

Diocese Names Executive to New Cabinet-Level Position To Enhance Abuse Prevention and Child Protection

As part of its continuing response to the clergy sexual abuse crisis, the Diocese of Allentown has created a new cabinet-level leadership position to further strengthen its programs to prevent abuse and keep children safe.



Russo

Pamela Russo, an experienced executive and licensed social worker, has been named Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services. She will be responsible for overseeing and improving all aspects of abuse prevention and child safety.

“Preventing abuse and keeping children safe are top priorities,” said Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert. “We are extremely blessed that a woman of Pam’s experience and insight will be joining us to advance these protections to the next level.”

As part of her new role, Russo will be available as a resource to assist victims and survivors of clergy sexual

abuse as they report their experiences and apply for compensation from the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program.

Russo also will launch a thorough review of all current diocesan policies on Safe Environment, Victim Assistance and Child Protection, and will develop and implement improvements.

Russo is currently executive director of Catholic Charities of Tennessee, in Nashville. It is the largest Catholic Charities organization in the state, with 170 employees and a budget of \$20 million. She will begin work in Allentown soon.

“This newly created role is a unique opportunity to really make a difference in critical areas at a critical time in the history of the Diocese,” said Russo. “I’m thrilled to be joining the Diocese of Allentown team.”

The Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator, Safe Environment Coordinator and Charter Compliance Officer, who play key roles in providing services to abuse victims or in preventing abuse and keeping children safe, will report to Russo.

Russo also will oversee Catholic Human Services and protection of vulnerable adults. In those capacities, reporting to her will be the chief executive officer and chief financial officer of Catholic Senior Housing and Health Care

Services, and the executive director of Catholic Charities.

Russo has vast experience in child welfare roles and has served as an instructor for courses on recognizing signs of child abuse. She earned her master of social work degree from Temple University, Philadelphia, and holds a master of science degree in administration of human services from Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia.

She is a former Secretary for Catholic Human Services at the Diocese of Allentown, and previously worked as executive director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown. Previous to that, she held positions with Catholic Social Services, Philadelphia, including manager of the Mercy Hospice Residential Facility, and worked as assistant director of residential services at Keio Academy of New York.

Anyone who knows of incidents of abuse, in the Church or outside it, should report it to the State ChildLine at 1-800-932-0313, the State Attorney General’s hotline at 1-888-538-8541, or to local law enforcement. The Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to provide assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was abused by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of the Diocese, or of its parishes. Her direct line is 1-800-791-9209.

Priest Sons of St. Jane Gift School with Vocation Chalice

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

Four priests who were educated in the faith at St. Jane Frances de Chantal School, Easton celebrated a Mass for Vocations together Dec. 20 and presented the school community with a chalice representing the vocations.

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, who graduated from St. Jane School in 1975, was the main celebrant in the school’s chapel.

Concelebrants were Monsignor Stephen Radocha, pastor, and parish sons Father Kevin Gualano, administrator of Most Blessed Sacrament, Bally; Father Stephan Isaac, assistant pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring; and Father Mark Searles, director of the Diocesan Office for Vocations Promotion and chaplain at Allentown Central Catholic High School.

“All of us call St. Jane our home. All of us sat in these pews just like you are,” said Bishop Schlert to students, staff and family members of the priests.

One of the former students who used to sit in the pews is Father Searles, who came up with the idea to present the school with a chalice to be used at celebrations in the school’s chapel and the main church.

“The chalice is a gift to the parish from the four priest sons to be used for



Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, second from left, holds the new vocation chalice donated to St. Jane Frances de Chantal School, Easton along with his brother priests who all attended the school. From left are: Father Stephan Isaac, assistant pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring; Father Mark Searles, director of the Diocesan Office for Vocations Promotion and chaplain at Allentown Central Catholic High School; and Father Kevin Gualano, administrator of Most Blessed Sacrament, Bally. (Photos by Ed Koskey)

“The chalice is a gift to the parish from the four priest sons to be used for Mass on special occasions and to pray for many more vocations to the priesthood to come from St. Jane.”

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U.S. Bishops Take Part in Weeklong Retreat About Clergy Sex Abuse Crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The U.S. Catholic bishops took part in a closed-door retreat Jan. 2-8 at Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake near Chicago to prayerfully consider ways to rebuild trust over the clergy sex abuse crisis.

“We are honored to welcome the bishops of the United States to Mundelein as they prayerfully unite to reflect on the urgent issues facing the Catholic Church today,” said Father John Kartje, rector of Mundelein Seminary in a statement.

He said it was fitting that the bishops were gathered where “seminarians come from around the nation to be formed into the next

Please see CRISIS page 20 ►►



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Fax: 610-439-7694
E-mail: 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

Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Dano

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Churches in Diocese Taking Flu Precautions

In light of the heightened cases of influenza being reported in our five-county area and the Jan. 2 change in the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Influenza Status from "sporadic" to "widespread," Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert has directed that the Exchange of the Sign of Peace and the Reception of Holy Communion from the Chalice be suspended.

This suspension will begin with the Vigil and Sunday Masses the weekend

of Jan. 12-13, and will be in effect until the incidence of influenza subsides in our region.

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

sion.

In those parishes where the Reception of Holy Communion is commonly given under both forms, parishes are asked to use this as a catechetical moment to reinforce the Church's constant teaching that the entire Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ is present in the Sacred Host, and that the reception of either species is sufficient to receive the graces of the Holy Eucharist, provided one is in the state of grace.

'Faith and Spirits' to Discuss the 'Other' St. Francis

Maggie Riggins, campus minister of DeSales University, Center Valley, will introduce us to St. Francis de Sales at the next "Faith and Spirits."

"Salesian Spirituality: Getting to Know the 'Other' St. Francis," will be Monday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. at P.J. Whelihan's, 1101 Rocky Road, Reading.

Known as the "Gentleman Saint," he wrote prolifically about holiness in the everyday life of lay people.

"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 or contact the Office of Adult Formation by email adultformation@allentowndioocese.org or call 610-282-1100, ext. 2021.

Salesian Spirituality

Getting to Know the "Other" Saint Francis



Monday, March 18, 2019

TIME: 6:30 PM
PJ Whelihan's
1101 Rocky Road
Reading, PA

Presented By:

Maggie Riggins

Campus Minister of DeSales University

Catholic Schools Week 2019

Sunday, Jan. 27 through
Saturday, Feb. 2

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Other Events Listed
on Facebook

"Allentown Diocese
Catholic Schools"



VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

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

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

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

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

COORDINADOR DE ASISTENCIA A LAS VÍCTIMAS

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

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

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

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



Because We Are Catholic

A Volunteer Teaches Students That Good Writing is Really Cool

Debbie Kopp has occupied some pretty big chairs during her 35-year career in education, including that of school principal. Now that she is retired, some of her favorite time is spent in the tiny chairs of a kindergarten class.

For the past three years, she has volunteered her Tuesday afternoons giving one-on-one writing lessons to 5- and 6-year-olds at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Bethlehem Township. The kids call her “Nanni” Kopp.

Writing is a critical skill. It is fundamental to a Catholic school student’s success in higher grades, and in life. It is also a skill best taught from an early age.

“Knowing how to put your thoughts down on paper is really, really important,” Kopp said. That’s especially true in a time when putting pencil to paper has been replaced by texting, email and other technologies.

“Writing is really a means of thinking,” she said. “With this program, we are modeling the importance of writing to these children.”

Kopp customizes her instruction to the individual skills of each student. Sometimes it’s a focus on sounds and words; other times, it involves whole sentences. She’s also worked with teachers in other grade levels at the school to keep the momentum going as students advance.

“I love it here,” she said, taking a break from the bustling classroom full of eager learners, colorful supplies, and cubbies stuffed with book bags and winter coats. “What we are doing is building the idea that good writing is really cool.”



Changing Careers to Find Fulfillment Working in Catholic Schools



Catholic schools in the Diocese of Allentown are full of dedicated teachers and staff who are a key part of the mission to provide challenging academics and build moral character in an environment of compassion and faith.

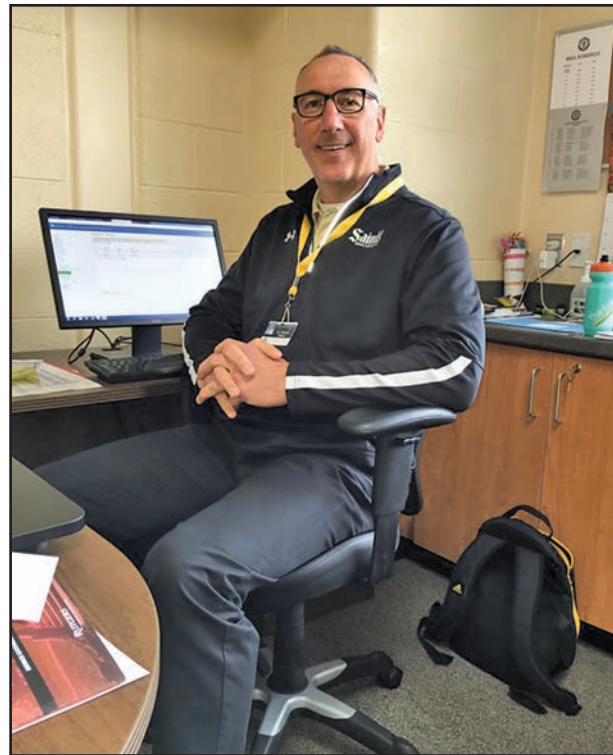
Some have left lucrative careers elsewhere, and have found satisfaction and fulfillment working in Catholic education. Here are two such stories:

Amy Impellizzeri, left, is a lawyer who spent 13 years as a corporate litigator in New York City. She’s also a successful author of fiction and nonfiction books. Today, she is putting her skills and career experience to work as Advancement Director at St. Catharine of Siena School, Reading.

“I realized that my experience in the law and in finance is a gift I could use in other places,” she says. “It’s a labor of love. The mission of this school feels very personal to me. This really is a very special place.”

Michael Piersol, right, is a convert to Catholicism who worked previously as a counselor in public schools. He’s also a former social worker. Today he is using his skills and life experiences to advise Berks Catholic High School students on college and career choices.

