

Bishop Schlert: Be Welcoming of All People

By PAUL WIRTH
Diocesan Communications Staff

The Diocese of Allentown received many comments after the Jesuit Center in Wernersville announced that Father James Martin, S.J., will be giving a seminar on showing welcome and respect for homosexual Catholics and their families.

Some of the comments were negative, saying Father Martin should not be allowed to appear. Others were positive, saying the welcome of homosexuals and other marginalized Catholics is a topic that deserves more discussion and consideration.

Bishop Alfred Schlert gave prayerful

consideration to the issue and ultimately granted permission to the Jesuits for Father Martin to speak on the topic of welcoming, but not to infer interpretations of the Church’s authentic moral or sacramental teachings that will confuse the faithful.

“I recognize that many people feel strongly about this issue, and may disapprove of Father Martin’s visit,” Bishop Schlert said. “By our baptism we are called to be welcoming of all people, especially the marginalized, following the example of Jesus.

“To offer a welcome does not make one ‘soft’ on the moral teachings of the Church. Welcoming does not imply that all may approach the sacraments, or that

someone will not hear a challenging message in a homily. Welcoming that does not lead to the truth is a false accompaniment.”

Bishop Schlert emphasized that the Church is accepting of everyone, but being “welcomed” does not exempt someone from living in accord with Church doctrines.

This means that homosexual people are called to be chaste. The same is true for unmarried heterosexual people. Also, within the sacrament of marriage, husbands and wives are called to be faithful to each other, to be chaste in their fidelity to one another.

During his public ministry, Jesus did not ignore the centurion, but rather, He

cured his servant. Jesus did not rebuke the tax collector Zacchaeus, who was sitting in a tree, but rather, He shocked the crowd by asking to be invited to Zacchaeus’s house for dinner.

The father loved both his sons in the Gospel, the faithful one as well as the prodigal one. In each case, Jesus called for a radical change of heart, a conversion from old ways to the freedom of the Gospel.

“For us Catholics, it is our obligation to welcome all people to join us in following the teachings of our Church,” Bishop Schlert said, “and to experience with us the love, truth and forgiveness of our Savior, Jesus Christ.”

‘Because We Are Catholic’ Kicks Off in Berks County

Bishop’s Annual Appeal Makes a Difference in So Many Lives

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

“A Roman Catholic family of faith, centered in the Holy Eucharist, faithful to the Church’s teachings, bringing the light of Christ to each other and to our community.”

“That’s the work of the appeal. It happens every day. I can’t take the credit. It’s the goodness of the people,” said Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert March 25 during the kickoff of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal (BAA) for Berks County.

An estimated 200 faithful kicked off BAA, “Because We Are Catholic,” at St. Ignatius Loyola, Reading, with the hopes of reaching the appeal’s \$4.6 million goal.

The kickoff began with Mass for the Solemnity of the Annunciation celebrated by Bishop Schlert.

Concelebrants were Monsignor Edward Domin, pastor of St. Catharine of Siena, Reading; Monsignor Thomas Orsulak, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle, Reading; Monsignor Walter Scheaffer, pastor of St. Mary, Kutztown; and Father Thomas Bortz, pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola.

Trust advisors celebrating the kickoff of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal in Berks County at St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring are, from left: Thomas Henefer, parishioner St. Benedict, Mohnton; Diane Duff, parishioner of St. Ignatius; and Mike Mizak, parishioner of St. Ignatius. (Photos by John Simitz)

After Mass a light reception was held in the parish hall, where County Trust Advisors Diane Duff, Tom Henefer and Mike Mizak discussed their roles, where BAA funds go and who benefits from BAA.

Paul Acampora, secretary of the Diocesan Secretariat for Stewardship and Development, introduced the advisors and said just because people contribute to the appeal doesn’t mean they don’t have questions.

“During the past year, many believe that people are choosing not to give to the appeal. That is a falsehood. It is not true. Look around you. There are tens of thousands of people just like you who continue



Please see BERKS page 5 ►►

IN THIS ISSUE		
Because We Are Catholic 2	Permanent Deacons	11
Holy Thursday Adoration 7	Lenten Events Calendar	21
Healing Our Church 9	Children At Risk Series	26

Church, World Need the Gifts, Enthusiasm of Young People, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The life of a young person and the vocation to which God calls each one is “holy ground” that pastors and parents must respect, nurture and encourage, Pope Francis wrote in a new apostolic exhortation.

“Christus Vivit” (“Christ Lives”), the pope’s reflections on the 2018 Synod of Bishops on young people, the faith and vocational discernment, is a combination letter to young people about their place in the church and a plea to older members of the church not to stifle the enthusiasm of the young, but to offer gentle guidance when needed.

In the document, released April 2, Pope Francis talked about how the sex abuse crisis, a history of sexism and an overly narrow focus on just a handful of moral issues can keep young people away from the church.

But he also said many young

Please see GIFTS page 28 ►►



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Because We Are Catholic

Reaching Out to a Community in Need

By PAUL WIRTH
Diocesan Communications Staff

In a time of family crisis, people in the Easton area can turn to St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish, where dedicated parishioners are available to listen, and to provide financial help.

It might take the form of a bus pass for a month or two, so someone can get to a new job long enough to be able to afford transportation on his own.

Or it could be help with a utility bill to keep a family with children from having their power cut or their water turned off.

In one recent case, a young father of two could not afford to pay funeral expenses after the unexpected death of his wife. He reached out for help, and the bill was paid.

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at the parish operate a community help line for people who don't know where else to turn. The society is a worldwide volunteer organization of Catholics.

The money is raised through donations from St. Jane's parishioners, and through an annual "Friends of the Poor Walk."

Every year the folks at St. Jane help about 100 families – people who receive aid even though most of them are not members of the parish, and even though many of them are not Catholic.

Dave Ostile, current president of the group, says their work fulfills a pressing human need in the area: providing an important strand in the community safety net. It's just one more way that Catholics in the Diocese of Allentown are living their Catholic faith by bringing the light of Christ to the community.



"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.

Videos of people in the series are available on the Diocesan website at www.allentowndiocese.org/bishop-blog.

Former Elementary School Principal Charged with Theft of Funds Diocese Uncovered Financial Irregularities, Notified Law Enforcement

Alerted by the Diocese of Allentown to financial irregularities at one of its schools, the Berks County District Attorney has filed criminal charges against the school's former principal.

Thomas Murphy, former principal of St. Francis Academy, a regional elementary school in Bally, was charged with theft by deception, theft by failure to make required deposits, and conspiracy.

Murphy's wife, Ann Marie, was charged with receiving stolen property

and conspiracy.

The Diocese noticed the irregularities during an internal audit in August 2018. It then performed a forensic audit, and turned the results of that audit over to the District Attorney in mid-September.

The Diocese then removed Murphy as principal. The Diocese cooperated with civil authorities at all times during the investigation.

Murphy and his wife were charged with diverting approximately \$150,000

of school money for their personal use.

Murphy also previously served as a deacon at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Bally.

"Our financial audits are designed to ensure that the funds entrusted to us by parishioners, school parents and donors are used for the intended purpose," said Mark Smith, chief financial officer for the Diocese. He said the Diocese will pursue restitution.

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



Bishop Visits Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center on Feast of St. Joseph



Bishop Alfred Schlert, center, celebrates Mass on St. Joseph's Day March 19 at Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center (PSHSJ), Bern Campus, Reading. With him are, from left: Deacon Joe Lombardo of St. John Baptist de la Salle, Shillington, a member of the Spiritual Care staff at PSHSJ; Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) Father E. Michael Camilli, senior priest at Holy Guardian Angels, Reading; Father Joseph Ganser, assistant pastor of St. Joseph and St. Paul, Reading; Deacon James Bardi of Immaculate Conception BVM, Douglassville, a member of the Spiritual Care staff at PSHSJ; Father Frank Grundowski, pastor emeritus of St. Bartholomew, Brockton and St. Bertha, Tuscarora; and Father Keith Mathur, assistant in the Diocesan Curia and director of the Diocesan Office for Divine Worship. (Photos by John Simitz)



Members of the Penn State Health St. Joseph community gather for the morning Mass on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, during which Bishop Schlert commented in his homily that St. Joseph's role as described in sacred Scripture was often behind the scenes. He made the comparison that the staff of the hospital in many ways are like St. Joseph. Day in and day out, behind the scenes, they provide care and compassion to the patients entrusted to their care.



Bishop Schlert chats with Jessica Henry, Penn State physician assistant student, left, and Dr. Francis Quigley, hospitalist. During his visit Bishop Schlert celebrated Mass, had lunch, enjoyed a meet-and-greet with board members and visited patients at the Bern Township Campus.



Bishop Schlert visits a patient with, Father Joseph Ganser, left, and Sister Rose Dvorak, a chaplain at PSHSJ. It was the Bishop's first official visit as Bishop of Allentown to Penn State Health St. Joseph and part of the annual feast of St. Joseph activities at the medical center.



Above, Bishop Schlert speaks with Joan Zupicick, clinical instructor at Reading Area Community College, center, and Sister Rose Dvorak.



Left, Bishop Schlert greets John Morahan, CEO and President of Penn State Health St. Joseph, and his wife, Anne Morahan. Bishop Schlert expressed gratitude to Morahan; Susan Sullivan, vice president of Mission and Ministry; and the entire administrative team for their dedicated leadership in ensuring the Catholic identity and mission of the hospital. He thanked his brother priests, deacons and dedicated religious sisters for their pastoral service that they show to the patients and staff.

More photos page 4

Bishop Visits Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center on Feast of St. Joseph



The display table of St. Joseph's Mission in Action on St. Joseph's Day.



Gathered after the Mass are, from left: Alan Brechbill, executive vice president and COO at Penn State Health; John Morahan; Heidi Masano, vice chair, St. Joseph Regional Health Network (SJRHN) Board of Directors; Mike Duff, member, SJRHN Board of Directors; Bishop Schler; and Bruce Smith, member, SJRHN Board of Directors. "Even though we are part of Penn State Health, we have retained our Catholic identity through a Religious Matters Agreement that the Diocese and Penn State Health signed when we joined the system in 2015," said Mike Jupina, vice president of marketing and communications.

More photos page 3

Death

Religious Sister

Sister Domina Oszmianska, 92, of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of St. Francis, died April 2 at St. Joseph Villa, Reading.

Her ministry as an x-ray technician, teacher, receptionist, in a hospital business office and volunteer services was

served in Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Virginia. In the Diocese of Allentown, she served at Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Villa both in Reading.

Viewing will be Thursday, April 4 at 2 p.m. at St. Joseph Villa, Reading, Mass

of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday, April 5 at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph Villa Chapel, Reading, with burial following in the congregation's cemetery, Mount Alvernia, Reading.

ARE YOU READY?

Financial and Estate Planning for Women

Hosted by the  **Diocese of Allentown**

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019
6:00 pm- 8:00 pm
DeSales University • University Center

Small plates and sweets will be served

To reserve your spot today, email gdowney@allentowndiocese.org or call Ginny Downey at (610) 871-5200 ext. 2244

We hope that you will join us for this FREE evening presentation that aspires to empower women with the principles of financial and estate planning!

Join panelists for a discussion about:

- How to become financially independent
- What are some key legal aspects of estate planning
- The difference between wills and trusts
- What supporting documents you need to effectively plan
- Charitable Giving
- What impact potential tax and estate changes could have on your finances
- How advanced estate planning strategies could make sense for your family


HOMBRES DEL REINO
Grupo de Hombres Regional del Lehigh Valley
DIÓCESIS DE ALLENTOWN

Próximo Encuentro Regional
de HOMBRES DEL REINO
Miércoles 24 de abril, 2019
Hora: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Presentador: : **Diácono Angelino Rodríguez**

Tema: **"La Vocación del Hombre: La Vida en el Espíritu"**

"La persona humana es la única criatura en la tierra a la que Dios ha amado por sí misma" (CIC 1703)

¡Todos los hombres son bienvenidos!

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

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Berks

►Continued from page 1

to give,” he said.

Henefer, an attorney for Stevens and Lee, Reading, highlighted several key points from the Declaration of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal Charitable Trust, which was formulated in 2013 by local attorney Joseph Leeson before he was appointed a federal judge.

It legally outlines the protection of funds generated by BAA.

“The trust is exclusively for public ministry. Every dollar donated to the appeal has to go to a charitable organization by law,” he said.

Henefer also noted that the trust is set up to keep the assets of the trust and the assets of the Diocese separate.

“It’s called the ‘Bishop’s Annual Appeal,’ but it really doesn’t describe what the people of the Diocese do. It has nothing to do with the Bishop. It should be comforting to know that every dollar is a trust asset. It is not a diocesan asset,”

he said.

“The trust was put together with a lot of care to make sure our contributions are solely used for the purpose of charity in the Diocese,” said Henefer.

Duff, co-chair of the St. Ignatius Food Pantry, member of the Board of Directors of United Way of Berks County and Berks Women in Crisis, then addressed the faithful. He said the role of the trust advisors is to oversee the donations to BAA during the course of a three-year term.

“Each trust advisor represents a county and is appointed by the Bishop. All of us come together to help the Bishop maintain the purpose of the trust, discuss where to allocate funds and talk with clergy about their concerns,” she said.

While meeting with different organizations in need, Duff said, she brings their concerns back to the Bishop and Diocesan staff, and is the point person for needy organizations to contact.

“You make a fantastic and wide impact, and your contributions make a dif-

Please see BERKS page 6 ►►

“If you want to feel really good about the appeal – you should look at the faces of those in need.”



Paul Acampora, secretary of the Diocesan Secretariat for Stewardship and Development, welcomes supporters to the kickoff of the 2019 BAA, “Because We Are Catholic.”



Guests listen to trust advisors speak about the allocation of BAA funds.



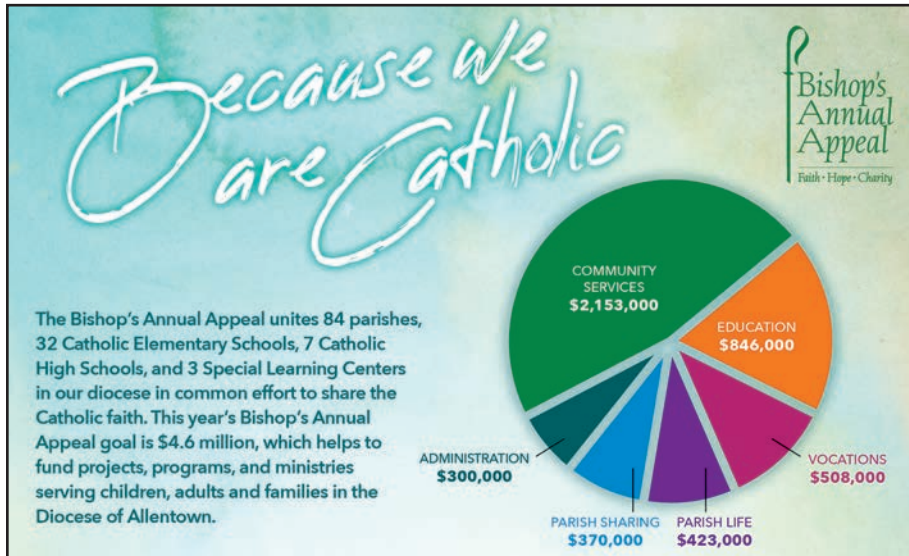
Left, Gerry Wernicki, left, and Christine Earl, parishioners of St. Ignatius, enjoy the reception at the BAA kickoff.



Mike Bauman, parishioner of Most Blessed Sacrament, Bally, left, and Monsignor Walter Scheaffer, pastor of St. Mary Kutztown, have their photos taken with the “Because We Are Catholic” picture frame.



