, and David Krumholtz (“Numb3rs”) as Rabbi Gil, friends who get hooked into serving as Chip's spiritual advisers on his quest. “Living Biblically” had both a priest, Jesuit Father Gregory Goethals, and a rabbi, Joshua Hoffman, review each script. And yes, the “priest and a rabbi in a bar” joke is part of the pilot episode.

“They had never met, they obviously had very different faiths, but they hit it off, made each other crack up,” Walsh

said. “They helped us create the rabbi and priest characters on the show. As we learn from the show, priests and rabbis can be friends; a lot of people were surprised hear that.”

Walsh's father is a theology professor at a community college in Missouri, where he gets to develop his own course offerings. Walsh said his courses have ranged from the history of the Catholic Church to religious extremism.

His model of comedy – not that Walsh puts “Living Biblically” its class – is “All in the Family,” because it “showed you every point of view every week, and you got laughs on both sides. That was a touchstone for me and for Johnny – one that was talked about a lot. If we were going to get this opportunity to talk about religion in prime time.

## ‘Dreamers’

▶▶Continued from page 1

The joint statement was issued by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president; Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles, USCCB vice president; and Bishop Joe Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the USC-CB Committee on Migration.

“We are also announcing a National Catholic Call-In Day to Protect Dreamers,” the three prelates said. They asked U.S. Catholics “to call their members of Congress next Monday, Feb. 26, to protect Dreamers from deportation, to provide them a path to citizenship, and to avoid any damage to existing protections for families and unaccompanied minors in the process.”

They added: “Our faith compels us to stand with the vulnerable, including our immigrant brothers and sisters. We have done so continually, but we must show our support and solidarity now in a special way. Now is the time for action.”

By day's end Feb. 15, members of the U.S. Senate had rejected four immigra-

tion proposals, leaving it unclear how lawmakers will address overall immigration reform and keep the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in place.

Needing 60 votes for Senate passage, a bipartisan measure that included a path to citizenship for an estimated 1.8 million Dreamers – those eligible for DACA – and \$25 billion for a border wall failed by six votes. The final vote was 54-45. A bill the Trump administration was supporting was defeated 39-60. Two other bills also failed.

The U.S. House was pressing on with its own bill, which by mid-day Feb. 16 was not yet up for a floor vote. Described as “hard line” by opponents, it includes keeping DACA in place, funding a border wall, ending the Diversity Immigrant Visa program, limiting family-based visas, requiring employers to verify job applicants' immigration status and withholding federal grants from so-called “sanctuary” cities.

The U.S. House and Senate is in recess this week after the Presidents Day holiday.

The bishops and countless other immigration advocates have urged members of Congress to preserve DACA and protect

the programs beneficiaries by passing the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, or DREAM Act, which

has long been proposed. The bill is what gives DACA recipients the “Dreamer” name.

## How to Participate in the Call-In

The prelates urged Catholics to contact their senators and representatives urging them to vote for a bipartisan measure to preserve DACA as a Lenten Action.

The faithful should deliver a message asking their senators and representatives to protect Dreamers from deportation, provide them a path to citizenship, and avoid any damage to existing protections for families and unaccompanied minors in the process.

To participate in the National Call-In take the following steps on Monday, Feb. 26.

1. Please call 855-589-5698 to reach the Capitol switchboard, and press 1 to connect to your senators. Once you are connected to each senator's office, please ask the person on the phone to deliver this simple message:

“I urge you to support a bipartisan, common-sense, and humane solution for Dreamers:

Protect Dreamers from deportation and provide them with a path to citizenship. Reject proposals that undermine family immigration or protections for unaccompanied children.

As a Catholic, I know that families are not “chains,” but a blessing to be protected. Act now to protect Dreams, our immigrant brothers and sisters.”

2. Please call 855-589-5698 a second time to reach the Capitol switchboard again, and press 2 to connect to your representative. Once you are connected to the representative's office, please ask the person on the phone to deliver the same message as above.