“This is my way of sharing my faith, of supporting the Catholic Church, and of giving back,” he says. “This is God’s plan for me, and I’m thrilled.”



“Because We Are Catholic” tells the stories of how the people of the Diocese of Allentown make a difference in the lives of others, bringing the Light of Christ to each other and to our community.

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Bishop Alfred Schlert, center, gathers with seminarians and clergy gathered for the Seminarian Christmas Brunch Dec. 28 at Lehigh Country Club, Allentown, from left: Father Adam Sedar; Monsignor John McCann, pastor of Immaculate Conception BVM, Douglassville; Robert Mangan; Deacon Zachary Wehr; Father Keith Mathur; Deacon John Maria; Monsignor Thomas Orsulak, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle, Reading; Father Christopher Butera; Deacon Giuseppe Esposito; Keaton Eidle; Aaron Scheidel; Robert Rienzo; Miguel Ramirez; Charles Carbonetto, Jr.; Bishop Schlert; Anh Do Mai; Matthew Kuna; Tyler Loch; Alexander Brown; Juan Rodriguez; Monsignor David James; Philip Maas; Father Mark Searles; Monsignor John Grabish, pastor of St. Joseph and St. Paul, Reading; Monsignor Daniel Yenushosky, pastor of Holy Trinity, Whitehall; and Monsignor John Murphy, pastor of St. Thomas More, Allentown. (Photos by John Simitz)

Bishop Schlert Gathers with Seminarians for Christmas Brunch

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

"I'm very grateful and proud of every one of you," Bishop Alfred Schlert told the young men studying for the priesthood gathered for the Seminarian Christmas Brunch Dec. 28 at Lehigh Country Club, Allentown.

Father Christopher Butera, Diocesan director of seminarian formation and administrator of Sacred Heart, Bath, said there are 16 seminarians studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Allentown. Leiser Ramirez, who studies at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary, Mexico City, Mexico, did not attend.

Father Butera thanked seminarians for a "tough but good year" at the brunch, which took place on the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

"I have gratitude for working with you and for everything you do for the Diocese and yourselves," Father Butera said.

Bishop Schlert gifted each seminarian with a polo shirt emblazoned with the Diocesan Crest. "It's something they can wear together for more casual functions," Father Butera said.

Those attending included Monsignor

David James, Diocesan vicar general; Father Adam Sedar, Diocesan secretary for clergy; Father Mark Searles, Diocesan director of vocations promotion and chaplain of Allentown Central Catholic High School; and Father Keith Mathur, assistant in the Diocesan curia and director of the Diocesan Office for Divine Worship.

Other clergy attending included pastors of the seminarians.

"Thank you for your perseverance this year, especially this summer," Bishop Schlert said. "I admire your courage and perseverance in a very unique time in the Church, which none of us ever had to go through as seminarians."

Bishop Schlert also thanked the priests present for "fostering a kind of climate that allows young men to respond to the call, and families to support their sons."

"I wish your parents and family members a blessed Christmas season and a happy, healthy new year," the Bishop told seminarians.

Three seminarians were keen to share their reflections on their vocational journey this year. All three attend St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia.

"It's been going very well this past



Chatting during the brunch are, from left, Monsignor Daniel Yenushosky, Father Christopher Butera and Tyler Loch.

year, preparing for the priesthood," said Deacon Giuseppe Esposito, who is in his fourth theology year and is serving as a transitional deacon at St. Catharine of Siena, Reading.

Deacon Esposito is a parish son of the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Al-

lentown.

"I'm excited about the upcoming ordination, and the guys at the seminary get along very well together."

Deacon Esposito is also thankful to be

Please see SEMINARINS page 5 ▶▶



Juan Rodriguez, left, and Monsignor David James catch up at the brunch.



Father Christopher Butera, left, speaks with Alexander Brown, center, and Charles Carbonetto Jr.

Seminarians

▶▶Continued from page 4

made to feel as welcome at St. Catharine of Siena, Reading as the parish's transitional deacon.

"What I enjoy the most is the family atmosphere of the church – every parish family has its own personality. They've been so warm and welcoming at St. Catharine's," he said. "I'm very grateful they've opened themselves up to the new guy coming in, the new deacon."

Robert Rienzo, who is in his second pretheology year, characterized 2018 as "a really good year."

"It's great to see the new guys come in, and the culture of vocations building in the Diocese is great to see. The leader-

ship of the deacons is very strong," said Rienzo, a parish son of St. Thomas More, Allentown.

"I look at it like bookends, the new guys coming and the leadership."

"It's a supportive environment, especially at events like this, which build a connection between seminarians getting to know the parishes and priests," Rienzo said.

Tyler Loch, a parish son of Holy Trinity, Whitehall, is a first year college student.

"It's been a great year so far, the whole experience – getting to know classmates, the fraternity, academics and growth in my spiritual life," Loch said.

Apart from the seminary fostering a great spiritual life, Loch most appreciates the brotherhood formed with classmates.



Above, enjoying the morning are, from left, Matthew Kuna, Aaron Scheidel, Robert Mangan and Father Christopher Butera.

Right, Tyler Loch enjoys the gathering with fellow seminarians and clergy.

Left, Monsignor John Grabish, left, and Anh Do Mai talk during the festive event.



Above, preparing to sit down to brunch are, from left, Father Mark Searles, Philip Maas, Deacon John Maria, Father Adam Sedar and Deacon Giuseppe Esposito.

Right, Deacon Zachary Wehr, left, laughs as Philip Maas hams it up for the camera.



Upcoming Issues of THE A.D. TIMES

Publication Date Advertising Deadline News Deadline

2019

Jan. 24	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
Feb. 7	Jan. 28	Jan. 31
Feb. 21	Feb. 11	Feb. 14
March 7	Feb. 25	Feb. 28
March 21	March 11	March 14
April 4	March 25	March 28
April 18	April 8	April 11
May 2	April 22	April 25
May 16	May 6	May 9
May 30	May 20	May 23

Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,
soothe restless hearts with hope,
steady shaken spirits with faith:
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform our brokenness.
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
so that we may act with justice
and find peace in you.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Catholic Relief Services Marks 75 Years of Restoring People's Dignity

BALTIMORE (CNS) – As Catholic Relief Services staffers and supporters spent an evening marking 75 years of service in the world, one word recurred: dignity.

Bishop Gerald Kicanas, who chaired the CRS board of directors from 2010 to 2013, spoke of it in his homily at a special Mass Dec. 5, 2018 in St. Stephen's Chapel at the organization's Baltimore headquarters.

Every day, he said, Catholic Relief Services is "trying to bring the world that IS to the world that God intends." In most cases, this means "giving some sense of dignity to people robbed of their dignity."

Bishop Kicanas, who often visited CRS projects when he was chairman of the board, spoke of all the places he saw this occur: in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, where children scrounge for food; in India's Uttar Pradesh state, where CRS helps women fight infant mortality.

In Peru, he said, he saw an indigenous woman speaking at a meeting in her newly learned Spanish, "and the men were listening. Amazing."

"CRS for 75 years has been hovering over the vulnerable," he said, calling the international relief and development agency determined, resolved and patient.

"CRS will not fail," he said, urging staffers to continue their work for another 25 years.

After the Mass, hundreds of people had a chance to visit three CRS mission experiences, including a 360-degree exhibit on the work CRS does around the world. The agency representing the U.S. Catholic community works with organizations around the world "to help poor and vulnerable people overcome emergencies, earn a living through agriculture and access affordable health care."

Caroline Brennan, emergency communications director for the CRS Humanitarian Response Department, spoke animatedly as she took people on a tour of how the agency responds in an emer-

gency. She spoke of the need to jumpstart the local economy – if anything remains after a disaster – and explained how the voucher system or debit cards allowed people to buy from the local vendors of their choice.

People have different needs, she said, noting the agency was trying to give people "flexibility and the dignity of choice." Each situation is different, she explained, so CRS officials must decide "what's happening locally here." Emer-



Cecilia Suarez, country manager for Catholic Relief Services in Mexico, looks on as Sean Callahan, president and CEO of CRS, speaks during the 75th anniversary celebration of the global aid organization Dec. 5 in Baltimore. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

gency housing often includes tarps over a temporary structure of local materials – bamboo, wood or concrete blocks. Not only does it protect people from the elements, she said, but it allows them some privacy and the chance to grieve if they have lost loved ones in the disaster.

CRS wants to give "a semblance of dignity to families," she said.

Transitional shelters, made from local materials, are designed to last two to three years and grow as the family gets back on its feet, she said. This might mean the initial foundation allows for more rooms or a shop in the front of the structure.

Over its 75 years of existence, CRS staffers have become leaders in the field of emergency shelter. One CRS staffer co-authored guidelines for shelter emergencies for the recently released revisions to the Sphere handbook, which sets agreed-upon minimum standards for humanitarian agencies to use in emergencies.

Bassam Nasser, head of the CRS office in Gaza, told Catholic News Service his office favors electronic voucher programs for families so they can purchase "what they need, not what we decide for them." Some families told CRS staffers they were appreciative that, when they went to the grocery store, they did not look like they were purchasing food differently than other families.

Please see RELIEF page 7 ▶▶

The annual Catholic Relief Services Collection will be taken in the Diocese of Allentown the weekend of Jan. 26-27.



Guests view a 360 exhibit during the 75th anniversary celebration of Catholic Relief Services Dec. 5 in Baltimore. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)



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CRS History at a Glance

Jan. 15, 1943: In an outpouring of concern from Catholics in the United States, War Relief Services is created by the U.S. bishops to help thousands of World War II survivors and refugees.

July 1, 1943: CRS' first project helps shepherd some 1,500 Polish refugees into Colonia Santa Rosa, Mexico, where CRS sets up a safe haven for education, training and rehabilitation.

July 28, 1945: A twin-engine U.S. Air Force plane crashes into CRS offices in the Empire State Building, killing 11 employees.

1950s: War Relief Services becomes Catholic Relief Services, reflecting a shift in our mission from war relief to long-term development. By the late 1950s CRS is providing more than half of all U.S. government food shipped by private organizations, making us the largest provider of food aid in this category.