St. Catharine of Siena, Reading parishioners having their photos taken in celebration of BAA are, from left: Norman Schuhwerk, Bob and Kitty Wright, and Rebecca Shemanski.



Berks

►Continued from page 5

ference in so many lives," she said.

In his remarks, Mizak reminded the faithful that BAA raised more than \$4.8 million last year for programs, projects and ministries, for children, adults and families in the five-county Diocese.

"It is time to do it all over again, 'Because We Are Catholic,'" he said.

He noted that \$2.2 million – nearly half of last year's total – was allocated to Catholic Charities (CC), Diocese of Allentown.

According to Mizak, an estimated \$850,000 was allocated to education, including scholarships, seminarian formation and to support the Diocese's three centers for special learning.

Other funds were allocated to parish life, vocations and administrative costs.

Also, in Berks County alone, more than 100 households received support from CC.

"But if you want to feel really good



about the appeal – you should look at the faces of those in need," said Mizak.

Some of the faces include families without adequate food, an unemployed father who lost his job, a young girl facing an unplanned pregnancy, elderly persons in need of care and families who cannot afford the benefits of Catholic education.

"If you really step back and look at it – it's about bringing Christ into their hearts and satisfying their needs," he said.

Since portions of BAA funds remain in each county and parish, Mizak said that in Berks County two dozen students received scholarships; six seminarians received support; Aquinas Programs for

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert preaches the homily on the Solemnity of the Annunciation at St. Ignatius. Concelebrants are Monsignor Edward Domin, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena, Reading, left, and Monsignor Thomas Orsulak, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle, Reading.

students with learning disabilities are flourishing at three schools; and Kennedy House, Reading received financial gifts to support its food pantry, soup kitchen and clothing bank.

BAA supporters Robert and Doris Buehrer, parishioners of St. John Baptist de la Salle, Shillington, have been donating to the appeal for the better part of their 67-year marriage.

"We aren't rich by any means, but we give because we see all the good that the Catholic Church does," said Robert.

"This is our Church. This is Christ's Church. If we aren't here to help, who is going to do it?" he said.

"We are in a position to help a little bit. And because we are blessed, we must help others," said Doris.



Tami and Todd Berkel, parishioners of St. Ignatius, celebrate the kickoff of BAA.



Gay and Mike Wentzel, parishioners of St. Ignatius, enjoy the reception.



Carol Luckenbill, left, and Annabelle Alegado, parishioners of St. Ignatius, have some photo fun at the BAA reception.



Interfaith Prayer Service and Fellowship

A Celebration of Interfaith Dialogue

President Tom Flynn shares his gratitude for the community

Friday, April 26, 2019

3 p.m. at the Physical Education Center

Featuring special guests

Fr. Mike Graham, S.J., President, Xavier University
Rabbi Brian Michelson, Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom
Elsayed Elmazouky, Islamic Center of Reading

Musical groups

Doxa Gospel Ensemble
Fajjr+Al
Alvernia University Chorus



Visit alvernia.edu for more information

Spend Time with the Lord in Silence on Holy Thursday

By FATHER KEITH MATHUR
Director, Office for Divine Worship

The Holy Thursday tradition of visiting seven churches is an ancient practice most likely originating in Rome, where early pilgrims visited the seven major basilicas (Holy Cross in Jerusalem. St. John Lateran, St. Lawrence Outside the Walls, St. Mary Major, St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. Peter and St. Sebastian) as

a sign of penance.

This noble practice has continued throughout the centuries into our day. The Office for Divine Worship of the Diocese of Allentown has created a list of all the parishes by deanery and

Please send us your photos of visiting churches on Holy Thursday to adtimes@allentowndiocese.org.

their visitation times.

Parishioners are encouraged to spend time with the Lord

in the Holy Eucharist on this evening. If it is not possible to visit seven churches, visit a couple, or stay an extended peri-

od of time at your parish with the Lord. Whether you visit one, three or all seven is not the main focus of the evening, rather what is truly important is spending time with the Lord in silence.

May our time spent with the Lord on Holy Thursday renew our relationship with him so that we may experience the glory and the joy of the Resurrection on Easter morning.

Adoration Schedule for Holy Thursday Evening, April 18

Berks Deanery

Bally, Most Blessed Sacrament – 8:15-10 p.m., Night Prayer 10 p.m.
Boyertown, St. Columbkille – 8:15 p.m.-midnight.

Douglassville, Immaculate Conception BVM – 8:15-10 p.m.

Hamburg, St. Mary – 8:15-9:30 p.m.
Kutztown, St. Mary – 8:15-9:15 p.m.
Kutztown University, St. Christopher Catholic Newman Center – 10 p.m.-midnight, Night Prayer midnight.

Mohnton, St. Benedict – 8-11 p.m., Night Prayer 10:45 p.m.

Reading, Holy Guardian Angels – 8:15-10 p.m., Night Prayer 10 p.m.

Reading, Holy Rosary – 8:15-10 p.m., Night Prayer 9:45 p.m.

Reading, St. Catharine of Siena – 8:15-10:30 p.m., Night Prayer 10:30 p.m.

Reading, St. Joseph – 8:30-11 p.m.

Reading, St. Margaret – 8:30-11 p.m.

Reading, St. Paul – 8:30-11 p.m.

Reading, St. Peter the Apostle – 8:30-11 p.m.

Robeson, St. Francis de Sales – 8:15-10 p.m.

Shillington, St. John Baptist de la Salle – 8:30-10 p.m., Night Prayer 10 p.m.

Sinking Spring, St. Ignatius Loyola – 8:15 p.m.-midnight, Night Prayer midnight.

West Reading, Sacred Heart – 8:30-11 p.m., Night Prayer 10:45 p.m.

Carbon Deanery

Jim Thorpe, Immaculate Conception – See St. Joseph, Jim Thorpe.

Jim Thorpe, St. Joseph – 8-11 p.m.

Lake Harmony, St. Peter the Fisherman – 8:15-10 p.m.

Lehigh, SS. Peter and Paul – 8-11 p.m., Night Prayer 11 p.m.

Palmerton, Sacred Heart – 8:15-10

p.m., Night Prayer 10 p.m.

Summit Hill, St. Joseph – 8:15-11 p.m., Night Prayer 11 p.m.

Lehigh Deanery

Allentown, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena – 8-10:45 p.m., Night Prayer 10:45 p.m.

Allentown, Immaculate Conception BVM – 8-11 p.m.

Allentown, Our Lady Help of Christians – 8-10 p.m.

Allentown, Sacred Heart of Jesus – 8:30 p.m.-midnight.

Allentown, St. Francis of Assisi – 8:15 p.m.-11 p.m.

Allentown, St. John the Baptist – 8-10 p.m.

Allentown, St. Paul – 8:45 p.m.-midnight.

Allentown, St. Stephen of Hungary – 8 p.m.-midnight.

Allentown, St. Thomas More – 9 p.m.-midnight.

Allentown, SS. Peter and Paul – 8-10 p.m.

Catasauqua, Annunciation BVM – 8:15-10 p.m.

Catasauqua, St. John Fisher – 8:30-11 p.m.

Coopersburg, St. Joseph – 8:15-11 p.m., Night Prayer 11 p.m.

Coplay, St. Peter – 7:30-10 p.m., Night Prayer 10 p.m.

Emmaus, St. Ann – 8:15-10:45 p.m., Night Prayer 10:45 p.m.

Northampton, Assumption BVM – 8-10:45 p.m., Night Prayer 10:45 p.m.

Northampton, Queenship of Mary – 8:15-10 p.m., Night Prayer 10 p.m.

Orefield, St. Joseph the Worker – 8:15 p.m.-midnight.

Slatington, Assumption BVM – 8:15-10:30 p.m.

Whitehall, Holy Trinity – 8:15-11 p.m., Night Prayer 11 p.m.

Whitehall, St. Elizabeth of Hungary – 8:15-11 p.m., Night Prayer 10:30 p.m.

Whitehall, St. John the Baptist – 7:30-10 p.m.

Northampton Deanery

Bangor, Our Lady of Good Counsel – 8:15-9:30 p.m.

Bath, Sacred Heart of Jesus – 8:30 p.m.-midnight.

Bethlehem, Assumption BVM – 8:30-10 p.m.

Bethlehem, Holy Ghost – 8-11:30 p.m.

Bethlehem, Holy Infancy – 8:30 p.m.-midnight.

Bethlehem, Incarnation of Our Lord – Adoration at Holy Ghost, Bethlehem.

Bethlehem, Notre Dame of Bethlehem – 8:15-11 p.m., Night Prayer 11 p.m.

Bethlehem, Our Lady of Perpetual Help – 8:15 p.m.-midnight.

Bethlehem, Sacred Heart – 8:15-11 p.m.

Bethlehem, St. Anne – 8:30 p.m.-midnight.

Bethlehem, SS. Simon and Jude – 7:30 p.m.-midnight.

Easton, Our Lady of Mercy – 8:15-10:30 p.m.

Easton, St. Anthony of Padua – 8-11 p.m.

Easton, St. Jane Frances de Chantal – 8:45 p.m.-midnight, Night Prayer midnight.

Fountain Hill, St. Ursula – 8-9 p.m.

Hellertown, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus – 8:15-11 p.m.

Martins Creek, St. Rocco – 8-10 p.m.

Nazareth, Holy Family – 8:15-11 p.m.

Pen Argyl, St. Elizabeth of Hungary – 8-10 p.m.

Roseto, Our Lady of Mount Carmel –

8:15-10 p.m.

Walnutport, St. Nicholas – 8 p.m.-midnight, Night Prayer 11:45 p.m.

Schuylkill Deanery

Ashland, St. Charles Borromeo – 8-9 p.m., Night Prayer 9 p.m.

Barnesville, St. Richard – 7-10 p.m.

Frackville, St. Joseph (at Annunciation BVM) – 8:30-11 p.m.

Mahanoy City, St. Teresa of Calcutta – 8-10 p.m.

McAdoo, All Saints – 8:15-10:30 p.m., Night Prayer 10:30 p.m.

Minersville, St. Matthew the Evangelist – 8:15-9:30 p.m., Night Prayer 9:30 p.m.

Minersville, St. Michael the Archangel – 8-10 p.m.

New Philadelphia, Holy Cross – 8:15 p.m.-midnight.

Port Carbon, St. Stephen – 8:30-10 p.m.

Pottsville, St. John the Baptist – 8-10 p.m., Night Prayer 10 p.m.

Pottsville, St. Patrick – 8-11 p.m., Night Prayer 10:45 p.m.

Ringtown, St. Mary – Adoration at St. Joseph, Sheppton.

St. Clair, St. Clare of Assisi – Adoration at St. Stephen, Port Carbon.

Schuylkill Haven, St. Ambrose – 8:15-9:30 p.m., Night Prayer 9:30 p.m.

Shenandoah, Divine Mercy – 8-10 p.m.

Shenandoah, St. Casimir (Worship Site) – 8-10 p.m.

Sheppton, St. Joseph – 8-10 p.m.

Tamaqua, St. John XXIII – 8:15-10 p.m.

Tremont, Most Blessed Trinity – 8-11 p.m., Night Prayer 11 p.m.

Bereavement Group at St. Benedict

Bereavement Support Group of St. Benedict, Mohnton is for those grieving the death of a loved one.

The group offers an opportunity to come together to work through the grieving process with the help and support of

others who have experienced this difficult journey.

The group will meet for five consecutive Wednesdays, beginning April 24 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in St. Benedict's Church Family Life Center, 2020 Chest-

nut Hill Road, Mohnton.

The meetings are free and nondenominational.

To register or for more information, call Judy Campion-Burns, 610-775-7782 (leave a message) or the parish office, 610-856-1006.



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Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

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35th Annual DRAMATIC STATIONS OF THE CROSS 2019

St. John the Baptist Church
10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville

Palm Sunday, April 14
Good Friday, April 19
7:30 p.m.

Doors open 6:30 p.m. Preludes begin 7:15 p.m.



Journey on the Road to Calvary
Experience the Risen Lord !

All are welcome -- please invite family and friends.
Free will offering will be accepted to defray production costs.
More Info: St. John the Baptist Rectory (570) 622-5470.
(check us on Facebook: St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish Family)



Church of the Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, Bethlehem,
PA, seeks qualified organist/
pianist/choral conductor to as-
sume direction of established
music program in the fall of 2019.
This is a part-time position. Duties
include but are not limited to:
liturgy planning for all parish

liturgies; recruitment, conducting weekly rehearsals,
directing, and serving as keyboardist for Adult Choir and
Youth Choirs at the 10:00 Sunday liturgy and Christmas,
Holy Week, Easter and Holy Day liturgies; keyboardist for
weddings, funerals, Stations of the Cross during the Lenten
season; overseeing the Contemporary Ensemble;
recruitment, training, and scheduling of additional
organists and cantors for Sunday 7:30 and 11:30 liturgies;
serving as a member of the
Liturgy Board; overseeing
maintenance of a newly
installed Allen organ and
concert grand piano. Salary
commensurate with
experience and qualifications.
Please send cover letter and
curriculum vitae to
abvmrect@ptd.net.
EOE M/F/D/V



Holy Guardian Angels Regional School

Principal Position Opening

Holy Guardian Angels Regional School
3125 Kutztown Road
Reading, Pa. 19605

Holy Guardian Angels Regional School is seeking a Principal to lead our pre-K through 8 curriculum and programs. We are seeking a proven leader with the ability to promote the school's mission while overseeing teaching and learning, enrollment, development, facilities, finance, as well as implementing policies and operational objectives.

Successful candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be a practicing Catholic committed to the mission of Catholic Education
- Hold an advanced degree in Education Administration
- Have 5+ years in teaching experience, along with a minimum of 3+ years in school administration
- Demonstrate strong leadership skills in the areas of motivation, communication, organization, decision making, conflict prevention & resolution
- Demonstrate ability to promote an environment which fosters high expectations of faculty, staff, and students in faith, academic excellence and service.
- Be a team leader who focuses on inclusion, collaboration, and engagement of faculty, staff, pastor, parents, and the school board.

Those interested in the position should submit their letter of interest, resume, background clearances, and appropriate certifications, along with personal and professional references, and a letter of recommendation from your Pastor, to BHORYCZK@VERIZON.NET or by mail to Rebecca Horyczko at 29 Thornbury Road Reading, Pa. 19606.

Application deadline is April 29, 2019. No phone calls, please.
EOE M/F/D/V

'Healing Our Church' Groups Meeting Across the Diocese



Members of the group at Holy Family, Nazareth and the other parishes in the Diocese are reading, reflecting and discussing the book "Healing Our Church." "Many people have told me they would like a forum to discuss their reactions to the crisis in the comfort of their home parish," said Bishop Alfred Schlert. "We are sponsoring this program to encourage prayerful reflection on the crisis, on Scripture and on our path forward as a Roman Catholic family of faith." (Photo by Ed Koskey)



Above, a group of parishioners at Holy Family, Nazareth, on a recent Wednesday afternoon, are among the parish groups across the Diocese of Allentown meeting weekly for small-group discussions on the clergy sexual abuse crisis. The 90-minute discussions are being held during each of the six weeks of Lent. (Photo by Ed Koskey)

Left, parishioners at Holy Family, Nazareth focus on an activity during part of the meeting. The structure of the meetings includes Introductions, Focus, Opening Song, Opening Prayer, A Survivor's Story and Reflection, The Word of God, Reflection, Act, and Closing Prayer. (Photo by Ed Koskey)

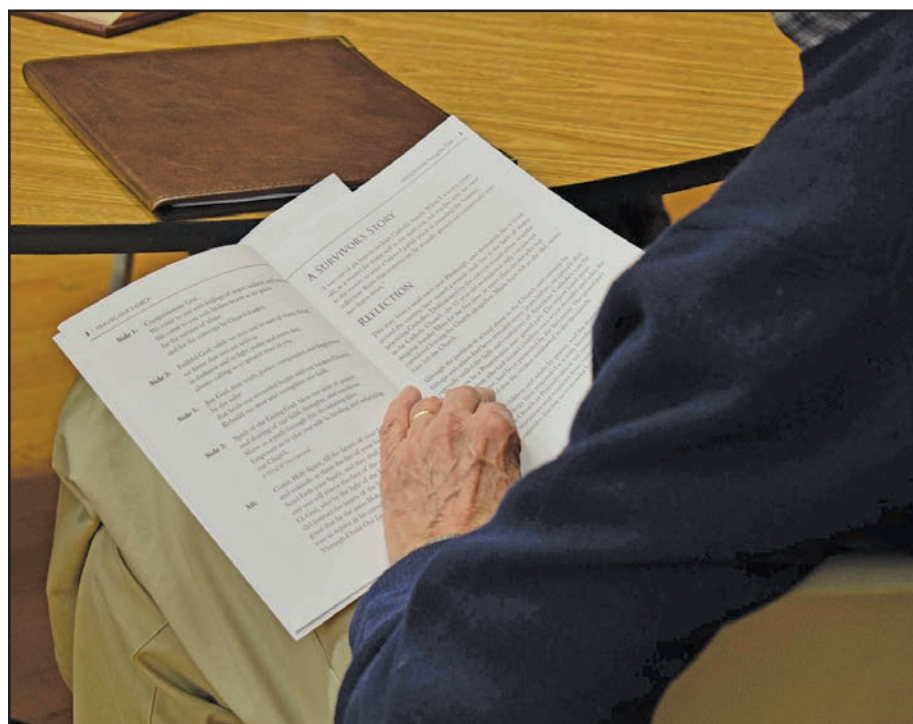


Parishioners of the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown gather for a Wednesday night meeting in the Parish Activity Center. Training of facilitators was done by Renew International, the Catholic nonprofit organization asked by Bishop Schlert to design the "Healing Our Church" program. (Photo by John Simitz)



Above, members of a small group at the Cathedral reflect and share their feelings. Topics for the six sessions are Facing the Truth, Healing Our Wounds, Rebuilding Our Church, Why Do I Remain Catholic?, We Believe and A Way Forward. (Photo by John Simitz)

Right, reflecting on a survivor's story is one aspect of each of the meetings. The focus of the last meeting will be: "The sexual-abuse scandal is a turning point for the Church, a renewed call to discipleship, for all of her members." If you have any questions, please contact the Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization by email at cle@allentowndiocese.org or by calling 610-289-8900 ext. 2021.



St. John the Baptist, Pottsville Experiences Lenten 'Holiness Revolution'

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

"Holiness Revolution" was the theme of the parish mission this Lent at St. John the Baptist, Pottsville.

Dan DeMatte, an international speaker and best-selling Catholic author of "Holiness Revolution" offered the mission talks during the March 24-26 event.

DeMatte spoke about "being transformed into the image of Christ" during the March 26 talk, "The Transformation."

Themes of the other evenings were "Drop Everything" on March 24 and "The Holiness Revolution" on March 25. Each evening included the mission talk, prayer ministry with adoration, confessions and stations, and fellowship and hospitality.

"I love priests, men and women who are shining examples of God the Father," DeMatte said.

DeMatte kicked off his talk by saying you have to "sell" religion, and asked Father David Loeper, pastor to "sell" the content of the box to those gathered by answering their descriptive questions about the item. Father Loeper did not know the box contained a roll of toilet paper, but the congregation did as laughter ensued during the exercise.

Afterward, DeMatte took a serious turn, asking, "What does it mean to be



Dan DeMatte presents his talk "The Transformation" March 26 at St. John the Baptist, Pottsville. His presentation was part of "Holiness Revolution," the March 24-26 Lenten parish mission. (Photos by John Simitz)

holy?" DeMatte said he felt he couldn't measure up to the saints. But then he realized St. Paul writes to the "saints" of the Church in places such as Corinth.

"St. Paul had the understanding that when we're baptized we die with Christ and rise with Christ, because we have a

new life in Jesus Christ. We don't identify with a sin nature but instead a son or daughter nature," DeMatte said.

"We need to start understanding ourselves as God understands us, and see ourselves as God sees us."

"Holy means to be set apart – that our lives look different than other people's lives," he said, referencing Jesus' words in Matthew 7:13-14: "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

"St. Paul says we no longer are citizens of Earth, we are citizens of heaven. If we're citizens of heaven, we should look like a foreigner here," DeMatte said.

"Our culture should be the way of life of saints, not of the world."

DeMatte reminded those gathered of the words of St. Paul in Galatians

2:20: "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me."

"For St. Paul, to be holy is to become another Christ – start seeing the world from Jesus' eye view," said DeMatte.

"Jesus tells us whenever we heal the least of our brothers, we're healing him.

"Holiness is being transformed to be like Jesus. Pray God reveals to you how he sees a person. I'm so excited God continues to transform my life."

DeMatte said holiness is about coming to understand who we are as citizens of heaven, and release that grace here on earth.

"God wants to release his glory here on earth," DeMatte said.

How to be transformed? DeMatte said everyone should write 10 things on who they are as a child of God and then live them. "The sacraments can also transform you – heart, mind and spirit.

"Go to daily Mass to avail yourself of God's mercy. Grace transforms us, and is promised to us in the sacraments."

"Be transformed by prayer," DeMatte said. "In prayer we come to know and hear Jesus' voice."

DeMatte starred in A&E's reality TV show "God or the Girl," as well as defended the teachings of the Catholic faith on "Larry King Live," "The View" and the "Today" show.

He is the host of EWTN's Global Catholic Radio Show called "Encounter."

DeMatte and his wife live in Ohio with their four children, where he is the founder and executive director of Damascus Catholic Mission Campus, a 500-acre mission campus that ministers to thousands of youth each year through programs like Catholic Youth Summer Camp.

DeMatte has a master of arts degree in evangelization from the Pontifical College Josephinum. He began his ministry serving as a missionary with NET Ministries and has spent over a decade learning and implementing the best approaches in Catholic youth ministry and parish-based evangelization.



Parishioners listen to DeMatte's evening presentation.



DeMatte, right, explains that Father David Loeper, left, holds a box and, not knowing the box's content, will have to "sell" it to the faithful by answering their descriptive questions about the item. Parishioners already knew it was a roll of toilet paper when they posed questions to Father Loeper.

"Holiness is being transformed to be like Jesus. Pray God reveals to you how he sees a person. I'm so excited God continues to transform my life."



Those gathered for DeMatte's talk glean insights on being transformed into the image of Christ.

Convocation of Permanent Diaconate Marks Golden Anniversary

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

The 2018 Convocation of the Order of the Holy Order of Deacons was a day of prayerful reflection and discussion for permanent deacons and their wives in the Diocese of Allentown, as the Sept. 22 convocation at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, spotlighted the golden anniversary of the permanent diaconate.

Father Eugene Ritz, director of the Office for Permanent Diaconate Formation, said 2018 was the golden anniversary of the letter "Restoration of the Permanent Diaconate in the Latin Church" ("Sacrum Diaconatus Ordinem") in which Pope St. Paul VI restored the order in 1968.

The document was issued in 1967, but took effect in 1968. Different Dioceses implemented the program at different times; the first class in the Diocese of Allentown was ordained in 1982.

Father Ritz is also Diocesan chancellor and chaplain of Notre Dame High School, Easton.

To date, a total of 166 men have been ordained to serve the Diocese as members of the permanent diaconate. There are 108 active deacons in the Diocese, and 17 additional deacons are retired but often serve in some capacity. The deacons serve in various capacities, many in parishes.

The number of deacons ordained in each class are: 1982 – 26, 1990 – 21, 1995 – 20, 2000 – 22, 2006 – 30, and 2015 – 47.

Deacon Peter Schutzler, assistant director for the Permanent Diaconate, who



Members of the permanent diaconate process into the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown Sept. 22 for the Mass highlighting the 2018 Convocation of the Order of Deacons of the Diocese of Allentown that honored the 50th anniversary of the Permanent Diaconate. (Photos by John Simitz)

serves St. Ann, Emmaus, said the Holy Order of Deacon is the first of the three clerical orders in the Roman Catholic Church.

Deacons can be married and must be married prior to receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders. If a deacon's wife predeceases him, he must remain celibate as he

continues his ministry as a deacon.

Single men may be ordained to the permanent diaconate, but make a promise of celibacy at their ordination and live a celibate life after their ordination.

"Deacons have a unique and important role in the Church, as being a deacon goes beyond the functions of a deacon. Deacons are more than simply a sum of

their many functions. Deacons are called to represent Christ the Servant," Deacon Schutzler said.

"Their ministry is one of word, sacrament and charity. What allows them to serve most effectively as deacons is being close God in prayer and also close to the community. Deacons are called to bring the needs of the people to the Church."

Deacon Schutzler said as ordained clerics in the Church, deacons are ministers of word, proclaim the Gospel, preach and teach the faith.

As ministers of sacrament, deacons baptize, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages, and conduct wake and funeral services.

As ministers of charity, deacons are leaders in identifying the needs of others, then marshaling the Church's resources to meet those needs.

"Deacons are also dedicated to eliminating the injustices or inequities that cause such needs. No matter what specifi-

"I am excited to begin formation with our new class and serve the deacons already ordained in terms of ongoing formation. More than 20 men have been accepted for the new class, and they will be in formation for six years."

Please see DIACONATE page 12 ►►



Bishop Alfred Schlert, center, celebrates the Saturday Vigil Mass. With him at the altar are, from left, Father Eugene Ritz, Deacon Isidro Gonzales-Rivera, Deacon Peter Schutzler, Father Adam Sedar, Father Keith Mathur and Father Brendan Laroche.



Wives of permanent deacons participate in the liturgy.



Members of the permanent diaconate listen to the homily preached by Bishop Alfred Schlert.



Father Eugene Ritz offers remarks as panelists listen.

Diaconate

►Continued from page 11

ic functions a deacon performs, they flow from his sacramental identity. In other words, it is not only what a deacon does, but who a deacon is, that is important," he said.

Deacon Schutzler welcomed those gathered to the convocation event that kicked off in the early afternoon. Father Ritz offered the opening prayer.

Keynoter Dr. Carmina Chapp, program director for Online Theology Programs at St. Joseph College, Standish, Maine, presented "Be Perfect as Your Heavenly Father is Perfect" (Matthew 5:48). St. Joseph is the college contracted to assist in the Intellectual Formation of the diaconate class in formation.

Two sessions followed the keynote: "The Rule of the Wife of a Deacon," presented to the women by Chapp and Kathy Schettini, wife of Deacon Bruno Schettini of St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield; and "My Introduction to the Diaconate," presented by Deacon Rick Lanciano of St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring, and chair of the Theology Department at Berks Catholic High School, Reading.

An ensuing panel discussion featured Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Father Adam Sedar, Deacon Lanciano, Chapp and Kathy Schettini.

Bishop Alfred Schlert was main celebrant of the Saturday evening Vigil Mass.

Concelebrating were Father Ritz; Father Sedar; and Father Brendan Laroche, assistant pastor of the Cathedral.

Father Keith Mathur, assistant in the Diocesan Curia and director of the Diocesan Office for Divine Worship, was episcopal master of ceremonies.

Assisting were Deacon Schutzler and Deacon Isidro Gonzales-Rivera, assistant director for Hispanic Outreach in the Office for Permanent Diaconate Formation.



Left, panelists field questions, from left, Father Adam Sedar, Deacon Rick Lanciano, Kathy Schettini and Dr. Carmina Chapp.

Below, panelists and those attending engage in discussion.



A reception and dinner ensued.

"I am excited to begin formation with our new class and serve the deacons already ordained in terms of ongoing formation," said Father Ritz. "More than 20 men have been accepted for the new class, and they will be in formation for

six years." (See article below.)

The late Monsignor James Mulligan and Monsignor Michael Chaback, in residence at Queenship of Mary, Northampton, are past directors of the office.

Former assistant directors are the late Deacon Francis Cosgrove; Deacon Henry

Gordon of Breinigsville, retired; Deacon Gerald Schmidt, who serves St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown and is manager of the liturgical warehouse for the Diocesan Office for Pastoral Planning; and Deacon William Urbine, who serves Notre Dame of Bethlehem.

A New Permanent Diaconate Class is on the Horizon for the Diocese

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

The Diocese of Allentown has invited more than 20 men to a time of aspirancy to discern a vocation to the permanent diaconate.

After a four-year break since 47 permanent deacons were ordained for the Diocese, the diaconate formation program has returned with the men becoming aspirants by entering a period of study, prayer and discernment.

Father Eugene Ritz, diocesan chancellor and director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate Formation, said the aspirants will engage in six years of formation with anticipated ordination in 2024.

"Aspirancy is a time to discern the capability and readiness of the aspirant to be nominated to the Bishop for acceptance as a candidate. Candidates are expected to engage the four areas of formation, namely: human, spiritual, academic

and pastoral," he said.

"For those who are married, spouses are asked to participate in this discernment insofar as they provide written consent for their husband to continue at each stage.

"Practically speaking this includes bimonthly formation conferences on relevant issues; taking online courses in theology, catechesis and philosophy; beginning to meet with spiritual advisors; as well as pastoral assignments," said Father Ritz.

According to Father Ritz, the new deacon class has been established because there are three orders within the Sacrament of Holy Orders. In addition, the new class has been established to assist with the pastoral needs of the Diocese through prayer, and one day baptizing and leading the faithful in prayer.

"Deacons are called to represent Christ the servant and take on the ministry of the word, sacrament and charity. They are expected to be close to both Christ and

the community, and bring the needs of the people of God to the Church," he said.

The candidates were selected through a rigorous application process by submitting a large application packet with detailed information, as well as a written questionnaire. They are also interviewed twice by the priest and deacon members of the Commission for Orders and Scrutinies.

"Following all the information they submit, the recommendations received and the interviews, the commission makes recommendations to the Bishop, who selects applicants for admission," said Father Ritz.

He also said the newly formed class is a dedicated group of men who, together with their spouses, demonstrated both the capability to enter formation as well as dedication to the Church in various ways of service and ministry.

"They also evidenced the necessary characteristic of humility that is necessary to engage the process of formation

for holy orders. Their future roles will include much service to parishes and ministries throughout the Diocese," said Father Ritz.

Although permanent deacons are a huge asset to the Church in their roles in promoting charity, proclaiming and living the Word of God and as a sacramental minister, Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert said he hopes the men will grow in holiness and asks the faithful to continue to pray for more vocations to the priesthood.

"The candidates for the permanent diaconate represent a broad diversity of talent, employment, geographical area and culture. For this reason, I am confident that these men, supported by their families, will grow in holiness through prayer, study and mentoring," he said.

"Since the permanent diaconate is not a remedy for the shortage of Diocesan priests, we all must continue to beg God to send us more men to serve our Diocese as priests."

Conference for Parish Advocates Set for April 13

The 2019 Ministry with Persons with Disabilities half-day conference for parish advocates will be Saturday, April 13 at St. Mary Parish, Kutztown in the Religious Education Center.

Keynote speaker will be Jessica McKenty, advocacy director at The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton counties. She will address advocacy, the important skills needed to be an advocate and the specifics of advocating for people with disabilities.

"Thanks to the participation and efforts by all of our advocates, we will be able to make our parishes more inclusive and welcoming to those who are differently abled," said Sister Janice Marie Johnson, Director of the Diocesan Office



McKenty

for Ministry with Persons with Disabilities.

All advocates are strongly urged to attend or send a representative.