1961-66: CRS partners with the National Catholic Welfare Conference to resettle nearly 500,000 Cuban refugees

to Miami. In 1966 Migration and Refugee Services and Catholic Charities take over this work, making it CRS' last refugee resettlement project in the United States.

1977: The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops adopt Operation Rice Bowl as CRS' official Lenten program. Since then, CRS Rice Bowl has become a Lenten tradition in thousands of parishes and schools across the United States, providing a tangible way for families to pray, fast, give and learn about their poor brothers and sisters around the world.

1994: CRS is forced to evacuate Rwanda during a genocide that kills more than 1 million people in 100 days. Within weeks of leaving, CRS staff operating from Burundi and Uganda deliver emergency relief to thousands of traumatized people. Introspection after the genocide moves CRS to re-examine our role in world events and rediscover Catholic social teaching.

Oct. 26, 1998: CRS responds to Hurricane Mitch, one of the worst hurricanes

to hit Central America, killing 10,000 people. Emergency response and recovery programs in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador are the first to use our new justice-focused approach to help impoverished communities.

2004-13: After making HIV and AIDS a strategic priority in 2001, CRS takes a lead role in implementing the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR. The United States commits more than \$70 billion through PEPFAR to fight HIV in 60 countries. It is the largest commitment by a single nation to address a single disease.

Jan. 2, 2010: After a 7.0-magnitude earthquake slams Haiti, CRS and Church partners lead a comprehensive five-year relief and recovery effort.

2010-11: In early 2010, violence threatens the run-up to South Sudan's national elections for secession on July 9, 2011. In addition to providing emergency, agricultural, health and educational assistance, CRS and its local Church partners provide programs in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

In the United States, CRS raises awareness among Catholics to fund critical

projects. Against all odds, the election is peaceful and South Sudan gains independence.

March 15, 2011: Protests in Syria lead to a massive conflict and large-scale displacement of the country's population. CRS launches support for Caritas and local partners to meet the diverse needs of 1.4 million Syrian refugees as they flee violence, landing across the Middle East and Europe.

April 2014: After the first reported case of Ebola emerges in December 2013, CRS launches a multi-country response to the deadly outbreak across West Africa. With Caritas and local partners, CRS focuses on disease prevention, support to local health systems, safe and dignified burials, and community healing across the region. The World Health Organization declares the end of the outbreak on Jan. 14, 2016.

Feb. 15, 2017: CRS launches Changing the Way We Care, its bold plan to take children out of orphanages, and support families and communities to care for them, starting in seven demonstration countries.

Relief

►Continued from page 6

"We stand for the dignity of the people," Nasser said.

Toward the end of the celebration, some CRS staffers – and beneficiaries – were featured in a living history of the agency. Sean Callahan, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, and Cecilia Suarez, country manager for CRS in Mexico, introduced people who had con-

tributed to the agency over the decades. They came from Syria, Ghana, Tanzania, Rwanda, the Soviet Union and El Salvador. Several were helped by CRS and later worked for the agency.

Julek Plowy, who was born in a Soviet gulag, made his way to CRS' first refugee program, in Mexico, eventually settled in the United States, served in the Marines, raised a family and became a "successful businessman."

"That refugee settlement was just the beginning of our work in Mexico," said Suarez. "We are still there, working to

help ... including the plight of refugees."

Rosa Anaya, a victim of El Salvador's war, has worked with young people for 20 years and leads a CRS youth rehabilitation program in Salvadoran prisons.

"We often hear today about people fleeing violence and conflict, but we don't hear as often about the efforts of people like Rosa, who are working every day to reduce violence in their home country, giving people a chance ... a second chance ... however many chances it takes ... to live in peace with their family and loved ones," Callahan said.

For the family from Syria, resettled in countries around the world after fleeing the civil war, "Home is Skype, where they can eat together as a family," Callahan said.

After featuring all the living history staffers, Callahan said: "one theme is constant. Our work doesn't just help people through a tough time – it transforms lives, not temporarily, but permanently; and not just one person, but their families and their communities. That is the kind of transformational change we always strive for."

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SAVE THE DATE!

September 30, 2019

Chalice

►►Continued from page 1

Mass on special occasions and to pray for many more vocations to the priesthood to come from St. Jane,” said Father Searles.

“The chalice will be a great piece of history and pride for the people of St. Jane, and an encouragement and reminder to pray to the Lord of the harvest to continue to send vibrant laborers into his vineyard,” he said.

Engraved in the chalice is the inscription “Hic est enim calix sanguinis mei,” which translates to “For this is the chalice of my blood.” The base of the chalice also contains a scene of the crucifixion with the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John, which is the same crucifixion scene in the sanctuary of the church above the altar.

In his homily, Bishop Schlert told the students that Advent is an exciting time of year and a time to remember how the Blessed Mother said ‘yes’ to God’s request to carry his son.

“We are grateful for her ‘yes.’ It couldn’t have been easy for her to say ‘yes.’ Because of her ‘yes’ Jesus came into the world. And he loved us so much



Bishop Schlert preaches the homily for school students inside the former main church of St. Jane, where he celebrated his first Mass after being ordained to the priesthood.

that he died for us,” he said.

“We all have Jesus in us by our baptism. What he asks us to do is to think about the vocation in each one of us,” said Bishop Schlert.

Whether they are called to the single

life, the married life or the religious life, he told the students that they must pray and discern how they want to live their lives.

“Discernment is a big word, but it just means figuring out what God is calling us to do,” said Bishop Schlert.

“We priests hope this chalice that we leave with you is a reminder to all of you and children who are not born yet – to pray for boys to become brothers or priests and for girls to become sisters in the religious life,” he said.

Bishop Schlert then told the students that the call to the religious life is

a “beautiful calling” that allows them to serve God’s people in a very special way.

“The parents and family of our priests with us here today know that their sons are happy to be serving God. We want you to be happy in life, too. You will know what will bring you happiness if you discern through prayers,” said Bishop Schlert.

“Everyone’s calling is different. But God puts it all together and calls us into one Church, where we know God, love him and serve him,” he added.

Assuring the students of his prayers, he encouraged them not to fear saying ‘yes’ like the Blessed Mother did.

“You will say ‘yes’ to what God is calling you to do because you have Jesus in you,” said Bishop Schlert.

After Mass, Father Searles showed the chalice and chatted about vocations with a few students, and blessed vocations crucifixes donated to the school for each classroom from the parish vocations committee.

“The new crucifixes are a great way to remind the students on a daily basis to consider and to pray how God is calling them to live in his love and to serve others on our journey to heaven and to be great saints,” he said.

“We are also very grateful to St. Jane’s School and the Easton Knights of Columbus Home Association, who helped the priest sons of the parish to purchase the priceless gift of the new St. Jane’s Vocations Chalice. There is room on the bottom of the chalice for many more names of future priest sons, as well,” said Father Searles.



Father Searles talks with students about the vocation chalice that was donated for students to contemplate their vocation in life.



Ella Anastasian, left, and Jack Brady pray during the special Mass.

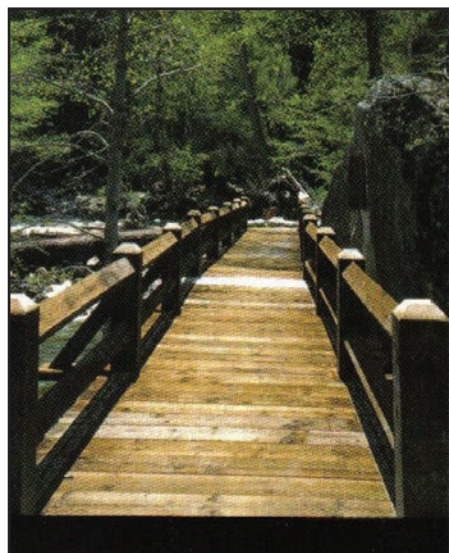
Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat, an intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion, will be the weekend of March 22-24.

In a safe, supportive, nonjudgmental environment, you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter into the process of healing. Through Scripture readings, guided meditations, and activities flowing from the meditations, you can experience God’s compassion and forgiveness.

Deadline for registration is Thursday, March 14.

For registration information, contact Sister Meg Cole, 1-866-3 RACHEL (toll free) or 610-332-0442 ext. 2019, or email



projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org.

For information about the retreat experience, visit the national website, www.rachelsvineyard.org.

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Confirming Faithful Families Retreats

All confirmandi in the Diocese of Allentown are invited to a Confirming Faithful Families Retreat. Registration is still open for the following rallies, all Saturdays:

Feb. 2 at St. Ambrose Parish, Schuylkill Haven.
Feb. 9 at Notre Dame High School,

Easton (location changed from Bethlehem Catholic High School).

March 2, 2019 at Notre Dame High School, Easton.

If you have any questions regarding these rallies, or would like to register as a group or individual, please contact Alexa Smith at asmith@allentowndiocese.org.

Young Adult Book Club to Discuss 'The Dream of a Ridiculous Man' Jan. 25

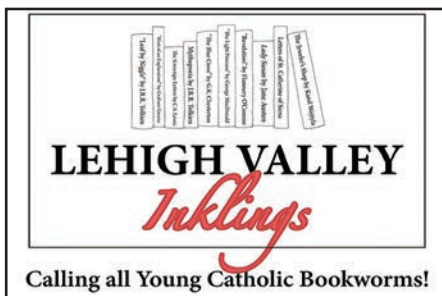
From Tolkien to Thomas Merton – from Shakespeare to St. Augustine – from Jane Austen to Julian of Norwich – great works of literature have the power to challenge and strengthen our Christian faith.

"Lehigh Valley Inklings," a book club for young adult Catholics ages 21 to 35, meets once a month to explore a classic through the lens of Catholicism.

The next meeting will be Friday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m., hosted by Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert.

The group will discuss "The Dream of a Ridiculous Man" by Fyodor Dostoevsky.

Please RSVP to lehighvalleyin-



Calling all Young Catholic Bookworms!

klings@gmail.com to receive details regarding the location of the meeting.

For more information, visit the group's Facebook page, "Lehigh Valley Inklings: Young Catholic Book Club."

Juventutem to Gather for Social Jan. 13

Juventutem Lehigh Valley is a local chapter of the Juventutem International Federation, a coalition of young adults whose mission is the sanctification of youth through the traditional means of the Church.

In lieu of the regular monthly meeting, Juventutem will be hosting a pot luck social in the auditorium at Sacred Heart in Bath on Sunday, Jan. 13 at 12:30 p.m.

All are welcome to attend.

Juventutem Lehigh Valley has committed to spending an hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament every first Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart in Bath. The sacrament of penance is available beginning at 7 p.m.



Diocesan Trip to Steubenville NYC 2019

Rising ninth-graders (currently in eighth grade) through graduated 12th-graders (currently in 12th grade) are invited to the Diocesan Trip to Steubenville NYC this summer the weekend of July 19-21.

Travelers must reserve their spot by Tuesday, Jan. 15.

The trip will be to St. John's University in Queens, New York.

"Come to Steubenville with other groups from the Diocese," urges the Diocesan Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry.

"Let us help you organize this trip. Whether you have a large group, a few teens or one teen who wants to attend, we will guide you through all of the logistical details."

Register by emailing Thea.Aclo@allentowndiocese.org



taelo@allentowndiocese.org. A \$50 deposit per person is due at time of registration. Pricing is participants \$330 and clergy \$60. Fundraisers and scholarships are available.

Catholic Scout Activity Weekend

The 2019 Catholic Scout Activity Weekend will be held at Camp Trexler - Settlers the weekend of April 26-28.

The fulfilled weekend will include all meals and a Saturday Vigil Mass.

Scouts don't have to be working on a religious emblem – all Catholic Scouts are welcome.

For more information, visit www.adc-cos.org/bsr.htm.

Saint Charles Borromeo College Seminary Hosts

Faith and Fellowship

"Divine Inspiration: God and the Human Imagination"

A night of Fun and Faith for young adults focused around God's influence in art and creativity with music by the talented Sarah Sparks and a lecture by Luca D'Anselmi

Where: Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary-100 E. Wynnewood Road, Wynnewood, PA 19096

When: February 8th 2019 Year of our Lord –Doors open at 6 o'clock

RSVP Requested (Not Required) at faithandfellowship.scs@gmail.com

Refreshments will be provided-Event is FREE OF CHARGE!

Sarah Sparks is an artist, singer, and songwriter from Louisville, KY. She has already produced two albums, one of which is wholly inspired by C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Sarah Sparks' music and art is an "attempt to reflect God, the Great Artist."

Luca D'Anselmi is Instructor of Greek and Latin at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary as well as the Chair of the Department of Humanities. He is a proficient scholar and trained classicist with degrees from both Bryn Mawr College and Hillsdale College.

'Faith and Fellowship' at St. Charles Seminary

"Divine Inspiration: God and the Human Imagination," a young adult event called "Faith and Fellowship," will be offered Friday, Feb. 8 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

It is being planned by Diocese of Allentown seminarians Alex Brown and Aaron Scheidel.

The night of fun and faith for young adults will focus on God's influence in art and creativity, with music by the talented Sarah Sparks and a lecture by Luca D'Anselmi.

Sparks is an artist, singer and songwriter from Louisville, Kentucky. She

has already produced two albums, one of which is wholly inspired by C.S. Lewis' "The Chronicles of Narnia." Her music and art is an "attempt to reflect God, the Great Artist."

D'Anselmi is an instructor of Greek and Latin at St. Charles, as well as chair of the Department of Humanities. He is a proficient scholar and trained classicist, with degrees from both Bryn Mawr College and Hillsdale College.

The event is free of charge; refreshments will be provided.

RSVP is requested (not required) at faithandfellowship.scs@gmail.com.



Logos and Lagers for Berks Young Adults

Join Berks County Young Adults for their Bible Study group, Logos and Lagers.

The group meets the first Thursday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. to discuss the Mass readings for the upcoming weekend, followed by food and fellow-

ship at a local establishment.

The next meeting will be Feb. 7 at St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring in the JPII Room.

For more information, go to Facebook page "Logos and Lagers: A Catholic Bible Study for Young Adults in Berks County."

'wine' down with shakes'beer'

ness. And to the light GOD gave the name of Day, and to the darkness He

William

GOD also said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters and let it be a division between the waters and the waters which were above the expanse; and that was done. And GOD named the expanse the firmament."

wine

the waters which were above the expanse; and that was done. And GOD named the expanse the firmament."

and

waters below the Heavens in one place, and let dry land appear. And that was done. And GOD called the dry land Earth, and the waters which were gathered together He called Seas. And GOD blessed the Earth, saying, "Let the Earth produce vegetation, and let the Earth bring forth trees which bear fruit, and let the Earth be fruitful and multiply." This was the third day.


the

and the fourth day. And GOD said, "Let the Earth produce living creatures." This was the fourth day.

WORD

Earth produced the seed-bearing plants, and the Earth brought forth trees which bear fruit, and the Earth was fruitful. This was the fifth day.

Earth produced the seed-bearing plants, and the Earth brought forth trees which bear fruit, and the Earth was fruitful. This was the fifth day.



DANCING - DRINKS - LIGHT FARE

Party with Shakespeare and his troupe as they perform Macbeth and hilariously grapple with the beauty of our Faith.

William, Wine and the Word

Save the date, Saturday, Feb. 23, for a unique event hosting by the Office of Youth, Young Adults and Family Ministry and Sing for America.

Enjoy drinks, hearty hors d'ouvres, and a show as the cast of Sing for Amer-

ica performs scenes from Shakespeare's "Macbeth" through the lens of faith.

Check back soon for details and registration at www.allentowndiocese.org/williamwine.

Monthly Theology on Tap

For married & single young adults ages 21-35



January 14, 2019 @ 7 PM

Responding to Relativism

Next Theology on Tap 'Responding to Relativism'

In a culture that rejects universal truth in favor of convenience, how can Catholics respond charitably yet effectively to relativism?

Join "Theology on Tap" Monday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. as Dr. Michael Rombeiro discusses the confusion that stems from relativistic thinking in society, the importance of moral absolutes, and the role of Catholics who strive to follow Church teaching.

Rombeiro is professor of philosophy at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia.

Theology on Tap "Responding to Relativism" will take place at Hops at the

Paddock, 1945 W. Columbia St., Allentown.

The monthly series is sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry (OYYAFM). The series is designed to welcome young adults ages 21 to 35, single or married, in a casual setting where they can grow in the faith and share community with one another.

Theology on Tap events are free of charge. Food and beverage can be ordered from the menu at the event site. For more information, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/tot or email Alexa Smith at asmith@allentowndiocese.org.

WISDOM

GOD'S VISION FOR LIFE

Scripture and the Tradition of the Catholic Church provide an abundance of wisdom, though it can often be challenging to apply it to our lives. Drawing on the Wisdom Literature of the Bible—Proverbs, Wisdom, Sirach, and Ecclesiastes—*Wisdom* will teach you how to actively seek out sound guidance and increase your sense of peace in navigating life. In everything from friendships to finances, from making decisions to attaining peace of mind, Scripture offers a vision for happiness and well-being.

Who: Young Adults (ages 18-35)

Where: St. Joseph the Worker Parish Center

When: Third Tuesday each month @ 7:00 PM

- Discover what wisdom is (and what it isn't!)
- Meet other young adults
- Learn practical ways to implement God's will in your life while making important decisions

Sep. 18, 2018	Jan. 15, 2019
Oct. 16, 2018	Feb. 19, 2019
Nov. 20, 2018	Mar. 19, 2019
Dec. 18, 2018	Apr. 16, 2019

'Wisdom' Discussions for Young Adults

What role does faith in the decisions we make as young adults? Find out at the new Wisdom discussion series.

The group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the parish center of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Orefield, with the next event coming up Jan. 15.

Join other young adults (ages 18 to

35) to watch and discuss the "Wisdom Series" by Ascension Press. Learn practical ways to discern and implement God's will as you face important life decisions, and meet fellow young adults from the area.

For questions, email Katie Rossowski at KatlynRossowski@kings.edu.

Networking for Young Adult Professionals

A networking group for Catholic young adult professionals will be starting on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at Vivo Italian Kitchen, 4558 Crackersport Road, Allentown.

This new initiative will be an opportunity for Catholic young adults interested in building their careers to meet and interact with each other, as well as with Catholic business owners who have been successful in their fields.

The group will meet quarterly and will include brief presentations on career skills, and opportunities for networking and discussion.

Check back soon for more information, and save the date for the first event on Feb. 26.



Schuylkill Catholic Youth Ministry to Begin 'Alpha' Series for Teens

Know a teen with questions about life? Invite them to "Alpha," a new series for teens offered by Schuylkill Catholic Youth Ministry, to explore life, faith and meaning.

"Alpha" will be Sundays from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Frackville Youth Center, 7 S. Broad Mountain Ave., Frackville, beginning Jan. 27 through March 24.

The series is free of charge and dinner is included.

Participants are asked to RSVP to annie@allentowndiocese.org.

If you would like to attend a parent meeting to learn more about "Alpha," offer input on the new youth ministry in the county and learn about the plans for the coming year(s), please email Annie Sarlo, director of youth ministry for Schuylkill County, annie@allentowndiocese.org. She will then contact those interested to set up a meeting.

2019 March for Life Bus Trip and Event Information

The 2019 March for Life will be Friday, Jan. 18 in Washington, D.C.

Local parishes are running buses. Please consult the table on this page for prices and contact information.

Also listed are local prayer opportunities for those who cannot attend the march.

Additional bus information will be published as it becomes available, in The A.D. Times and on

the diocesan website at www.allentowndiocese.org/pro-life-and-social-concerns.

If you are running a bus and do not see your parish name and information in the list, please contact the Office of Pro-Life and Social Concerns at 610-289-8900, ext. 2026 or e-mail mhartigan@allentowndiocese.org so it may be included.

For more information about the march, visit www.marchforlife.org/mfl-2019/.