Registration and light refreshments will begin at 8:30 a.m., with the welcome and opening prayer at 9 a.m.

For more information or to register, contact Sister Janice, 610-871-5200 ext. 2280 or jjohnson@allentowndiocese.org.





BREAKFAST

with the

BISHOP

Saturday, April 6, 2019
Parish Center of the
Cathedral of St. Catharine
of Siena, Allentown

Commission for Women Hosting Lenten ‘Breakfast with the Bishop’

The Commission for Women invites all women to a “Breakfast with the Bishop” event on Saturday, April 6 beginning with daily Mass at 8 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown.

Mass will be followed by recitation of the rosary, breakfast and a Lenten reflection by Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert.

Please join us as we gather together during this season of Lent for prayer and fellowship.

Cost is \$12. To register, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality.


For questions, email cfw@allentowndiocese.org or call Susan Teaford at 610-207-5763.



Bishop Meets with Alvernia Pilgrims

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, right, hosted a lunch to meet students of Alvernia College, Reading who participated in the university’s recent Franciscan Leadership Pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy.

Infertility...



Natural & Restorative Approaches

Presentation on ‘Infertility – Natural and Restorative Approaches’ April 11

“Infertility – Natural and Restorative Approaches,” a free event open to couples or anyone interested in learning more about medical breakthroughs in natural systems of fertility care, will be offered in April.

Participants will learn how the Creighton Model Fertility Care System uses a far superior treatment for infertility and many gynecological problems.

The event will be Thursday, April 11

from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Penn State Health St. Joseph, 2500 Bernville Road, Route 183, Reading in Room Franciscan A.


Presenters will be Dr. Delia Larrauri and Barbara Rose, both of the Gianna Center in Philadelphia and trained in NaPro Technology by the St. Paul VI Institute.

Deadline to register is Tuesday, April 9 at www.allentowndiocese.org/nfp. For questions, call 610-289-8900 ext. 2024.



A Lenten Tradition at St. Matthew

Skilled potato pancake fryers at St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish, Minersville are, from left, Edward Yakobosky, Thomas Socko and Albin Boris. They, and many other parish volunteers, helped prepare traditional Lenten fare, including potato pancakes, pierogi, haluski and various Lenten soups. This year’s last Lenten Food Sale is scheduled for Friday, April 5 at the Parish Center, 120 Oak St., Minersville, 570-544-2211. See other Lenten food and events listed in the Calendar in this issue on page 21.



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APRIL 28 – 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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St. Bernard’s Oratory Social Hall
132 S 5th Street, Easton, PA



Bake Sale / Light Refreshments Saturday & Sunday

Drawing begins at 2:00 p.m. April 28
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Prison Ministry – ‘When we minister to them we minister to Christ’

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

“There are many challenges in our ministry but many benefits as well,” said Father Jason Stokes, one of three keynoters of a Prison Ministry Workshop March 23 at St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield.

The morning event that drew 42 participants began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert, followed by presentations by three speakers, including Father Stokes, Catholic chaplain at FCI-Schuylkill, (Federal Correctional Institution), Minersville; SCI-Frackville (State Correctional Institution), Frackville; SCI-Mahanoy, Frackville; and Schuylkill County Prison, Pottsville. He is also pastor of Most Blessed Trinity, Tremont.

Also, the Reverend Dr. Daniel Basile, supervisory chaplain, FCI-Schuylkill; and Wendy Krisak, victim assistance coordinator, Diocese of Allentown, and assistant dean of student wellness, DeSales University, Center Valley.

The Diocesan Office of Prison Ministry sponsored the event.

“As Bishop Schlert said, we need to have a good prayer life in this ministry – in any ministry, but especially in this ministry,” Father Stokes said, welcoming those gathered for the presentations after the liturgy.

Those attending included Mary Fran Hartigan, secretary of the Diocesan Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization; and Franciscan Sister Martha Zammatore, liaison with the Diocesan Office of Prison Ministry.

Concelebrating the Mass were Apostles of Jesus (AJ) Father Francis Iroot, assistant pastor of St. Joseph the Worker; and Father Stokes.



Above, the Rev. Dr. Daniel Basile speaks on “The Role of the Prison Minister” during a Prison Ministry Workshop March 23 at St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield. (Photos by John Simitz)

Right, Father Jason Stokes presents “Praying with Inmates” during the morning session.



Reverend Daniel Basile

“I never doubt the sincerity of guys in prison – they know they have a sin problem,” Rev. Basile said, presenting “The Role of the Prison Minister.”

“It’s an awesome ministry,” he said.

“The role of a prison minister or volunteer is to be part of a solution to one of the biggest social problems we have today – massive incarceration.”

Rev. Basile said it costs \$36,000 per inmate per year in federal prison, and there are 2.2 million people in jails in our country, 95 percent of who will return to society. When they re-enter society they need housing, a job and a community that supports them.

“It’s the three-legged stool of re-entry, and this is where we fumble the ball.

Many don’t have these, and too often they go for the quick cash, legal or illegal,” he said.

“If communities of faith don’t care, who will?”

“All of us have sin problems, but the past is the past. We have to have empathy for those who are incarcerated.

“We are pro-life – this extends to those in prison. We value all life. Everyone is made in the image of God, so we care. When we minister to them we minister to Christ.”

Rev. Basile then referred to Matthew 25:39-40: “When did we see you sick or in prison and go visit you? The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Rev. Basile said the goal is to have a fruitful, safe and long prison ministry. To be fruitful, the prison ministry must understand the mindset of the inmate.

“Before incarceration, most were not religious,” he said. “During pretrial, they hit rock bottom – most suicides occur then. Or some turn to faith.”

Rev. Basile stressed the importance of listening to the prison staff, who are there to keep you safe. “Dress appropriately – baggy and unadorned. Be alert to staff directions – rioting and fights do happen.”

To stay safe, Dr. Basile said don’t share personal information, avoid over-familiarization, always keep your guard up, report anything out of the ordinary,

don’t disparage other faith groups, keep it to the religious alone and don’t discuss things such as political views, and lovingly lead your group of inmates – don’t let them lead you.

He added the recidivism rate is 68 percent – within three years, 68 percent of inmates will be back in prison.

Father Jason Stokes

As Father Stokes discussed “Praying with Inmates,” he said, “Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God. It’s best thought of as a conversation.”

Father Stokes said the Mass is the greatest prayer, as it is a conversation of love.

He emphasized the importance of self-health, and said, “We must have a relationship with God if we are to bring others to him. We must take care of ourselves before we can help others.”

Father Stokes said there will be dark nights and obstacles, but as St. Pope John Paul II said, “Be not afraid.” The Pope, he recalled, said at these times it’s most important to keep praying.

Father Stokes said it’s happened to him that the inmate helps him on his spiritual journey.

He also spoke of trauma. “Everyone has a trauma. In prison ministry, we’re working with some of the most broken, wounded and dysfunctional people in society.

“Everyone walks around carrying our yesterdays in our souls.”

Father Stokes said, for example, there’s the trauma of an inmate hearing the prison cell lock click behind him for the first time.

“Trauma keeps us from a life of holiness. But thanks to the grace of God, it doesn’t have to be like that,” he said.

“We’re there to bring Christ to them – we’re not counselors. Sometimes just a little prayer can provide a spark that can lead to healing.”

“Meet them where they are. We’re all on a journey leading to God, but not on the same place on the journey. Build a relationship based on trust. This happens by listening to the people and listening to the Holy Spirit,” Father Stokes said, noting when he enters a prison he always says, “Come, Holy Spirit.”

Father Stokes told participants to teach the Catholic faith, but don’t put other religions down. He encouraged them to create an environment where inmates can be themselves.

“We’re called to see Christ in every-

“We’re there to bring Christ to them – we’re not counselors. Sometimes just a little prayer can provide a spark that can lead to healing.”

Right, Wendy Krisak discusses “Being a Good Listener and Knowing Our Limitations.”

Below, participants listen to the presentations at the workshop sponsored by the Diocese of Allentown.



Prison

►Continued from page 14

one we meet.”

Father Stokes said types of prayer are petition, intercession, thanksgiving (which we need more of), praise, blessing and adoration. Expressions of prayer include vocal, meditation and contemplation. “We have to practice prayer to be good at prayer.”

Father Stokes’ second presentation was “Re-Entry and Recidivism.”

“You have to have the desire to bring God’s message to somebody,” he said.

Father Stokes asked participants to think if they were labeled by the worst thing they did in their lives.

He said the vast majority of those in prison are going home, and 85 percent of those in jail are a parent – their children are 75 percent more likely to end up in a correctional institution. “We need to keep changing family trees.”

Father Stokes defined recidivism as the person’s relapse into criminal behavior, re-arrest and return to prison. “The high level of recidivism is crushing families.”

“It all starts with the dignity of the human person. Because man is created in God’s image and likeness he has dignity. The Church believes man, through the grace of God, can change,” he said.

“We have to become a culture of redemption through Jesus Christ. We cannot wait for others, we must be agents of change.”

Father Stokes said we must make sure inmates return to their communities equipped with what they need to succeed. This starts by working with inmates while they are still in prison.

“The Diocese partners with prisons on re-entry, so an inmate plugged into a

church means they are less likely to return to jail.”

“You want to help them in prison, but how do you feel about sitting next to them on Sunday?” he asked.

Wendy Krisak

Krisak spoke on “Being a Good Listener and Knowing our Limitations.”

She said establishing rapport and building relationships takes empathy, genuineness and unconditional positive regard.

“It’s not just listening with ears, it’s an active process,” Krisak said.

Active listening goals are: to give the person the chance to tell his/her story; to understand, as deeply as possible, what the person is saying and feeling; and to help the person clarify his or her own thoughts, feelings and goals by giving them a chance to think out loud without being judged, contradicted or redirected.

Krisak said you know you are actively listening when you do such things as focusing exclusively on what the person is saying, experiencing and feeling; and respond verbally and nonverbally in ways that let the speaker know you are listening deeply, and are genuinely interested in whatever he or she might wish to share.

“Listening requires patience,” she said, adding “listen” and “silent” are spelled with the same letters. She said to keep in mind perspectives will differ, and listening builds trust. “You may not understand what the person is going through, but you can connect with them on feelings.”

“God drew you to this ministry. He will be with you in your interactions with others,” Krisak said.

Krisak said self-care is most critical, including physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual self-care.

Self-care activities include eat regularly, eat healthy, exercise, fun physical



Above, some of the 42 attending glean information from the presentations.

Below, Bishop Alfred Schlert, left, speaks with a group of men at the workshop including, at right, Mike Tully, vice chair of the Diocesan Commission for Men.



activity, make time away from telephones and computers, make time for self-reflection, read literature unrelated to work, say no to extra responsibilities sometimes, spend time with others whose company

you enjoy, allow yourself to cry, play with your kids/dogs/animals, spend time with nature, be open to inspiration, pray, sing and have experiences of awe.

A Salute to Tom Flynn
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May 30, DoubleTree in Reading | For more on the impact of RCSP, visit Alvernia.edu/Flynn-Gala

'Faith and Spirits' Gets to Know the 'Other' St. Francis

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

When people hear the name St. Francis, they usually conjure up an image of the Italian friar dressed in a brown cloak with doves flying around him and surrounded by animals.

His full name is St. Francis of Assisi and he is one of the more popular saints.

But St. Francis de Sales is equally relevant to the Catholic Church and faithful learned more about the 16th century bishop and doctor of the church March 18 during "Faith and Spirits."

Maggie Riggins, campus minister of DeSales University, Center Valley, led the discussion "Salesian Spirituality: Getting to Know the 'Other' St. Francis" at P.J. Whelihan's, Reading.

Riggins began the discussion with biographical details of the 16th century priest, who was born into an aristocratic family in the Savoy region of France. His mother had difficulty conceiving a child and was granted a son, Francis, and 12 other children after praying to God.

"She dedicated him to God. But he



Above, adults gather at P.J. Whelihan's, Reading for "Faith and Spirits."

Right, Maggie Riggins, campus minister of DeSales University, Center Valley, leads the discussion "Salesian Spirituality: Getting to Know the 'Other' St. Francis." (Photos by John Simitz)



was expected to study law, which he did, but also secretly studied canon law and theology," she said.

"He never let his love of God and theology take the back seat."

A clear sign came to Francis on the way to a diplomatic mission. His horse threw him off three times, and each time he fell off, his sword and scabbard would fall to the ground in the shape of a cross.

"He went on to become a priest and quickly became a bishop. His mission

was to go to the newly Calvinist land of Switzerland and bring the people back to the Catholic faith," said Riggins.

Most people were not interested in the faith and would slam doors in his face. He resorted to writing letters and slipping them under the doors of the residents.

"He was an amazing go-getter. He developed a lot of spiritual pen pals and it is estimated that he wrote more than 10,000 letters – which is why he is the patron saint of journalists," said Riggins.

St. Francis de Sales also formed a deep spiritual friendship with St. Jane Frances de Chantal, a widow at age 28 and mother of four children, who took a vow of chastity after her husband was killed.

"St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane Frances de Chantal go hand-in-hand. Their spiritual friendship gave birth to Salesian spirituality – which is grounded in their good and holy friendship," said Riggins.

The Salesian spirituality, according to Riggins, is rooted in the universal call to holiness.

"All of us are called to have a relationship with God. It was a radical idea in the 16th century. Only priests and nuns were thought to have a relationship with God," she said.

"We are called to do the 'ordinary' in 'extraordinary' ways. If Francis was alive today, he would tell us to show honor and glory to God with passion and intentionality – right now and right here in our daily lives," said Riggins.

In addition, she stressed that St. Francis de Sales would encourage them to not just go through the motions and to realize that God is in every moment.

"It's all about the little virtues that get us through everyday life. The first virtue is gentleness. Gentleness takes guts. There is nothing so strong as gentleness," said Riggins.

She also told the adults that St. Francis de Sales would remind them of humility.

"Humility is accepting the things we are good at. We all have good and bad points."

Although St. Francis de Sales coined the popular phrase "Be who you are and be that well," Riggins said the rest of the quote is "to give honor to the master craftsman whose handiwork you are."

There are also things St. Francis would remind people of "what not to be," said Riggins.

"He would tell us not to be fake. You are supposed to be you."

"Don't worry about cultivating someone else's garden. Take care of your own lawn. Grow where you are planted."

St. Francis de Sales would also encourage people not to be frivolous or fear the unknown.

"We aren't supposed to be irresponsible in our state of life. And 'be not afraid' tells us not to fear. It is written in the Bible 365 times. When we are fearful, we can't live in the present," said Riggins.

Finally, she said St. Francis de Sales would tell people to live by four words: "He wants all of us to be happy, healthy, holy and passionate."

"Holiness is a constant renewal with our relationship with God. We are to live out our lives with passion and what energizes you," she said.



Maggie Riggins, right, talks to Michelle and Joseph Galantino, parishioners of St Mary, Kutztown, before the talk.

Pro-Life Town Hall Tour to Stop at Bethlehem Church

The annual Pro-Life Town Hall Tour is coming to SS. Simon and Jude Church, 730 W. Broad St. Bethlehem, Friday May 3 from 7 to 9 p.m.

This Pro-Life Town Hall meeting is one in a series being held across Pennsylvania and will feature Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Executive Director Michael Ciccocioppo and Education Director Bonnie Finnerty.

Topics will include Life on the Line, Life in the Culture, Life at the Capitol, Voice for Life and Vision for Life.

After a series of short, fast-paced presentations, they will respond to questions from those present.

"We live in unprecedented times," said Ciccocioppo. "As the general popu-

lation becomes more and more pro-life, we see attempts to promote and legalize infanticide and assisted suicide.