JANUARY 18, 2019 - MARCH FOR LIFE, WASHINGTON, D.C. BUS INFORMATION

Parish	Departure Location (Church Lot)	Time of Departure	Price	Contact	E-mail	Phone
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Bethlehem	7:30 AM	\$20 Adults \$10 Children	Tony Saldutti	Tsaldutti99@gmail.com	610-533-2711
Assumption BVM	Bethlehem	7:00 AM	\$25 pp \$75 Family	Lisa Temple	Lisa_temple3@yahoo.com	
St. Thomas More	Allentown	7:55 AM	\$20 Adults \$10 Children	Tony Saldutti	Tsaldutti99@gmail.com	610-533-2711
St. Jane Frances de Chantal	Easton	7:15 AM	\$10 Per person \$20 Family	Sue Stigliano	stig-1@rcn.com	610-253-0510
Sacred Heart	Bath	7:30 AM	\$20 Adults \$10 Youth \$30 Max per family	Karen Brynildsen	nannybepop@ptd.net	610-762-2122
St. Joseph the Worker	Orefield	7:00 AM	\$10 Per person	Sue Mueller	Suemueller45@gmail.com	610-392-2957
St. Benedict	Mohnton	7:30 AM	Free Will Offering	Helen MacMinn	hmacminn@gmail.com	484-354-9791
St. Columkill and Most Blessed Sacrament	Boyertown	7:00 AM	\$50 Adults \$25 Students (Includes dinner)	Candee Holzman	candeeh@stcolumkill.org	610-367-2371
St. Ambrose	Schuylkill Haven	7:00 AM	\$25 per person	Dana Seisler	dana.seisler@gmail.com	484-645-5613
Immaculate Conception	Douglasville	8:00 AM	\$35 Adults \$17 Youth	Anegla Peterson	arpeterson@windstream.net	610-858-9688
St. Ignatius Loyola	Sinking Spring	8:30 a.m.	\$35 Adults \$17 Youth	Angela Peterson	arpeterson@winstream.net	610-858-9688

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

- St. Jane Frances de Chantal will be offering Eucharistic Adoration on January 18, 2019 following the 8:15 AM Mass ending with Benediction at 5:00 PM.

Bishop Schlert Celebrates Christmas Eve Mass at Cathedral



Above, Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert incenses the display of the Nativity of the Lord with Monsignor Victor Finelli, master of ceremonies, during the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. (Photos by John Simitz)

Right, Philip Maas, Diocesan seminarian, reads the Proclamation of the Birth of Christ before the liturgy. The proclamation, which is the formal announcement of the birth of the son of God, begins with the creation of the world, mentions certain key events in the history of the people of Israel, and concludes with the birth of Jesus.

Below, Charles Carbonetto, Diocesan seminarian, reads the second reading during the Mass.



The Cathedral Choir, directed by Beverly McDevitt, left, sings a musical selection Dec. 24 during the Mass.



Right, Bishop Schlert greets the faithful as they leave the Cathedral after the Mass.



Deaths

Religious Sisters

Sister Edna Averbeck, (formerly Sister M. Eadburgis), Maria Averbeck, 94, a Missionary Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, died Dec. 13, 2018 at Sacred Heart Villa, Reading.

During her ministry she served her community as seamstress, cook, chauffeur and in packing boxes for overseas missions.

Sister served the Diocese of Allentown in Sacred Heart Home, Coopersburg; St. John the Baptist Parish, Allentown; St. Michael Parish, Lansford; Villa St. Elizabeth, Reading. She also served the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Illinois, Ohio and West Virginia.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 18, 2018 in the chapel of Sacred

Heart Villa, Reading, followed by burial in the convent cemetery.

Sister Nora Marie Syberyjska, 92, of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of St. Francis, died Dec. 25, 2018 at Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center, Reading.

Sister Nora Marie served in California, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Liberia, West Africa as an elementary teacher, superior, Christian service coordinator, Christian service director and receptionist. In the Diocese of Allentown, Sister ministered at Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Villa, both in Reading.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 27 at St. Joseph Villa Chapel, Reading with interment in the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters' cemetery, Mount Alvernia.

Sister Martina Revak, 82, a Benedictine Sister of Emmanuel Monastery in Lutherville, Maryland, died Dec. 26, 2018 at Maria Health Care Center at Villa Assumpta.

During her ministry she, along with two other sisters established Transfiguration Monastery in Emmaus, as a dependent house of St. Joseph Monastery.

In the Diocese of Allentown she ministered as a pastoral associate at St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown. Sister served on the Diocesan Commission for Religious, and organized programs for spiritual enrichment at Transfiguration Monastery.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 3 at the chapel at Villa Assumpta, followed by interment at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens.

Sunday Scripture

Sunday, Jan. 13

The Baptism of the Lord

First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-38

Gospel

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Sunday, Jan. 20

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 96:1-3, 7-10

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel

John 2:1-11

Nativity Class of 1963 Mini Reunion



The Class of 1963 of Nativity BVM High School, Pottsville gathered at the school for a mini reunion Nov. 3. Alumni enjoyed lunch and memories touring the halls of Nativity. The day concluded with Mass in Nativity's chapel. From left are: front, Adrienne Schoffstall Kurtak, Carol Hunt Ketner, Bea Curran Hancock, Marie Mullah Yanchick, Annamary Mahoney Krasnitsky, Mashie Mihalko, Deanna Galavage Campbell, Gus Moffitt, Joanne Moffitt, Mary Sabol Flanagan, Marianne Jefferson Myrick; middle, Ed Donahue, Loretta Edwards, Carol Melusky Barthold, Judi Loftus Seamur, Sharon McGadden Carroll, Helen Sleva Smeltz, Charles Dalvet, Paul Koslosky, Bonnie Koslosky; back, Dave Pflueger, Albert Lubinsky, Maureen Lubinsky, Myrtle Mackey Fritz, Monsignor Francis Schoenauer, Michael Yanni, Eileen Burns Yanni, Sharon Haffey and Larry Haffey.

Turkey Bingo at St. Rocco, Martins Creek



Deacon Charles Palmeri, right, is the caller for Turkey Bingo Nov. 11 at St. Rocco Church, Martins Creek. At left is worker Ken Brewer.



Tables are filled for the popular event. Winners get turkeys, gift certificates and other prizes.



Coming Soon! New Columbariums

Also, Pre-Need selections are now available at Diocesan Cemeteries



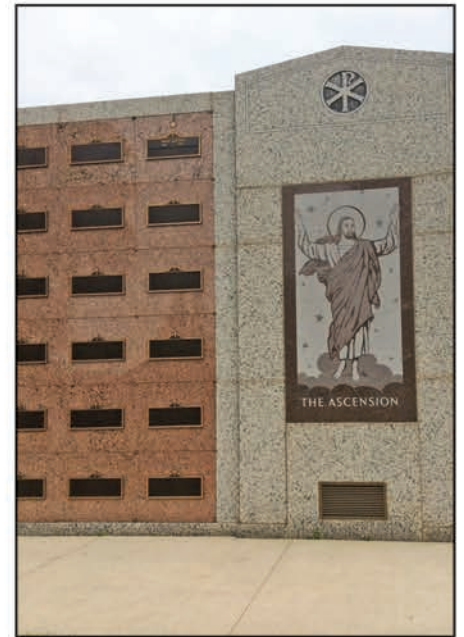
Holy Savior Cemetery
2575 Linden Street
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Resurrection Cemetery
547 N. Krocks Road
Allentown, PA 18106

Please contact the cemetery to speak with one of our knowledgeable Family Services counselors. Pre-Need selections can alleviate the stress of making interment arrangements at the time of need.

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Calendar

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

Items must be received by Thursday of the week before publication. Please type or print. Please notify The A.D. Times if bingos and other regularly listed events are cancelled for the summer or other holiday periods, and again when they resume. Please do not send items again after they are published.

For more information, e-mail adtimes@allentowndioocese.org or call 610-871-5200, ext. 2264.

Friday, Jan. 11

"The Master Craftsman: God's Amazing Plan for Teens (and Their Parents)," family center, St. Thomas More, Allentown, 7-9 p.m., free admission, keynote speaker, Scott Anthony, register www.allentowndioocese.org/craftsman, information ffrias@allentowndioocese.org, 610-289-8900, ext. 2022.

Saturday, Jan. 12

Prayer Pilgrimage, Helpers of God's Precious Infants, Notre Dame of Bethlehem, Mass 8 a.m., continued with rosary at abortion facility, 31 S. Commerce Way, Bethlehem Industrial Park, 610-365-2100.

Monday, Jan. 14

Friendly Fifties, St. John Byzantine Church, Northampton, social hall, 1 p.m., postponed to Monday, Feb. 11 if Northampton schools delayed or closed for snow.

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Women of Grace Foundational Study, library, St. Thomas More Church, Allentown, 6:30-8:30 p.m., every other week, ending May 7, registration required, fee required to cover materials, 610-392-2659, 610-398-9096, bmbarski@gmail.com; also Wednesdays Jan. 16-May 8, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 19

International Catholic Grandparents Association Chapter, St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, after 8:30 a.m. Mass, www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org.

Sunday, Jan. 20

Breakfast, St. Ignatius Loyola, school hall, Sinking Spring, 8 a.m.-noon, adults \$8, children 6-12 \$4.

Saturday, Jan. 26

Collection for Catholic Relief Services, also Sunday, Jan. 27.

Sunday, Jan. 27

"A New Creation - Opus One: ECHO Concert," main chapel, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, 2 p.m., \$15, students \$5, 610-670-3642, www.jesuitcenter.org/A-New-Creation.

"Paul: Apostle of Christ," Movie Club rescheduled from Jan. 20 due to AFC and NFC championship games, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, parish hall, 3:30 p.m., doors open 3 p.m.; free movie, popcorn, soda, door prizes and goodies; all welcome.

"Alpha," series for Schuylkill Catholic Youth Ministry teens, to explore life, faith and meaning, Frackville Youth Center, 7 S. Broad Mountain Ave., Frackville, 6-8 p.m., free, dinner included, RSVP annie@allentowndioocese.org, Sundays Jan. 27 through March 24; to attend parent meeting to learn more about "Alpha," to offer input on the new youth ministry in the county and to learn about the plans for the coming year(s), email Annie Sarlo, director of youth ministry for Schuylkill County, annie@allentowndioocese.org.