"We are circling the Commonwealth to call out the threats to life and to harness the passions of pro-lifers who are saying enough is enough to Gov. Tom Wolf and all those pushing for an anti-life culture."

"We are pleased to host this pro-life town hall," said Sal Rizzo, president of Pennsylvanians for Human Life, Bethlehem/Easton, an affiliate of the federation.

"I strongly urge everyone to come out to get the facts and to learn how we can make a difference right here in our area."

No advance registration is required.

For more information, contact Rizzo at BEPHL1973@gmail.com or P.O. Box 3113, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Sunday Scripture

Sunday, April 7
Fifth Sunday of Lent

First reading
Isaiah 43:16-21
Responsorial Psalm
Psalms 126:1-6
Second Reading
Philippians 3:8-14
Gospel
John 8:1-11

Sunday, April 14
Palm Sunday

Procession
Luke 19:28-40
First Reading
Isaiah 50:4-7
Responsorial Psalm
Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18a, 19-20, 23-24
Second Reading
Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel
Luke 22:14-23:56

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Contact Lori Anderson
at landerson@allentowndiocese.org
or 610-871-5200 extension 2273

Reflect on 'God's Remedy for Our Sins'

Everyone is invited Thursday, April 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Joseph the Worker Church, Orefield for an evening of reflection on the Divine Mercy.

"God's Remedy for Our Sins," a Lenten reflection, will be presented by Sister Gaudia Skass from the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C.

Sister will give a moving presentation about God's infinite mercy during an evening centered in prayerful Adoration of Our Lord.

Born and raised in Poland, Sister Gaudia studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland before entering the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in 2005, making her perpetual profession of vows in 2014.

For six years she ministered to pilgrims at the Divine Mercy Shrine in Kraków, Poland, where she also worked in the "Faustinum" Association of the Apostles of Divine Mercy.

In 2015 she completed graduate studies in journalism. Besides media work, Sister Gaudia enjoys youth ministry and served for two years on a team coordinating events for World Youth Day Kraków 2016.



For questions, contact cle@allentown-diocese.org or 610-289-8900 ext. 2021.



Diocese of Allentown Night at the Royals

Patrick Bechtel, center left, and Elliott Bechtel represent the Diocese of Allentown throwing out the first puck for Diocese of Allentown Family Fun Night March 16 at the Reading Royals, Santander Arena, Reading. Guests of the Diocese joined Bishop Alfred Schlert for the fun night with the professional ice hockey team.

Learn the Harmful Effects of Pornography

"Seek Always the Light of Christ," a frank discussion on the effects of pornography on children and adults, will be Monday, May 20 at 7 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1046 W. Cedar St., Allentown, in the parish hall.

The event will be for adults only – any parents or grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sisters; any persons who work with children of any age, in any capacity;

any Catholic or non-Catholic adult who is interested in learning about the effects of pornography on our society and ways to effectuate change to protect ourselves and our families.

Speaker will be Father Allen Hoffa, chair of the Lumen Christi Commission of the Diocese of Allentown.

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert established the Lumen Christi Commission

"to help in the pastoral planning of addressing the burgeoning issue of pornography."

It provides education, training, encouragement and resources to break free from pornography, heal relationships, and assist parents in preventing and responding to pornography exposure, which is so devastating in the lives of children.

For more information, visit website



www.adlumenchristi.org, and follow on Facebook "Lumen Christ Commission," Twitter @ADLumenChristi and Instagram @adlumenchristi.



**Pre-Need selections are available
at Diocesan Cemeteries**



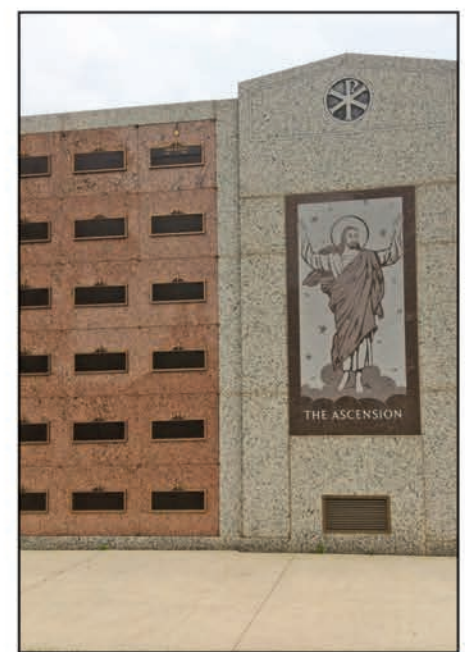
Holy Savior Cemetery
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Bethlehem, PA 18017

Resurrection Cemetery
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Allentown, PA 18106

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

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Theology on Tap to Discuss Author C.S. Lewis

"The Life and Works of C.S. Lewis" will be discussed at the next "Theology on Tap Monday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at Hops at the Paddock, 1945 W. Columbia St., Allentown.

Sister Sheila Galligan of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will address the impact he has had on our understanding of the Catholic faith.

Lewis is famous for his collection of works such as "Mere Christianity," "The Screwtape Letters" and "The Chronicles of Narnia." One of the most influential writers of the 20th century, he is well known for his themes of Christian morality, and is admired by theologians and

philosophers alike.

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 beverages can be ordered from the menu at the event site. For more information, visit www.allentown-diocese.org/tot or email Alexa Smith at asmith@allentowndiocese.org.

April 8, 2019 @ 7 PM

The Life & Works of C.S. Lewis

Sister Sheila Galligan, IHM

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Hops at the Paddock

1945 W. Columbia St., Allentown



Young Married Couples Retreat April 13

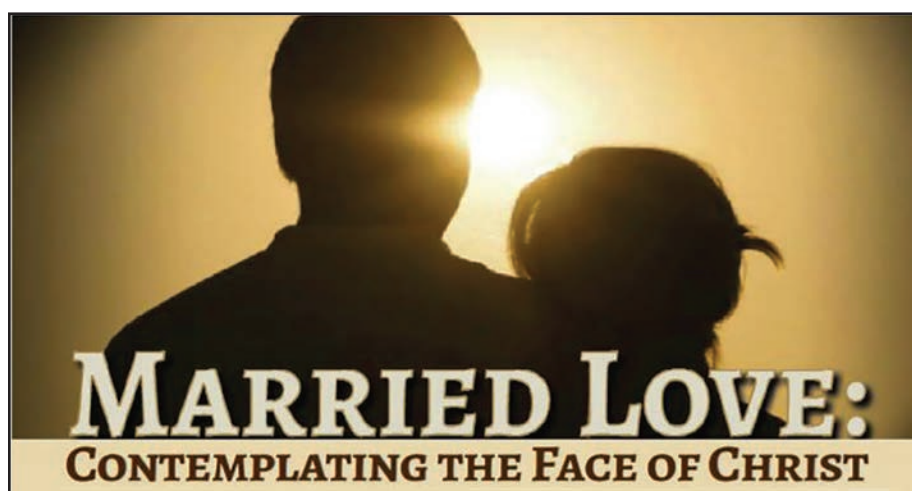
You and your spouse are invited to a day of reflection for young adult couples married 1 to 10 years, co-sponsored by the Office of Marriage and Natural Family Planning and the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry.

Delve into the meaning of marriage as a vocation and sacrament, learn how to grow as a couple through accountability and mutual support, and explore the benefits of engaging in a community of Catholic young adult married couples.

The event will take place on Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Francis Retreat House, 3918 Chipman Road, Easton.

Cost is \$30 per couple and includes a light breakfast, lunch and activities for the day. Childcare is available by application (call office for details).

To register or for more information,



visit www.allentowndiocese.org/enrich. 8900 ext. 21.
For questions, call the office at 610-289-

Juventutem Lehigh Valley Schedules Lenten Stations of the Cross

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.

The chapter put together a schedule for Stations of the Cross on Fridays in Lent throughout the Lehigh Valley.

As a way to encourage young adults in the Lehigh Valley to attend Stations of the Cross this Lent, Juventutem will be hopping from parish to parish every Friday.

"We hope that you'll be able to join us at the parishes below and make Stations

of the Cross a part of your Lent this year," said the group. Remaining dates are:

April 5 – St. Stephens of Hungary, Allentown, followed by First Friday Mass.

April 12 – Sacred Heart, Bath.

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, Bath.

The Sacrament of Penance is available beginning at 7 p.m. "Please consider making the pledge with us to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament on a more regular basis," said the group.



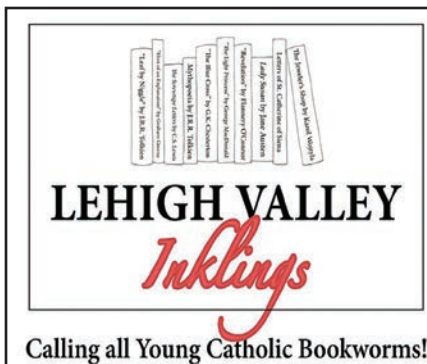
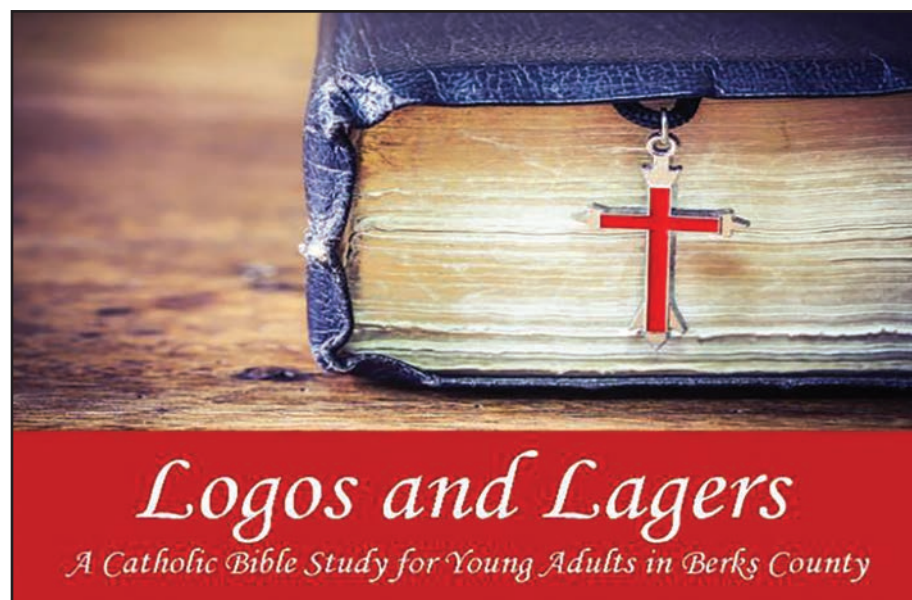
Logos and Lagers for Berks Young Adults

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 fellowship at a local establishment.

The next meetings will be April 4 and May 2 at St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring.

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



Inklings Young Adult Book Club to Discuss 'The Story of a Soul'

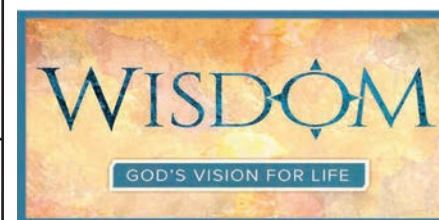
From Tolkien to Thomas Merton – from Shakespeare to St. Augustine – from Jane Austen to Julian of Norwich – great works of literature have the power to challenge and strengthen our Christian faith.

"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, April 26 at 7 p.m., at a location to be announced.

The discussion will be on "The Story of a Soul" by St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

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



'Wisdom' Discussions for Young Adults

A monthly discussion group is being offered at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 1879 Applewood Road, Orefield the third Tuesday of each month.

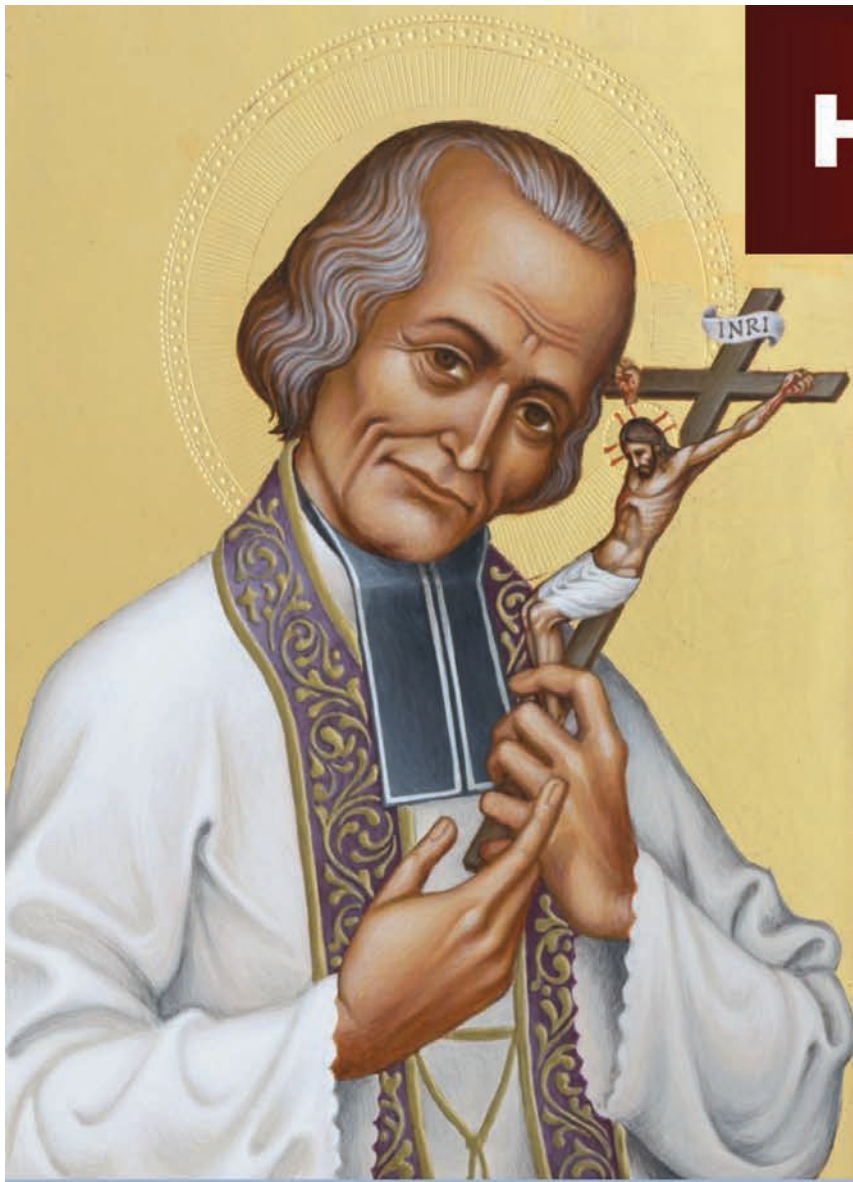
Join other young adults ages 18 to 35 to watch and discuss the "Wisdom" series by Ascension Press.

Learn practical ways to discern and implement God's will as you face important life decisions, and meet fellow young adults.

If you missed the first few sessions, don't worry – there's still plenty to discuss. Join the group April 16 as it delves into new topics.

The group will meet in the parish center at 7 p.m.

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



HEART OF A PRIEST

RELIC PILGRIMAGE OF SAINT JOHN VIANNEY'S INCORRUPT HEART



ST. CLARE OF ASSISI ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

250 East Hancock Street ▪ Saint Clair, PA 17970

Friday, April 12, 2019

Visitation of the Relic of the Curé of Ars

**Saint John Vianney, Patron Saint of Parish Priests / Patron Saint of Confession
Through the Sponsorship of the Knights of Columbus**

12:00 noon	Reception of the Relic at St. Clare of Assisi Roman Catholic Church. Mass Celebrated by the Most Rev. Alfred A. Schlert, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Allentown.
1:30 p.m.	Novena to St. John Vianney and Veneration of the Relic Every Half Hour.
5:45 p.m.	Recitation of the Rosary, Praying for Priests through St. John Vianney's Intercession, Rev. Adam C. Sedar, Secretary for Clergy.
6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross, Rev. Msgr. David L. James, V.G., M.Div., J.C.L.
7:00 p.m.	Solemn Vespers, Most Rev. Alfred A. Schlert, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Allentown.

We Are Remembered Easter Mass to be Celebrated April 24

The 28th Annual Easter Mass sponsored by the Diocesan We Are Remembered Ministry will be Wednesday, April 24 at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, 924 N. Front St., Allentown.

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

Wednesday, April 17 is the deadline to have the names of loved ones printed in the memorial and the Book of the Remembered. This will ensure their inclusion in the enrollment list appearing in The A.D. Times after the anniversary Mass. It is important to enroll the name of your loved one each year.

The work of the ministry is sustained by generosity and prayer. We Are Remembered requests a \$5 donation for each name enrolled to cover ex-

penses. Every name submitted will be enrolled regardless of donation.

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

Friends from past years will again provide participants with a social and spring flowers/gifts. To help, e-mail frjim.stmj@gmail.com (include your phone number and e-mail address).

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

To register, send, name, address, phone, name of the deceased, donation, to We Are Remembered Ministry, PO Box 20082, Lehigh Valley PA 18002-0082.

Deadline to register is Wednesday, April 17.

Healing Mass at St. Thomas More

Father James Blount, spiritual director, confessor and charismatic, is set to be at St. Thomas More Church, 1040 Flexer Ave., Allentown on Thursday, May 16.

A Healing Mass will start at 6 p.m.

Father Blount is a spiritual advisor to the Flame of Love Movement of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the United States. His teachings depict his deep love for the Eucharist and his devotion to both Jesus and Mary.



LAOH Tea to Feature Kentucky Derby

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) invites all good Irish-Catholic women to its annual Spring Welcoming Tea, Sunday, April 28 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The tea will be at the Columbian Home, 1519 Greenleaf St, Allentown.

Theme for the day will be Kentucky Derby, including a best Kentucky Derby hat contest (wear your best hat), derby betting, raffle, photo booth and pastry treats.

Membership is open to all Catholics of Irish descent, by birth or marriage.

For questions, contact Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk at maurarl117@msn.com or 610-509-0444.

Alvernia's Pioneer Program Institutes Name Change

The Behavioral Health program at Alvernia University, Reading, the first of its kind in the nation, unveiled a name change to Addictions and Mental Health Treatment during its 40th anniversary celebration March 26 at the McGlinn Conference Center.

Longtime program leader and local addiction studies pioneer George Vogel Jr. was awarded an honorary degree for his outstanding contributions to Alvernia and the addiction studies field.

"Launched 40 years ago as the first program of its kind in the entire country, Alvernia's Addictions and Mental Health Treatment program was a bold innovation, at a time when treating addiction carried an unfortunate stigma," said Alvernia President Thomas Flynn.

"The vision of our pioneering founder, the late Sister Pacelli, and the expertise of George Vogel helped shaped the program, and committed 'practioner-faculty' have over the years ensured that the program has continuously evolved in its education of future addictions and mental health treatment professionals."

The name change reflects the evolution of the curriculum that was born in 1976 out of a recognized collective need to assist with an epidemic spreading across the nation. The new name accurately reflects the all-encompassing dual diagnosis treatments in the field, broadly defines the reality of addictions and puts the program in terms that the public understands.

The program has longstanding local strategic partnerships with organizations such as the Caron Treatment Centers and Council on Chemical Abuse (or COCA) that placed the program at the center of the greater Berks County community.

"More than 100 Caron employees have an Alvernia degree, and eight employees are adjunct faculty members at Alvernia," said Caron Treatment Centers President and CEO Doug Tieman.

"Alvernia's academic programs to educate and train professionals have helped the field evolve, and this incredible partnership has been really important to Caron's success."

More information about the program is available at www.Alvernia.edu.

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Friday - April 12 @ 7pm
Saturday - April 13 @ 7pm
Sunday - April 14 @ 2pm

~ Doors open 30 minutes prior ~

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Questions? 610-868-1431 or notredametheatrecompany@ndcrusaders.org

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In Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of St. Ursula Parish you are cordially invited to our Parish Mission in honor of Jesus Christ.

BEHOLD GOD'S MIRACLES!



SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 7-9 PM
The Vatican International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles
 speaker: Annamae Hein Ed.D.

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 7-9 PM
The Shroud of Turin
 speaker: Sister Rose Bernadette Mulligan I.H.M.



TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 7-9 PM
Dramatic Stations of the Cross
 CCD Children
 Adoration & Benediction



1300 Broadway, Fountain Hill, PA. 18015
 Call 610-867-5122 for more information

Calendar

Editor's note: E-mail, fax or mail Church-affiliated items for the Calendar page (Calendar, Retreats, Socials, Festivals, Bazaars, Trips) to: email, adtimes@allentowndiocese.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@allentowndiocese.org or call 610-871-5200, ext. 2264.

Saturday, April 6
Spirit Dance, St. John the Baptist, Allentown, church hall, 7-10 p.m., \$5, questions 610-432-3505.
Blood Drive, Knights of Columbus Council 16656, St. Nicholas, Walnutport, social hall, 1152 Oak Road, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., information www.giveapint.org.

Sunday, April 7
Breakfast, Knights of Columbus Council 16656, St. Nicholas, Walnutport, social hall, 1152 Oak Road, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., adults \$8, children 5-10 \$5, under 5 free, benefits Coats for Kids Campaign.
Easter Bunny Breakfast, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, church hall, 9 a.m.-noon, adults \$6, children \$4, pictures with Easter Bunny \$3.

Monday, April 8
“Because We Are Catholic,” Mass celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert to kick off the 2019 Bishop’s Annual Appeal in Schuylkill County, St. Ambrose, 201 Randel St., Schuylkill Haven, 6 p.m., hosted by Diocese of Allentown and Bishop’s Annual Appeal Trust Advisory Board, RSVP to baa@allentowndiocese.org or 800-831-4443.

Wednesday, April 10
“Because We Are Catholic,” Mass celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert to kick off the 2019 Bishop’s Annual Appeal in Carbon County, St. Joseph, 468 W. Ludlow St., Summit Hill, 6 p.m., hosted by Diocese of Allentown and Bishop’s Annual Appeal Trust Advisory Board, RSVP to baa@allentowndiocese.org or 800-831-4443.
Mara Liasson, NPR correspondent, Frank Marcon Lecture, DeSales University, Center Valley, Billera Hall, 7:30 p.m., free, registration required, www.desales.edu/marcon2019.

Thursday, April 11
“Infertility: Natural and Restorative Approaches,” for couples or anyone interested in learning more about medical breakthroughs in natural systems of fertility care, Penn State Health St. Joseph, 2500 Bernville Road, Route 183, Reading, Room Franciscan, 7 to 8:30 p.m., presenters Dr. Delia Larauri and Barbara Rose, both of the Gianna Center in Philadelphia, free, register by Tuesday, April 9, www.allentowndiocese.org/nfp, questions call 610-289-8900 ext. 2024.

Friday, April 12
“Heart of a Priest” Relic Pilgrimage of St. John Vianney’s Incorrupt Heart, St. Clare of Assisi, St. Clair, noon-8 p.m., see page 5 for details.
“Thoroughly Modern Millie,” theatre company, Notre Dame High School, Easton, 7 p.m., adults \$10, seniors \$8, students \$6, under 5 free, 610-868-1431 or notredametheatrecompany@ndcrusaders.org, also Saturday, April 13, 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 14, 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 13
Exhibition of the Eucharistic Miracles and Parish Mission, St. Ursula, Fountain Hill, exhibition at Mass 4 p.m.; also Palm Sunday, April 14 Masses 8 and 10 a.m.; mission starts Palm Sunday through Tuesday, April 16, each evening 7 p.m.; 610-867-5122.
Peaceful Prayer Pilgrimage for the Unborn, Helpers of God’s Precious Infants, Mass 8 a.m., Notre Dame of Bethlehem Church, celebrant Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, followed by rosary at abortion site, Allentown Women’s Center, 31 S. Commerce Way, Bethlehem, schedule40dffl@gmail.com.

Sunday, April 14
Community Breakfast, Knights of Columbus Council 14464 and Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bath, in church auditorium, 7-11 a.m., adults \$9, children \$4, under 6 free, this month’s special crepes.
Holy Week Mission and Art Show, 40 pieces of art depicting life of Christ and Scripture by Michelle White, St. Columbkil, Boyertown; Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday 7:30 a.m.-noon; other days in Holy Week 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; 610-468-7112 or mwhitefn@gmail.com

Good Friday, April 19
Collection for Shrines of Our Faith in the Holy Land.

Tuesday, April 23
Serra Club of Bethlehem Dinner Meeting, Monocacy Manor, 6 p.m., speaker Father Mark Searles.

Wednesday, April 24
We Are Remembered Ministry Easter Mass, St. John the Baptist, Allentown, 7 p.m., register name of loved one by Wednesday, April 17, see page 7 for details.
“The Gospel of John,” Bible study group begins, St. Paul, Allentown, rectory basement, Wednesday evenings 6:30-8 p.m., join anytime, 610-797-9733, ldurback@gmail.com.
“The Gospel of John,” Bible study group begins, Assumption BVM, Bethlehem, Finnegan Room, Wednesday mornings 10-11:30 a.m., join anytime, 610-867-7424 ext. 12, ldurback@gmail.com.

Wednesday, April 24
Bereavement Support Group, St. Benedict, Mohnton, Family Life Center, 6:30-8 p.m., 610-775-7782 or 610-856-1006, Wednesdays through May 22.

Friday, April 26
Catholic Scout Activity Weekend, Camp Trexler Settlers Camp, Kunkletown, all Catholic Scouts welcome, through Sunday, www.adccos.org/bsr.htm.
Retrouvaille Weekend, for couples to rediscover the love in their marriage, Family Life Center, Malvern, www.HelpOurMarriage.org, 215-766-3944, 800-470-2230, all inquiries strictly confidential.
Interfaith Prayer Service and Fellowship, Alvernia University, Physical Education Center, 3 p.m., Alvernia President Tom Flynn shares his gratitude for the community, www.alvernia.edu.
Rummage Sale, Sacred Heart, Bethlehem, Father King Hall, 1817 First St., 2-7 p.m., also Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, April 27
Yard Sale, Men’s Club, St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven, parish center, 7 a.m.

Sunday, April 28
Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration, St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, 2:30 p.m.
Health Fair, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, church hall, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Divine Mercy Devotions, St. Matthew the Evangelist, Minersville, 3 p.m., confessions 2 p.m.; guest confessor, homilist and president Monsignor William Handges, pastor emeritus, St. Peter, Coplay.
Spring Welcoming Tea, for Irish-Catholic women by birth or marriage, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, at Columbian Home, 1519 Greenleaf St., Allentown, 2-4 p.m., wear Kentucky Derby hat, 610-509-0444 or maurar1117@msn.com.

Monday, April 29
Healing Vespers, Holy Ghost, Bethlehem, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 1
Community Spaghetti Dinner, Knights of Columbus Monsignor Bornemann Council #16066 of Sacred Heart, West Reading and Holy Rosary, Reading, at Victor Emmanuel II, 311 Hazel St., Reading, 4:30-7 p.m., adults \$10, children \$7.

Friday, May 3
Pro-Life Town Hall Tour, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, at SS. Simon and Jude, Bethlehem, church hall, 7-9 p.m., no registration required, BEPHL1973@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 4
Oldies Dance, St. Mary, Hamburg, Ave Maria Hall, 6:30-9:30 p.m., tickets \$10, at door \$12, no byob/byof, 610-562-7657, www.stmaryhamburg.org.

Sunday, May 5
Spaghetti Dinner, St. Patrick, Pottsville, parish center, 11:30 am.-2:30 p.m., adults \$8, children \$3.50, 570-622-1802.
May Crowning, St. Anthony of Padua, Easton, 6:30 p.m., living rosary, crowning of Mary and novena prayers to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, followed by refreshments in school hall, 610-253-7188.

Saturday, May 11
May Days Dance, St. John the Baptist, Allentown, social hall, 7-10 p.m., \$5, byob, 610-432-0034 or 610-432-3505.

Thursday, May 16
Financial and Estate Planning for Women, DeSales University, Center Valley, University Center, 6-8 p.m., reservations 610-871-5200 ext. 2244 or gdowney@allentowndiocese.org.

Sunday, May 19
“Desire,” concert, Roxy Theater, Northampton, 1:30-3:30 p.m., \$10, sponsored by Knights of Columbus 14464 of Sacred Heart, Bath, tickets at door \$10, information 610-837-1702.

Monday, May 20
“Seek Always the Light of Christ,” discussion on effects of pornography, Lumen Christ Commission, at St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, church hall, 7 p.m., adults only, 610-433-6102 or www.stfrancisallentown.org.

Lenten Events

Through end of Lent, Thursday, April 18
“Lent 2019: A Time of Enlightenment and

Reconnecting,” free online noncredit course for spiritual enrichment, offered by Salesian Center for Faith and Culture, DeSales University, Center Valley, <https://t.co/ZpAH8deqS8>, 610-282-1100.

Wednesday, April 3 and Thursday, April 4
Dave Kauffman in Concert, part of Lenten missions at St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven (April 3, 6:30 p.m.) and All Saints, McAdoo (April 4, 7 p.m.), accompanied by both parish choirs, free will offerings, information 570-385-1031 (St. Ambrose), 570-929-1073 (All Saints).

Thursdays, April 4, 11
“Grief and Grace: A Lenten Journey,” Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, www.jesuitcenter.org/griefandgrace.

Friday, April 5
Fish Bakes, Knights of Columbus Council 4050, St. John the Baptist, Whitehall, social hall, Chestnut and Ruch streets, 5-7 p.m., adults \$9, children \$6.
Lenten Fish Dinner, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bath and Knights of Columbus Father Jacob W. Post Council 14464, church auditorium, 4:30-7 p.m., adults \$11 or \$14, children 6-12 \$6, under 6 free.
Lenten Food Sale, St. Matthew the Evangelist, Minersville, parish center, 120 Oak St., noon-3 p.m., call 570-544-5485 day of sale to order ahead, questions 570-544-2211 (10 a.m.-3 p.m.).
Lenten Dinners, Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council 15682, at Sacred Heart, Bethlehem, Father King Hall, 4:30-7 p.m., adults \$10, children 6-12 \$5, under 6 free.
Lenten Fish Bake Dinner, Knights of Columbus, St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring, school hall, 5-7 p.m., adults \$10, children 6-12 \$6, under 6 free.
Poor Man’s Supper and Lenten Stations of the Cross, St. Vincent de Paul Society, St Michael the Archangel, Minersville, cafeteria, supper 5 p.m., free, stations 6 p.m.

Fridays, April 5, 12
Baked Fish Dinners, St. John the Baptist, Pottsville, 4-6 p.m., adults \$14 or \$17, children under 12 \$8.
Lenten Pierogi Sale, St. Mary, Reading, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., \$8 per dozen.
Juventutem Lehigh Valley, schedule of Lenten Stations of the Cross to encourage young adults to attend: April 5 – St. Stephen of Hungary, Allentown, followed by First Friday Mass; April 12 – Sacred Heart, Bath.
Lenten Fish Bake, Knights of Columbus Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Council 4282, Holy Family Club, Nazareth, 4-7 p.m., adults \$12, children 6-12 \$5, under 6 free.
Lenten Dinners, St. Mary Annunciation BVM, Catasauqua, 4:30-7 p.m., parish center, 122 Union St., 610-264-0332, kim.stmarys122@gmail.com.