Friday, Feb. 8

"Divine Inspiration: God and the Human Imagination," St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, doors open 6 p.m., night of fun and faith for young adults focused on God's influence in art and creativity, music by Sarah Sparks and lecture by Luca D'Anselmi, free, RSVP requested faithandfellowship.scs@gmail.com.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

International Catholic Grandparents Association Chapter, St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, parish center, after 7 p.m., www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org.

Sundays

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

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

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

Holy Hour of Reparation, Adoration Chapel, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 7 p.m., for sins committed against the Body of Christ and the healing of victims and all those affected, all are welcome.

First Sundays

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

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

Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, Parish Life Center, St. Ann, Emmaus, 1 p.m., all Catholics welcome to learn about the secular order and its life of prayer and devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Carmelite saints, information debrentler@gmail.com.

Second Sundays

Breakfast, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, 8:30-11:30 a.m., adults \$7, children \$4, 3 and under free, October to April.

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

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

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

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

Third Sundays

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

Fourth Sundays

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

Mondays

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

Scripture Classes, St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

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

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

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

GriefShare Workshop and Support Group, St. Catharine of Siena, 2427 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, 7-8:30 p.m., 610-370-1174.

First Mondays

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

Third Mondays

Pro-Life Berks on BCTV, discussion of pro-life and pro-family issues, 8 p.m.

Fourth Mondays

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

Last Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Eucharistic Adoration, St. Jane Frances de Chantal,

Easton, after 8:15 a.m. Mass until 9 p.m. benediction, Divine Mercy 3 p.m., Miraculous Medal novena 7 p.m., rosary for vocations 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

"Tuesdays at the Shrine," National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Immaculate Conception BVM, Allentown, 2-3:30 p.m., special rosary asking Mary's intercession to heal all victims of abuse, and for our Holy Mother Church in these difficult times, followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet 3 p.m.

First Tuesdays

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

First and third Tuesdays

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

Second Tuesdays

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

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

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

Third Tuesdays

Outreach Committee, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown to Mohegan Sun Casino, Wilke-Barre, \$25 (new price), 610-515-5975, 610-433-6102.

Wednesdays

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

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

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

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

Wednesday Evening Bible Study, rectory basement, St. Paul, Allentown, 6:30-8 p.m., join anytime, 610-797-9733, ext. 14.

First and third Wednesdays

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

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

Second and fourth Wednesdays

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

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

Third Wednesdays

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

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

Thursdays

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

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

Please see CALENDAR page 15 ▶▶

Calendar

►►Continued from page 14

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

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

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

First Thursdays

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

Second and fourth Thursdays

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

Fridays

Holy Mass, Barnabite Spiritual Center, Bethlehem, 7:30 p.m.

"Symbolon, the Catholic Faith Explained," catechetical program, Barnabite Spiritual Center, Bethlehem, 8:30 p.m.

Divine Mercy Rosary and Chaplet, Divine Mercy, Shenandoah, 3 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Family, Nazareth, after 8:30 a.m. Mass until 5 p.m.

First Fridays

Litany of the Sacred Heart, Daily Mass Chapel, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown 7:55 a.m. before Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration, Sacred Heart, Palmerton, confession 8 a.m., Mass 8:30 a.m. followed by adoration until noon, concluding with midday prayer and benediction.

Eucharistic Adoration, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, after 8:15 a.m. Mass until 10 p.m. benediction, Divine Mercy 3 p.m., rosary for vocations 7:30 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Family, Nazareth, after 8:30 a.m. Mass-4 p.m., Divine Mercy Chaplet 3 p.m.

Respect Life Holy Hour, adoration chapel, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 7-8 p.m., all welcome, presider Deacon Bob Young.

Saturdays

Holy Hour of Reparation, Adoration Chapel, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 12 p.m., to pray for our world leaders, church leaders, clergy, pastors, families, the sick and suffering, the dying. We need people to pray! Also Sundays 7 p.m.

First Saturdays

Holy Hour for Vocations, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, begins with 8 a.m. Mass (except May and June).

Devotion to Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 4:05 p.m.

First and third Saturdays

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

Second Saturdays

Prayer Pilgrimage, Helpers of God's Precious Infants; Mass, Notre Dame of Bethlehem, 8 a.m., followed by 15 decades of the rosary at Allentown Women's Center, 31 S. Commerce Way, Bethlehem, 610-797-7403, schedule40dfh@hotmail.com.

Second and fourth Saturdays

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

Third Saturdays

Lay Dominican Meeting, Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic, Chapter of the Expectation of the Blessed Mother, Notre Dame of Bethlehem, 9-11 a.m., 610-285-2288, 610-691-6761, 610-865-9236.

Retreats

First Tuesdays

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

Saturday, Jan. 12 – Sunday, Jan. 20

Eight-Day Directed Retreat, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, \$720, http://jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats_bylength.

Friday, Jan. 25 – Sunday, Jan. 27

Weekend Directed Retreat, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, \$240, http://jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats_bylength.

Socials

Sundays

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

Third Sundays

Bingo, Most Blessed Sacrament, Bally, 12:30 p.m.,

doors open 11 a.m.

Thursdays

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

Sundays, Jan. 20, Feb. 10, 24, March 10, 24, April 7, 28, May 19, June 2, June 23, Aug. 4, 18, Sept. 8, 22, Oct. 6, 20, Nov. 3, 17, Dec. 8

Bingo, Knights of Columbus Council 618, St. Stephen Hall, Shenandoah, 2 p.m., doors open noon, 570-590-3270 or 570-590-1188.

Trips

Editor's note: The A.D. Times publishes newly announced, Church-affiliated trips in every issue. The entire previously announced list is repeated as space permits.

Send Church-affiliated trips to adtimes@allentowndioocese.org by Thursday of the week before publication. Please notify The A.D. Times when seats are filled for a trip so it can be removed from the repeating list.

Trip listings include sponsoring group, destination, cost and contact information. Contact the sponsor for other details, such as times, dining location, itineraries and what is included in the cost.

Newly announced

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Outreach Committee, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown to Mohegan Sun, Wilkes-Barre, \$25, 610-515-5975 or 610-433-6102.

Tuesday, May 7

Prime Timers, St. Ann, Emmaus to "The Ultimate Johnny Cash Tribute," Penn's Peak, Jim Thorpe, \$85, 610-530-8186.

Sunday, Sept. 8 – Thursday Sept. 12

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bethlehem to El Coronado Hotel, Wildwood Crest, New Jersey, \$470, 484-456-6818.

Previously announced

Wednesday, Jan. 16

Golden Agers, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall to Hollywood Casino, \$30, 610-264-3721.

Monday, Jan. 28 – Friday, Feb. 1

St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Woodloch Pines Lodge, Hawley, \$590, 610-797-5773, 610-216-8667.

Thursday, Feb. 7 – Thursday March 7

Assumption Travel Club, Slatington to Costa del Sol, Spain, \$3,499, 610-767-3036.

Wednesday, March 13

Golden Agers, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall to Irish Festival, Silver Birches, Lake Wallenpaupack, \$82, 610-266-2874.



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Baptism

This Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. This feast day marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. After reflecting on the mysteries surrounding Jesus' birth, we encounter the adult Jesus going to John the Baptist to demonstrate his solidarity with fallen humanity. Jesus' baptism was the beginning of his public life, his work of salvation.

Instead of reflecting on Jesus' baptism by John, let's consider that this feast day also invites us to appreciate our own baptism.

Do you know the date of your baptism? If you were baptized as an infant, probably not. We remember and celebrate birthdays; but, for some reason, we're not as mindful of the day we received new life in Christ, the life that makes us who we are, the life that will last forever.

When we consider what baptism really is, it should quickly become clear that the day of our baptism is, without exaggeration, the most important day of our lives.

Baptism is no mere ritual or symbol. It is an act of God that permanently changes us and opens the way to salvation. If this is true, what about people who are never baptized? Can they be saved? (As a high school theology teacher, I can predict questions like this.)

The short answer is: yes, God can and does work in people's lives outside the usual means. However, Jesus Christ is our Savior – everyone's Savior. We are freed from the power of sin and death, reconciled with God, and destined for eternal life through Jesus and through Jesus alone.

The sacrament of baptism, given to us by Jesus himself, is the usual way we are joined to the saving mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. The importance of baptism cannot be overstated.

When someone is baptized, he or she is freely choosing to accept the gift of salvation through Jesus. Of course, it is the Catholic practice to baptize infants, even though they cannot make this choice for themselves. We do this because baptism into the Christian life is a tremendous gift that we want to share with our children. As they grow up and learn about the faith, they will gradual-

ly take responsibility for themselves and make the "yes" of baptism their own.

So, what exactly do we mean when we say that baptism joins us to the gift of salvation through Jesus? That it is our "yes" to this gift? How does it change us? Think about the use of water in baptism.

Water is the sacramental sign. A sacramental sign is something concrete: water, oil, bread and wine, words or gestures. But this tangible sign also contains much greater spiritual realities. It becomes a way that we encounter the very presence of Jesus Christ in a way that changes us. Water has natural meanings: cleansing and purification, and even life and death (we need water to live, yet one can drown in water).

In the sacrament of baptism, these natural meanings of water express much deeper spiritual realities. The water of baptism "washes away" original sin, which is the damage to our human nature that we inherit from the sin of the first human beings.

Baptism spiritually unites us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. (In the early Church, one was baptized by descending into a pool, being completely submerged, and rising out the other side.) Baptism reconciles us with God. It restores divine life in us, which means we will live eternally beyond this present life.

Because of this, baptism profoundly changes our relationship with God. We must be clear that God loves and cares about every human being unconditionally, that all people are children of God in the broadest sense.

However, by baptism, the Holy Spirit – God himself – comes to dwell in us. We literally have divinity in us. We share the same nature as God. This means God can "adopt" us as his sons and daughters in a very real sense.