Friday, April 5, Thursday, April 11; and Wednesday, April 17
Homemade Pierogi Sale, St. Clare of Assisi, St. Clair, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., church basement, use Hancock Street entrance, \$7.50 per dozen, must order in advance by previous Wednesday, 570-429-0863, 570-429-0343, 570-429-1942.

Saturday, April 6
Breakfast With the Bishop, for all women of the Diocese, Lenten morning hosted by Diocesan Commission for Women, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, Mass 8 a.m., followed by rosary, breakfast and Lenten reflection by Bishop Alfred Schlert, \$12, register www.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality, questions 610-207-5763 or cfw@allentowndiocese.org.

Sunday, April 7
Easter Strudel Sale Order Deadline, St. John Fisher, 1229 Third St., Catasauqua, \$16, delivery Wednesday, April 17, 5-7 p.m. in church hall, 610-264-4494, 610-264-0307.

Wednesday, April 10
Lenten Event with Father James Blount, Our Lady’s Missionaries of the Eucharist, 640 E. Main St., Birdsboro, 9 a.m.-noon or 7-9 p.m., 610-582-3333, www.olme.org.

Thursdays, April 11
“God’s Remedy for Our Sins,” Lenten reflection on Divine Mercy by Sister Gaudia Skass from St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C., at St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, 7-9 p.m., co-hosted by Divine Mercy Cenacle Group of St. Joseph the Worker and Diocese of Allentown Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization, free, questions cle@allentowndiocese.org or 610-289-8900 ext. 2021.

Sunday, April 14; Monday, April 15; and Tuesday, April 16
Parish Mission, St. Ursula, Fountain Hill, 7-9 p.m.; Sunday, Vatican International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles; Monday, The Shroud of Turin; Tuesday, Dramatic Stations of the Cross, Adoration, Benediction; 610-867-5122.

Palm Sunday, April 14 and Good Friday, April 19
Dramatic Stations of the Cross, St. John the Baptist, Pottsville, 7:30 p.m., doors open 6:30 p.m., preludes begin 7:15 p.m., free will offering, 570-622-5470.

Wednesday, April 17 and Good Friday, April 19
“Who Do You Say That I Am?” new passion drama by Monsignor John Murphy, St. Thomas More, Allentown, Wednesday 7:30 p.m., Thursday 1 p.m., 610-433-7413, ext. 18.

Good Friday, April 19
Scriptural Good Friday Rosary, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, chapel, noon; quiet prayer in church until 3 p.m. Good Friday Service; 610-253-3553.

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, April 6
“Lessons from the Nursery: What Our Toys Can Teach Us,” day of reflection with Father Bernard Ezaki, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 8:45 a.m.-3 p.m., \$45, 610-867-8890, www.stfranciscctr.org.

Sunday, April 7
“Art of the New Covenant: Charcoal Art Retreat,” Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, 1-4:30 p.m., www.jesuitcenter.org/Charcoal_Art_Retreat.

Friday, April 12 – Sunday, April 14
“Watch and Pray: With Christ in Holy Week,” weekend retreat, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, www.jesuitcenter.org/Watch-and-Pray.

Saturday, April 13
“Married Love: Contemplating the Face of Christ,” day of reflection for young adult couples married 1 to 10 years, co-sponsored by Office of Marriage and Natural Family Planning and Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry, St. Francis Retreat House, 3918 Chipman Road, Easton, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., per couple \$30, register www.allentowndiocese.org/enrich, questions 610-289-8900 ext. 21.

Monday, April 29
“Living from an Enfleshed Heart,” mini-retreat, St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, dinner 6 p.m., presentation 7-9 p.m., \$30, 610-258-3053 ext. 10, www.stfrancisretreathouse.org.

Tuesday, April 30
“A Pilgrimage Called Life,” twilight retreat, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 6:45 a.m.-9 p.m., \$25, 610-867-8890, www.stfranciscctr.org.

Friday, May 10
“Priests Forever: A Retreat Day for Priests in the Trenches,” Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., www.jesuitcenter.org/PriestsForever.

Saturday, May 11
“Spiritual Spa Day: Spring Day of Prayer,” Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., www.jesuitcenter.org/Spiritual-Spa-Day.

Monday, May 13 – Tuesday, May 21
“8-Day Directed Retreat,” Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, www.jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats_bylength.

Friday, May 31 – Sunday, June 2
“Weekend Directed Retreat,” Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, www.jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats_bylength.

Monday, June 17 – Sunday, June 23
5-Day Directed Retreat, www.jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats_bylength.

Sunday, June 23 – Thursday, June 27
“Rooted in the Graces of the Exercises,” www.jesuitcenter.org/IgnatianLeadershipforMission.

Festivals/Bazaars

Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7
Grand Market, St. Peter, Reading, social hall, Saturday 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-2 p.m., benefit Kennedy House and St. Peter Church, 610-372-9652.

Sunday, April 7
Spring Fling Bazaar, St. Paul, Allentown, parish center, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday, April 13
Easter Craft and Food Festival, St. Mary, 94 Walnut Road, Hamburg, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 610-562-7657.

Sunday, April 28
“MSC Fest: Oktoberfest in April,” Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, at Crowne

Calendar

►►Continued from page 21

Plaza Reading, 1741 Paper Mill Road, 2-6 p.m., sponsorships and reservations www.mscreading.org, 610-929-2802, cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org.

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.

Friday, April 5 – Saturday, April 6
Basket Auction, Trinity Academy, Shenandoah, at St. Joseph, Frackville, parish hall, Friday 5-9 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-3 p.m., see prizes at Facebook “Trinity Academy at the Father Walter J. Ciszek Education Center.”

Sunday, April 7
Basket Social, Assumption BVM, Slatington, social hall, purchase tickets Saturday, April 6 noon-6 p.m. or April 7 9 a.m.-1 p.m., abvm@ptd.net.

Sundays, April 7, 28; May 19; June 2, 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.

Sundays, April 14, May 19
Meat Bingo, St. John the Baptist, Allentown, social hall, 1 p.m., doors open noon, \$11 for 15 games, 610-432-3505.

Thursday, April 25; Wednesday, May 15
Bingo, Knights of Columbus Council 4397, Family Center, St. Thomas More, Allentown, 6 p.m., doors open 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 27 – Sunday, April 28
Basket Raffle/Tricky Tray, Our Lady of Mercy, Easton, Women’s Guild, Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 610-252-7381.

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@allentowndiocese.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

Saturday, April 16
St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, Outreach Committee to Hollywood Casino, Grantville, \$25, 610-515-5975 or 610-433-6102.

Sunday, April 17
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, Golden Agers to Mohegan Sun Casino, Wilkes-Barre, \$30, 610-264-3721.

Thursday, May 2
St. Thomas More, Allentown to Philadelphia Art Museum, \$115, 484-951-0440.

Saturday, May 18
St. Thomas More, Allentown to New York City Ballet: Balanchine, \$114; Broadway: “Kiss Me Kate” \$168 or “Tootsie” \$188; 484-951-0440.

Monday, June 24
St. Thomas More, Allentown to New York Mets at Phillies, \$75 or \$60, 484-951-0440.

Saturday, July 13
St. Thomas More, Allentown to Washington Nationals at Phillies, \$60, 484-951-0440.

Saturday, Aug. 17
St. Thomas More, Allentown to Indians at the Yankees, \$125 or \$150, 484-951-0440.

Previously announced

Wednesday, April 10
St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to “Nana Does Vegas,” Rainbow Comedy Club, Lancaster, \$85, 610-791-1758.

Wednesday, April 24
St. Joseph, Coopersburg, Prime Time to “Take

Me Away,” Sherlock Holmes musical mystery, Hunterdon Hills Dinner Playhouse, \$98, 610-797-6240.

Thursday, April 25
Notre Dame of Bethlehem to Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre, Mount Hope Estate and Winery, Manheim, \$84, 610-866-0360.

Sunday, April 28
Holy Trinity, Whitehall, Seniors in Action to Phillies game, \$68, 610-262-6058.

Thursday, May 7
St. Ann, Emmaus, Prime Timers to “The Ultimate Johnny Cash Tribute,” Penn’s Peak, Jim Thorpe, \$85, 610-530-8186.

Wednesday, May 8
St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to Hollywood Casino, Grantville, \$25, 610-791-1758.

Thursday, May 9
Queenship of Mary, Northampton, Cenacle to “Jesus,” Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, \$92, 610-262-1663 or 610-262-2838.

Monday, May 13 – Friday, May 17
St. Matthew the Evangelist, Minersville, Travelers to Cape Cod and Boston, Massachusetts, \$659, 570-544-5231, 570-628-5413.

Tuesday, May 14
St. Thomas More, Allentown, Women’s Guild to National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Middletown, New York, \$32, 484-707-7531.

Tuesday, May 21 – Friday, May 24
St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Thousand Islands, \$559, suemueller45@gmail.com, 610-392-2957.

Tuesday, May 28 – Wednesday, May 29
St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to Dover Downs, Delaware, 610-791-1758.

Wednesday, June 12
St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to Mohegan Sun, Wilkes-Barre, \$25, 610-791-1758.

Thursday, June 13
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, Golden Agers to “Mama Mia,” Fulton Theatre, Lancaster, \$99, 484-264-7723.
Notre Dame of Bethlehem to Mohegan Sun Casino, Wilkes-Barre, \$30, 610-866-0360.

Wednesday, June 19
Holy Family, Nazareth, Golden Agers to “Tribute to the Beach Boys,” Mount Airy Casino, Mount

Pocono, \$66, 610-759-0576.

Friday, June 21
Holy Trinity, Whitehall, Seniors in Action to “Guys and Dolls” Shawnee Playhouse, Shawnee on the Delaware, \$71, 610-262-6058.

Tuesday, June 25 – Friday, June 28
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bethlehem, Fellowship Group to Villa Roma, New York, \$505, 484-456-6818, 484-767-8669.

Thursday, July 25
St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to “Annie,” Dutch Apple Theater, Lancaster, \$90, 610-791-1758.
Notre Dame of Bethlehem to Hunterdon Hills, \$97, 610-866-0360.

Tuesday, Aug. 13
Holy Family, Nazareth, Golden Agers to Sky-line Cruise of Atlantic City, New Jersey, \$90, 610-759-0576.

Sunday, Sept. 8 – Thursday Sept. 12
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bethlehem to El Coronado Hotel, Wildwood Crest, New Jersey, \$470, 484-456-6818.

Monday, Sept. 16 – Thursday, Sept. 19
St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Niagara Falls and the Erie Canal, \$579, suemueller45@gmail.com, 610-392-2957.

Wednesday, Sept. 18
St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to “Barefoot in the Park,” Hunterdon Hills, \$90, 610-791-1758.

Thursday, Oct. 10
Holy Family, Nazareth, Golden Agers to Germanfest at White Birches, Hawley, \$86, 610-759-0576.

Tuesday, Oct. 15
St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to Supremes Show, Mount Airy Casino, Mount Pocono, \$62, 610-791-1758.

Wednesday, Oct. 30
St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to Hollywood, \$25, 610-791-1758.

Wednesday, Nov. 6 – Thursday, Nov. 7
St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to Atlantic City, New Jersey, 610-791-1758.

Our Lenten Obligation

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

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

Who must fast?

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

Who must abstain?

All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

What does fasting mean?

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

What does abstinence mean?

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

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

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

Are there other obligations we should fulfill?

Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their “Easter Duty.” They are required to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (March 10 until June 16, 2019). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time.

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

Nuestra Obligación de Cuaresma

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

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

¿Quién debe ayunar?

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

¿Quién debe abstenerse?

Todos los católicos que tienen 14 años y mayores.

¿Qué significa el ayuno?

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

¿Qué significa la abstinencia?

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

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

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

¿Existen otras obligaciones que debemos cumplir?

Los católicos están obligados a cumplir con lo que se ha llamado su “deber de Pascua.” Ellos están obligados a recibir la Sagrada Comunión durante el tiempo de Pascua. En los Estados Unidos esta obligación puede ser cumplida a partir del Primer Domingo de Cuaresma hasta el Domingo de Trinidad (10 de marzo hasta el 16 de junio del 2019). Los que tienen conciencia de pecado grave se les recuerda de la obligación de confesar sus pecados al menos una vez al año durante este tiempo.

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

St. John Vianney School STREAM Lab Blessed

St. John Vianney (SJV) School, Allentown recently celebrated the blessing of its new STREAM lab (science, technology, religion, engineering, art, mathematics).

Father Michael Mullins, pastor of St. Paul, Allentown, performed the ceremony.

The new lab, which opened in September, was made possible by a grant from the Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation. The Stabler Foundation, created in 1966, bestows grants to educational institutions in Central and Eastern Pennsylvania solely for charitable, religious, scientific or educational purposes.

In his remarks, Father Mullins included Bible passages on the science of creation. He reminded all in attendance of the need to keep learning and exploring for the betterment of our world in service to God and to mankind.

"Science and faith both seek to know the truth," he said. "We are called to engage in both so that we may better love God and our neighbor."

Joining Father Mullins for the blessing of the lab were Dr. Emily Kleintop, principal; the eighth grade; Annaleigh Atiyeh, middle school science teacher; and Kim Heintzelman, middle school math teacher.

The STREAM lab will allow students to discover many new ways to explore math and science through hands-on experimentation and real life practice of the scientific method.

School Board President Anthony Muir had this to share about the new STREAM

lab: "Stem education and a first class STREAM lab are now part of SJV's broad-based curriculum for all of its students. A generous gift from the Stabler Foundation has helped to make this possible, and we are most grateful."

Six student lab work stations provide plenty of space for groups of students to work simultaneously. Ample storage allows the students to begin work immediately.

Each station includes a dozen brand new microscopes, a heat plate, scale, glue gun, thermometer, timer and safety glasses for all. Two cutting-edge smart TVs allow the educator an enhanced method of presenting images and detailed instruction.

Students can also use the technology for their projects and findings. Materials and experiments in progress can be stored in the full-sized refrigerator freezer.

While the lab is located on the seventh and eighth grade wing, fifth- and sixth-grade students will have the opportunity to participate in biweekly science labs co-taught by their math and science teachers.

Eighth-grade students were able to use the extensive resources the lab provides to develop their science fair projects.

The "Trout in the Classroom Program" has been significantly enhanced by the newly opened lab's resources. Middle school students have the opportunity to research, help raise and observe trout grow from eggs to young "fry." In spring they will observe the young trout as they are released.

Another exciting area of study SJV



Eight-graders listen as Father Michael Mullins blesses the new lab, reminding students of the connection between science and our faith in God.

students will be able to explore is enhanced dissection. The new microscopes, smart TVs and other state-of-the-art technological tools will allow the students to practice the scientific method in ways not possible before.

"We are so fortunate to have this environment for students to fully explore their world within the scientific method," said Kleintop.

"In his blessing of the lab, Father Mullins reminded us of the connection be-

tween science and our faith in God. As we learn about our incredible universe, we see God's creations."

SJV is committed to providing its students with all the tools necessary to excel and explore. The faculty, staff, students and school board are most appreciative of the generous donors and the dedicated parishioners of the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Paul parishes, all in Allentown, who have made this dream a reality.

MBS Parishioner Honored for Work with Veterans

Joan Nichols of Bally, who was honored March 5 at the Bally Borough Council meeting for her dedication and service to veterans, credited Monsignor Edward Coyle, former pastor of Most Blessed Sacrament, Bally, and the parishioners.

Nichols, a parishioner of MBS, said Monsignor Coyle gave her permission to start a collection for veterans. Monsignor Coyle is now pastor of St. Ann, Emmaus.