As we become adopted sons and daughters of the Father, the infinite distance between God and us is bridged by the closest of family relationships. God the Father truly becomes our Father. Jesus is not just a distant king and judge over us, but a brother. We become brothers and sisters to each other. We form one great spiritual family, which we call the Church, or the Body of Christ.

Our challenge is to live our lives in these spiritual relationships with God and with each other, to not al-

By Father Kevin Bobbin,
chaplain at Lafayette Col-
lege, Easton and Bethle-
hem Catholic High School.



low all of this to remain merely figurative or theoretical. Do I relate to God as Father? Do I relate to Jesus as a constant, close companion? Am I aware of God the Holy Spirit dwelling in me to guide me and be a source of strength and grace for daily life? Do I look at other Christians – especially the members of my parish community – as brothers and sisters? Do I see my parish as a family?

The key to living our baptism, to living as members of God's family is, not surprisingly, Jesus. Baptism is a commitment to follow Jesus Christ. If baptism makes us the adopted sons and daughters of the Father, this means we take on a special resemblance to Jesus, the Son of the Father. Jesus shows us what it means to be sons and daughters of the Father. We look to him as our model and example.

This is the starting point for the Christian moral life. For the Christian, morality is not just about following a set of rules, but about following a Person. This does not excuse us from living by the Ten Commandments and all other moral teachings. Rather, it calls us to go above and beyond the rules.

It calls us to ask ourselves how we can be more like Jesus, how we can keep growing and improving as persons. In other words, a Christian does not just ask: what are the rules? What do I have to do? What am I not allowed to do? Instead, a Christian is constantly asking himself or herself in prayerful dialogue with God: how can I be a better person?

Living by the divine life of the Holy Spirit within us, growing in freedom from sin and in our likeness to Jesus Christ, growing as members of God's family until we are together in our eternal home: this is the power of baptism. It's no mere ritual.



Immaculate Conception
Academy

Position Opening

Principal

2019

Immaculate Conception Academy

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Immaculate Conception Academy (Grades K-8), Doulassville, PA is seeking a dynamic and innovative educational leader with a strong commitment to academic excellence and Catholic values to serve as Principal. The ideal candidate must be experienced in and committed to the mission of Catholic education. Candidates should possess the acumen and experience to work effectively with academic and student affairs, the application of instructional technology, strategic planning, enrollment management, institutional advancement and fiscal management. Applicants should possess excellent oral and written communication skills and a collaborative leadership style capable of working effectively with parents, faculty and staff and a Board of Limited Jurisdiction.

Those interested in the position should submit their letter of interest, resume, background clearances, and appropriate certifications with personal and professional references to ICA Search Committee at resumes.icabvm@gmail.com or by mail to ICA Search Committee c/o 310 Washington Street, Birdsboro, PA 19508. The Diocesan application packet may be obtained by calling 610-866-0581, ext. 3032.

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CYO Spelling Bee Draws 36 Participants to SS. Peter and Paul, Lehighton



Above, sixth-grade winners of the CYO 2018 Spelling Bee are, from left: Allison DiLollo, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, third place; Megan Tran, St. Elizabeth Regional School, Whitehall, second place; and Terry Hersh, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bethlehem, first place. A total of 36 participants represented 15 parishes and schools in the Diocese of Allentown. CYO is one component of a parish's youth ministry program and is coordinated by the Diocesan Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry (OYYAFM).

Above right, seventh-grade winners are, from left: Anthony Ordorizzi, St. Jerome Regional School, Tamaqua, third place; Andrew Lessig, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, second place; and Gabby Madeira, Notre Dame of Bethlehem, first place.

Right, eighth-grade winners are, from left: Stanley Gorski, Assumption BVM School, Pottsville; third place; Ian Anderfski, St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven, second place; and Theresa Tran, Good Shepherd Catholic School, Northampton, first place.



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Calendario de REUNIONES Jóvenes Adultos MIES 2019 | 5PM



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Segundo Domingo del mes en el HIS CENTER
Cuarto Domingo del mes en SAN PABLO
A LAS 5:00 P.M.

ENERO 13 - HIS Center
ENERO 27 - San Pablo

JULIO 14 - HIS Center
JULIO 28 - San Pablo

FEBRERO 10 - HIS Center
FEBRERO 24 - San Pablo

AGOSTO 11 - HIS Center
AGOSTO 25 - San Pablo

MARZO 10 - HIS Center
MARZO 24 - San Pablo

SEPT. 8 - HIS Center
SEPT. 22 - San Pablo

ABRIL 14 - NO HAY REUNIÓN (DOMINGO DE RAMOS)
ABRIL 28 - San Pablo (DOMINGO DE LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA)

OCTUBRE 13 - HIS Center
OCTUBRE 27 - San Pablo

MAYO 12 - NO HAY REUNIÓN (Día de las Madres)
MAYO 26 - NO HAY REUNIÓN (FIN DE SEMANA DE MEMORIAL DAY)

Nov. 10 - HIS Center
Nov. 24 - San Pablo

JUNIO 9 - HIS Center
JUNIO 23 - San Pablo

DICIEMBRE 8 - HIS Center
DICIEMBRE 22 - San Pablo

DIRECCIONES
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PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN
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Monsignor Edward O'Connor, pastor, left, with children who collected for the angel statue, Lucy Verchick, Hudson Clews, Maxwell Clews, Kate McCabe, Quincy Clews, Wyatt Clews, Maxwell McCabe, Joshua O'Toole, Emma Leshner, Tiffany Tray, Andrew Verchick, Cora Trunick.

St. Patrick Children Help Purchase Their Own Parish Angel Statue

How many of you call out to the angels in prayer? Do you look for beautiful celestial beings clad in a white robe, with smiles on their faces, a halo around their head and wings on their back?

Angels are depicted in pictures, statues, poems, writings, books, songs, TV, movies, etc. and have captured our fascination from the beginning of salvation history.

"God's faithfulness is a protecting shield. You shall not fear the terror of the night nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that roams in darkness, nor the plague that ravages at noon. For God commands the angels to guard you in all your ways. With their hands they shall support you, lest you strike your foot against a stone" (Psalm 91:4-6, 11-12).

Children from St. Patrick Church, Pottsville participated in a Catholic Kids Camp titled "Parachuting with the Angels and St. Catherine of Labour" June 25-29.

Every year during camp the children participate in a service project. In the past, the children and their families have helped Care Net, Birthright and Our Father's House (the local homeless shelter).

This year it was suggested that they collect change to help purchase their own

Parish Angel.

Between collecting money in an angel container in the back of church and taking it upon themselves to sell lemonade throughout the summer in front of the parish office – along with numerous special donations – the children were able to purchase a Parish Angel that stands outside between the church's parish center and rectory.

Beautiful landscaping and bright lighting bring out the beauty of the statue throughout the day and all night long.

In front of the angel is a plaque that features the "Angel of God" prayer and gives credit to the children.

Oct. 1, the day before the Feast of the Guardian Angels, Monsignor Edward O'Connor, pastor, dedicated and blessed the angel after the children unveiled it.

After the dedication everyone went into the parish center for pizza, refreshments and an angel craft.

Children received a pillowcase with St. Michael the Archangel and the Prayer to St. Michael imprinted on it, so the children can learn the prayer, per the suggestion of Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, and stay close to the angels always.



"Andaban como ovejas sin Pastor". (Mc. 6,34)

Sábado 9 de febrero de 2019

LUGAR: CENTRO JESUITA
CENTRO DE RENOVACIÓN ESPIRITUAL

501 N. Church Rd. Wernersville, PA 19565

HORA: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

PRESENTADORES: Rev. Mons. Thomas Orsulak
Rev. Andrew Gehringer

Se requiere la asistencia de todos los embajadores, coordinadores diocesanos y parroquiales de todos los Movimientos Eclesiales actualmente activos en el ministerio hispano, incluyendo voceros parroquiales del Movimiento de Cursillo de Cristiandad y equipo responsable de la Escuela de Evangelización San Andrés.

MAYOR INFORMACIÓN: Oficina de Asuntos Hispánicos Diócesis de Allentown
SE REQUIERE INSCRIPCIÓN PREVIA

www.allentowndiocese.org/oha

610-289-8900 ext. 2025

OHA@allentowndiocese.org



Diocese of Allentown
Oficina de Asuntos Hispánicos



Próximo Encuentro Regional de HOMBRES DEL REINO

Miércoles 23 de enero, 2019

Presentador: : Diácono José Santos

Tema: "Sanación Interior"

Iniciando con la Santa Misa a las 7:00 p.m. en la Parroquia

"Ustedes sólo servirán a Yavé, y yo bendeciré tu pan y tu agua, y apartaré de ti todas las enfermedades" (Ex 22,25)

¡Todos los hombres son bienvenidos!

PARROQUIA SAGRADO CORAZÓN

336 N. 4th St. Allentown, PA 18102

Contactos: 484-764-0679 -610-730-5213

Oficina de Asuntos Hispánicos: 610-289-8900 ext. 2025

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

¡TE ESPERAMOS!



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All Saints Day at St. Teresa, Mahanoy City

St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Mahanoy City, recently celebrated the Feast of All Saints Day with parishioners portraying different saints. Pictured are Debbie Walker (St. Bernadette), Amelia Fetco (St. Felicity), Danielle Morgan (St. Perpetua), Magdalena Cruz (St. Mary Magdalene), Kieran Haughney (St. Kieran), John Redgate (St. Patrick), Francisco Cruz (St. Thomas Aquinas), Justin Harakel (Young Jesus), Anna Mary Casserly (Blessed Mother Mary), Guadalupe Porfirio (St. Veronica), Gavin Dower (Young St. John the Baptist), Megan Majetsky (St. Teresa of Calcutta) holding Carter Friel (child), Mary Ann Walker (St. Anne), Natalie Morrison (St. Theresa of the Child Jesus), Denise Hinkle (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton), Ally Killian (St. Clare), Blade Kalkiewicz (St. Michael the Archangel), Cash Kalkiewicz (St. Gabriel), David Cruz (St. Juan Diego), Gary Steibler (St. Joseph), Lee Williams (St. Zechariah), and Maria Williams (St. Elizabeth).

Council of Stewards Invoke Holy Spirit at Evening Prayer



The Council of Stewards pray together Nov. 19 during Evening Prayer at St. Mary, Kutztown. Members of the council have made a gift of \$500 or more to the Bishop's Annual Appeal and other diocesan ministries that benefit people of all faiths. (Photos by John Simitz)



Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, right, and Father Jason Stokes, pastor of Most Blessed Trinity, Tremont, lead the Holy Hour. "I am so appreciative for your support in helping the Diocese offer outreach to those in need," said Bishop Schlert.



Stewards recite a prayer imploring the Holy Spirit to guide them in their desire to support parishes, schools and other diocesan ministries. There are four circles in the Council of Stewards: Circle of Faith, \$500-\$999; Circle of Hope, \$1,000-\$2,499; Circle of Charity, \$2,500-\$4,999; and Bishop's Circle, \$5,000 and over.



Father Achilles Ayaton, right, pastoral care of Health Care Facilities served by the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Siena, Allentown, and Father Stokes enjoy a conversation with Marie Mazzini.



Bishop Schlert thanks Noel and Magaly Gonzalez, parishioners of St. Paul, Allentown, for their support of ministries and programs operated by the Diocese of Allentown.



Bishop Schlert greets Fred Flemming and his wife, Sue at the light reception after Evening Prayer.



Stewards mingling during the reception are, from left: Patricia and Deacon Howard Schultz, parishioners of St. Peter the Apostle, Reading; and Patricia and Patrick Holland, parishioners of Holy Guardian Angels, Reading.



Bishop Schlert spends time with stewards at the reception.

Crisis

►Continued from page 1

generation of parish priests and hundreds of lay men and women are trained for parish service.”

He added: “The people of God deserve servant-leaders who are holy, joyful and competent in their ministry.”

Mundelein Seminary is the major seminary for the Archdiocese of Chicago and is the largest Catholic seminary in the United States. It currently has more than 200 seminarians from 34 dioceses across the country and around the world.

The structure of the retreat will emphasize quiet reflection, including silent meal times, and will offer daily Mass, time for personal and communal prayer before the Eucharist, vespers and an opportunity for confession. No ordinary business will be conducted.

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher of the papal household, is leading the retreat with the theme, “the mission of the apostles and their successors.” This time of prayer came at the suggestion of Pope Francis and was planned largely in response to last summer’s revelations of sex abuse that reached the highest levels of the U.S. church.

In a letter distributed to the bishops at the start of the gathering, Pope Francis said he was convinced their response to the “sins and crimes” of abuse and “the efforts made to deny or conceal them” must be found through “heartfelt, prayerful and collective listening to the word of God and to the pain of our people.”

“As we know,” he said, “the mentality that would cover things up, far from help-



U.S. bishops receive Communion during Mass in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Mundelein Seminary Jan. 3 at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Illinois, near Chicago. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

ing to resolve conflicts, enabled them to fester and cause even greater harm to the network of relationships that today we are called to heal and restore.”

Prior to the retreat’s start, Monsignor Jeffrey Burrill, associate general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told CNS that more than 200 bishops were expected to attend. Active U.S. bishops number 271 and there are 185 retired bishops.

A few bishops have tweeted about the retreat and asked for prayers. Portland Archbishop Alexander Sample, tweeted en route to the retreat: “Pray for us that our response to the call to holiness will

be renewed and that we will be faithful shepherds according to the mind and heart of Christ and his apostolic Church.”

New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan asked for prayers in his tweet, which described the retreat as means to “respond to important matters facing the Church. Our first reliance is upon the Lord’s grace (and) mercy. Without intense prayers for healing, guidance, in reparation, we will not be successful.”

Bishop Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, tweeted praise for the opening remarks of Father Cantalamessa, which he said focused on the “need to choose the right priorities around which

we can live our daily lives. Of course, a central priority is daily prayer.”

During the retreat, many Catholics were joining in prayer for its success.

The website of Mundelein Seminary encouraged people to “join our seminary community in an online prayer chain for the healing of the Catholic Church,” suggesting that Catholics pray the rosary, attend daily Mass, engage in an act of penitential sacrifice or simply offer the prayer posted on their website – <https://bit.ly/2VrAIST> – called “Prayer for the Healing of Our Church.”

St. Maximilian Kolbe Shrine, adjacent to the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Libertyville, Illinois, was conducting its usual 24-hour adoration during the bishops’ retreat with specific emphasis on praying for the bishops.

Its website urged Catholics who could not pray at the shrine to pray at their own parish adoration chapel that the bishops’ retreat would be “truly guided by the Holy Spirit.”

Conventual Franciscan Father Benedict La Volpe, the shrine’s rector, told Catholic News Service that the shrine, where perpetual adoration “has been nonstop since 1928” has had more participants since the bishops’ retreat began Jan. 2.

He stressed that abuse victims are always in the church’s prayers but during this time of retreat, there is an urgency to pray for the bishops, specifically, that they “understand what happened and what needs to happen.”

The priest, who was going to hear confessions during the retreat, said he hoped the bishops would take away from this gathering the importance of taking time to “pause, pray, reflect and convert.”

Pope Prays for New Year Marked by Tenderness, Brotherhood, Peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – A new year is a chance for a new start, a time to remember that all people are brothers and sisters and a time to nurture amazement that God became human to save all people, Pope Francis said.

The Jan. 1 feast of Mary, Mother of God, also is a time to remember how strong maternal love and care are, and how they are the secret to making life more livable, the pope said during his homily at a feast day Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica.

The Catholic Church also marks Jan. 1 at World Peace Day, an observance the pope spoke about when, after Mass, he recited the Angelus with tens of thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square. So many people were in the sunny square that Pope Francis remarked, “It seems like a canonization,” which usually is when the square is full.

Mary shows to the world her son, the prince of peace, he said. “He is the blessing for every person and the whole human family. He is the source of grace, mercy and peace.”

Pope Francis chose as the theme for this year’s World Peace Day: “Good politics is at the service of peace.”

“We must not think politics is reserved to those who govern,” the pope said. “We are all responsible for the life of the com-

munity, of the common good, and politics is good to the degree that everyone does his or her part in the service of peace.”

After greeting hundreds of people who participated in a march for peace, carrying signs with the names of countries suffering because of violence, Pope Francis prayed: “Through the intercession of the virgin Mary, may the Lord grant us to be artisans of peace – and this begins at home, in the family – every day of the new year.”

Earlier, in his homily at the Mass, Pope Francis paid homage not only to Mary, but also to all mothers and all those who show tender care for others, including in political and economic life.

“A world that looks to the future without a mother’s gaze is shortsighted,” he said. “It may well increase its profits, but it will no longer see others as children. It will make money, but not for everyone. We will all dwell in the same house, but not as brothers and sisters.”

Pope Francis prayed that Mary would help all people learn to look at the world and each other as she does, providing for people’s needs, loving them and leading them to Jesus.

“In today’s fragmented world, where we risk losing our bearings, a mother’s embrace is essential,” he said. “How much dispersion and solitude there is all

around us. The world is completely connected, yet seems increasingly disjointed. We need to entrust ourselves to our Mother.”

Too many people, he said, forget they are beloved children and instead “live in anger and indifference to everything. How many, sad to say, react to everything and everyone with bitterness and malice.”

In fact, he said, “showing oneself to be ‘malicious’ even seems at times to be a sign of strength. Yet it is nothing more than weakness. We need to learn from mothers that heroism is shown in self-giving, strength in compassion, wisdom in meekness.”

For Catholics, he said, Mary “is not an optional accessory: she has to be welcomed into our life” because Jesus entrusted her to his disciples and his disciples to her as their mother.

“She is the queen of peace, who triumphs over evil and leads us along paths of goodness, who restores unity to her children, who teaches us compassion,” Pope Francis said.

He urged people to begin the new year holding on to the “amazement” they should have experienced at Christmas, amazement that God was born a baby, “held in the arms of a woman who feeds her creator.”

“God has become one with humanity

forever. God and man, always together, that is the good news of this new year,” he said. “God is no distant lord, dwelling in splendid isolation above the heavens, but love incarnate, born like us of a mother, in order to become a brother to each of us.”

Jesus himself “pours out upon humanity a new tenderness,” the pope said, which helps people “understand more fully God’s love, which is both paternal and maternal, like that of a mother who never stops believing in her children and never abandons them.”

“God-with-us, Emmanuel, loves us despite our mistakes, our sins and the way we treat our world,” he said. “God believes in mankind, because its first and preeminent member is his own mother.”

The church, which is called to be a mother, the pope said, also must be renewed and filled with amazement at the fact that it is “the dwelling place of the living God” and “a mother who gives birth to her children.”

Without that awareness, the church risks turning into “a beautiful museum of the past,” he said. Pope Francis ended his New Year’s homily praying that Mary would “take us by the hand. Clinging to you, we will pass safely through the straits of history.”

Prayer Has the Power to Change Lives, Hearts, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – God is a father who never ignores his children when they call to him in times of suffering, loneliness and despair, Pope Francis said.

Although at times it seems that “so many of our prayers seem to have no result,” Christians are called by Christ to “insist and not give up,” the pope said Jan. 9 during his weekly general audi-

ence.

“Prayer, prayer always changes reality, let us not forget that: It either changes things or changes our hearts, but it always changes,” he said.

Arriving at the Paul VI audience hall, the pope greeted thousands of cheerful pilgrims, shaking hands, embracing children and even taking a sip of mate tea offered to him by a pilgrim.

Continuing his series of talks on the Lord’s Prayer, the pope reflected on the disciples asking Jesus to teach them how to pray.

In teaching them to pray the “Our Father,” he said, Jesus “explains to his followers in what words and with what feelings they must turn to God.”

“Father -- that is such a beautiful word to say,” the pope said. “We can pray just

with that word, ‘father,’ and feel that we have a father; not a master but a father.”

At important moments in his own life, Pope Francis explained, Jesus is “in an atmosphere of prayer” and guided by the Holy Spirit in his actions. He also prays for others, including “for Peter who will soon deny him.”