"About 80 percent of what the veterans received came from MBS parishioners," she said.

Local businesses have also been instrumental in donating to the veterans.



Nichols is a member of the Lieutenant Matthew Smith Chapter of the National

Joan Nichols displays her citation with her husband, Joe Nichols, left, and son, Joe Nichols.

Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. Since 1998 she has held many offices and is now vice regent and chairman of service to veteran patients.

During that time, she has collected over \$175,000 worth of clothing, toiletries and funds for the veterans at the Coatesville VA Hospital. One year she received a donation of 3,000 pairs of socks and delivered some of them to Lebanon and Wilkes-Barre VA hospitals.

Pennsylvania Rep. David Maloney presented Nichols with a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives recognizing her efforts for the veterans. Donald Conrad, a Marine veteran, was instrumental in her receiving the rec-

ognition.

When Nichols first became chairman, the 83-year-old contacted the VA where she heard about the Mistletoe Christmas Program. She decided she wanted to follow that program and give the veterans a merrier Christmas.

She has been named Outstanding Volunteer several times at the VA and in 2005 received the prestigious Chapel of the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award aboard a Liberty Ship at Penns Landing.

Nichols has personally delivered items to the Coatesville VA hospital each year except for the 1998 delivery. She said for the past 21 years, each veteran received a gift at Christmas thanks to the generosity of the community.

"We have to give something back to the veterans and show them we do care," said Nichols.

Holy Family School Gets Grant from Martin Guitar

Holy Family School (HFS), Nazareth received a \$5,000 grant from the Martin Guitar Charitable Foundation and seven new student guitars made at the Martin Guitar Co. in Nazareth. The grant helped to fund guitar lessons at the school and the guitars are valued at more than \$300 each.

"It's something that we weren't able to offer before," said Christine Bruce, the school's principal. "This just adds one more feather to our cap."

HFS provides instrument lessons for all of the band instruments and violin, but until now, guitar was not possible.

In addition to the grant, HFS received an eighth guitar as a donation from Guitar Villa, also in Nazareth. Its owner, John Slog, is an alumnus of HFS and wanted to make the lessons possible for another child.

One of his employees, Mackenzie Lynch-Brown, is teaching the 50-minute lessons.

"He's a great young man," Bruce said. "He was so willing to teach the lessons that he said he would come twice a week."

Only students in fourth through seventh grade, who do not already study an instrument, were eligible for lessons.

Bruce said she wanted to make instrument lessons in general available to as many children as possible in the school and for the children to have least two years of lessons before they graduate from the school.

The grant was also made possible through the efforts of Bruce Mariano, who told the school about it and delivered the guitars and the check to the school when the grant was awarded.



Holding their guitars for the first time are, from left: front, Andrew Wake, Ryan Schuster and Victor Joseph; back, Jackson Bruce, Claire Martocci, Matthew Schuster, Elizabeth Ecker and Evan Crescenzo.



Baptism Reunion at St. Teresa of Calcutta

St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Mahanoy City celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord at Mass on Jan. 13. All people who were baptized in St. Teresa of Calcutta Church (formerly Blessed Teresa of Calcutta) since 2008 were invited to a Baptism Reunion. Pictured with Father Kevin Gallagher, pastor, back left, and Deacon David Henninger, back right, are: from left: front, Justin Harakel, Connor Giannelli, Briella Delluso, Marina Anastacio; middle, Tanner Shapansky (with mom Samantha), Daxton Finneran (with mom Krystal), Jason Henninger, Emma Henninger, Mónica Anastacio, Kallysa Anastacio, Rhea Paukovits (with mom Karen); back, Shawna Anastacio (with the next to be baptized, Quetzalli Anastacio), Carson Morgan (with mom Danielle), Grace Legutko, Kieran Haughney, Brandon Anastacio, Kyler Shapansky, Aubrielle Giannelli (with mom, Kellie).



Hibernians gather at Immaculate Conception with Father John Gibbons, back right, and Father Mark Searles, back second from right.

LAOH and AOH Gather to Celebrate Feast of St. Brigid

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) and the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) gathered Feb. 3 at Immaculate Conception BVM Church in Allentown.

Together along Pastor Father John Gibbons and the Immaculate parish family, they celebrated and honored the feast day of St. Brigid, the LAOH's patron saint.

The celebration included a food donation to assist the local food bank, along with inspiring words of Father Mark Searles, who serves as director of vocations promotion for the Allentown Diocese, chaplain of Allentown Central Catholic High School and spiritual guide of LAOH.

LAOH and AOH serve the Lehigh Valley not only as an Irish-Catholic organization, but with community service and donations, while encouraging unity and friendship.

Those interested in joining the LAOH or AOH (one must be of Irish descent or Irish via marriage and a practicing Catholic), may contact Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk at maurar1117@msn.com or Ed Barry at Edbarryaoh@aol.com.



'Blessed Are They Who Hope in the Lord'

St. Patrick Parish, Pottsville recently completed its ninth annual parish retreat at Our Villa of the Lady in Mount Pocono. This year's theme was "Blessed Are They Who Hope in the Lord." Attendees included, from left: front, Kathryn Coogan, MaryAnn Heenan, Colleen Ryan, Tessa Tray, Helen Weiss, Maureen Tray, Shirley Hasenauer, Charles Bressi, Sister Mary Jane Dunleavy, Lynne Bressi, Dale Verchick, Lucy Verchick, Michelle Schoenfelder; second row, Debbie Walker, Trish Seiders, Pat Baldwin, Adeline Salak, Leah Clews, Michelle Noel, Annette Peron, Chris Murhon, Pat Sanderson, Beth Travis, Arlen Day; third row, Martina Chwastiak, Dustin Tray, Dakota Tray, Joanne O'Toole, Sandi Frinzi, Ray Murhon, George Sanderson, Kathy Wufsus, Pat Day; back, Charlie Taronis, Bob Engle, Shelly Lurwick, Deacon Larry Lonergan, Monsignor Edward O'Connor (pastor), Karen Powers, Mary Steinberg, Bonnie Keff, Denis Wenders, Jane Grier, Brian Barket and Tonya Wargo.



Teacher Emilie Heesen, second from left, with from left: B104 DJ "Mike," Ava Greenberg, Father Anthony Mongiello and DJ "Steph."

'Teacher of the Month' from St. Anne School

Emilie Heesen, fourth grade teacher at St. Anne School, Bethlehem, was honored as "Teacher of the Month" for February at St. Anne School.

Student Ava Greenberg and her family submitted Heesen's name to the radio station and wrote a letter explaining why she should be named "Teacher of the Month."

Heesen has been a devoted teacher at St. Anne School for over 25 years.

B104's morning DJs "Mike and Steph" visited the school Feb. 25 and presented Heesen with a framed certificate, a spa day gift certificate, a pizza lunch and gifts for the class.

They stayed for lunch along with Karen Bentz, principal, and Father Mongiello, pastor, and enjoyed a lively question-and-answer period about school, interests and working at the radio station.



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2:00 pm

**The Holy Rosary
El Santo Rosario**

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NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

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Healing Vespers for Those Who Have Experienced Trauma

There will be a Healing Vespers for those who have experienced trauma Monday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m.

All are invited to join in prayer with Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert at Holy Ghost Church, 417 Carlton Ave., Bethlehem.

After Mass there will be a Holy Hour, benediction and confessions.



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Child Sex Abuse Called 'A Serious and Pervasive' Issue in U.S. Society

Editor's note: This is the first story in a series from Catholic News Service called "Children at Risk" on child sexual abuse in the United States.

By JULIE ASHER
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Child sexual abuse in the United States is at epidemic levels.

More than 60,000 children are reported to have been abused every year, outnumbering those killed by guns or cars. Those who survive are often left not only with physical wounds, but also with psychological wounds that may never heal. These wounds exact both a profound personal and social cost.

Much attention has been focused on the issue of child sexual abuse and the Catholic Church, and rightly so.

Allegations of abuse by clergy and church workers as well as cover-ups and bureaucratic mishandling by bishops, dioceses and religious orders have caused terrible pain for survivors of such abuse and their families. It also has resulted in disillusionment on the part of ordinary Catholics.

The cost of this abuse and its aftermath totals more than \$4 billion so far, according to the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection.

While the Catholic Church continues to struggle with this legacy, it has instituted a wide variety of steps to improve oversight, identify abusers and protect children.

One under-reported fact from the recent, highly publicized Pennsylvania grand jury report is that for all of the many horrors it identified, the good news was that it appeared to document the decline in current cases.

As Jesuit Father Tom Reese told *America* magazine in its Dec. 24 issue, every one of the accused priests in the report was either deceased or had been removed from ministry, "and only two had been accused of abusing a child in the last



CHILDREN at RISK

20 years."

During these same 20 years, however, an estimated 1.2 million children in this country were abused nationwide in schools, organizations, churches and families.

Understanding the plague of sexual abuse in this country means going beyond the immediate headlines and understanding what experts are saying about this scourge. It also means looking not only at the Catholic Church, but at all institutions and societal structures where abuse can take place.

So far, no grand jury, congressional committee or law enforcement organization has undertaken a broad societal investigation of what is happening to children in public schools, as well as private, in sports and other youth-oriented programs and organizations, in pediatric facilities and perhaps most common, in families. (In Australia, a Royal Commission investigation of child abuse in nongovernmental organizations took five years.)

"Sexual victimization of children is a serious and pervasive issue in society. It is present in families, and it is not uncommon in institutions where adults form mentoring and nurturing relationships with adolescents, including schools and religious, sports and social organiza-

tions," said the John Jay report issued in May 2011 on "The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States, 1950-2010."

"If you want to talk about sexual abuse of minors, you're talking about families, foster care programs, public schools," said New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan said in a recent Sirius XM interview.

"You're talking about organizations, every religion, you're talking about public schools, it is a societal, cultural problem. There is no occupation that is freed from it."

The U.S. Catholic Church "is no greater (an) offender than anybody else. In fact, some of the statistics would say that priestly abuse among minors is less than other professions," the cardinal said.

He made the remarks in late January after the New York Legislature passed a measure to ease the statute of limitations on civil abuse cases. The state's Catholic bishops agreed to support the bill after it was broadened to include not just the Catholic Church but public institutions.

Over the years, highly touted organizations such as the Boy Scouts, U.S.A. Gymnastics and Penn State have had abuse scandals.

Often such organizations are accused of behavior similar to what the Catholic Church has been accused of: denials, cover-ups, relocation of predators and unwillingness to tell authorities.

In July 2018, shortly before the Pennsylvania grand jury report was released, a

team of Chicago Tribune reporters turned out a special series on abuse in Chicago's public-school system: "Betrayed: Chicago schools fail to protect students from sexual abuse and assault, leaving lasting damage."

"Whether the sexual attacks were brutal rapes, frightening verbal come-ons or 'creepy,' groping touches, the students often felt betrayed by school officials and wounded for years," the paper reported.

"When students summoned the courage to disclose abuse, teachers and principals failed to alert child welfare investigators or police despite the state's mandated reporter law," it said.

The Tribune is hardly the first media outlet to examine abuse in the nation's public schools. In December 2016, USA Today published its own series.

"Despite decades of repeated sex abuse scandals – from the Roman Catholic Church to the Boy Scouts to scores of news media reports identifying problem teachers – America's public schools continue to conceal the actions of dangerous educators in ways that allow them to stay in the classroom," it said.

USA Today's network of media outlets conducted a yearlong investigation and "found that education officials put children in harm's way by covering up evidence of abuse, keeping allegations secret and making it easy for abusive teachers to find jobs elsewhere."

"As a result, schoolchildren across the nation continue to be beaten, raped and harassed by their teachers while government officials at every level stand by and do nothing," the paper reported.

How bad may it be in our schools? According to an Associated Press 2017 investigative report, abuse cases are under-reported, but what is tallied is staggering.

The yearlong investigation "uncovered roughly 17,000 official reports of sex assaults by students over a four-year period, from fall 2011 to spring 2015."

"Though that figure represents the

Please see ISSUE page 27 ►►

Advocacy Centers Help Abuse Victims Tell Their Story, Regain Trust, Heal

Editor's note: This is the second story in a series from Catholic News Service called "Children at Risk" on child sexual abuse in the United States.

By ELEANOR KENNELLY GAETAN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – On a long, low shelf at Safe Shores in downtown Washington, colorful figurines of wild animals, army soldiers, a winged dragon and an angel appear to be the toy collection of an overly neat child.

It's the "sand tray room," where young survivors of sexual assault arrange figures in a tray of sand to tell stories about their experiences, often, too difficult to put into words.

One 10-year-old girl, abused by her father, remained silent through five sessions of therapy. Only after arranging figures in the sand tray, creating a tableau depicting a child separated from adults by a bridge, did she open up and talk at length.

"We've used sand play in this field for about 25 years," remarked Lisa Dominguez, director of clinical services at Safe Shores, one of 854 children's advocacy centers located across the nation.

One out of every 10 Americans will suffer sexual abuse, involving physical contact, before turning 18 years old. An astonishing 90 percent of child victims personally know their abuser. Of those offenders, approximately 30 percent are



Lisa Dominguez, director of clinical services at Safe Shores in Washington, is pictured in a Dec. 19, 2018, photo. Safe Shores is one of 854 children's advocacy centers located across the nation. (CNS photo/Donna Lewis Johnson, Safe Shores)

family members – a tragic statistic that climbs to 50 percent when you look at who perpetrates abuse against children

under age 6.

"Sexual victimization of children is a serious and pervasive issue in society. It is present in families, and it is not uncommon in institutions where adults form mentoring and nurturing relationships with adolescents, including schools and religious, sports and social organizations," according to a report on the causes and context of abuse of minors prepared by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice some years ago as a mandate of the bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

Over the last 30 years, the network of children's advocacy centers has emerged as one of the nation's most comprehensive responses to sexual violence against children.

The centers serve three goals: providing treatment to victims and support to their caregivers and families; collecting evidence and coordinating investigations with law enforcement and child welfare authorities; and training those with responsibility for children, especially schools, on prevention strategies.

In 2017, 334,000 children were served through the CAC network, a 9 percent increase over 2016. The system's annual cost is about \$450 million; two-thirds of the budget came from public resources in 2016: federal (20 percent), state (34 percent) and local (14 percent).

Experts agree: the major reason child sexual assault has garnered intense attention – and more severe criminal sanctions

– is the mountain of evidence that it results in deep, often lasting, harm.

"Not only mental health, but long-term negative health outcomes" may be the result of untreated abuse, observed Dominguez.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a direct correlation exists between child sexual abuse and the number of what it calls "adverse childhood experiences," including sexual assault, and lifelong problems with health (obesity, suicide attempts, heart disease, cancer, stroke), behavior (smoking, alcoholism, drug use) and life fulfillment (graduation rates, lost time from work).

"We know that trauma impacts the brain even in utero and it impacts the wiring of the brain, but we know the brain can be rewired. It can heal," Dominguez told Catholic News Service.

The evidenced-based therapy model used by Safe Shores is trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy. It begins with skill building and "psycho-education" to help survivors and caregivers "understand what they are living," including what happens to the brain when it experiences trauma.

Some victims become hyper-vigilant – for example, they can't sit still. Others are passive, as though they are frozen.

The treatment focuses on "building a toolbox" of basic skills for relaxation and coping, Dominguez said: "Kids often

Please see CENTERS page 27 ►►

Issue

►Continued from page 26

most complete tally yet of sexual assaults among the nation's 50 million K-12 students," AP said, "it does not fully capture the problem because such attacks are greatly underreported, some states don't track them and those that do vary widely in how they classify and catalog sexual violence. A number of academic estimates range sharply higher."

What happens when abuse is reported varies widely from school district to school district, but what the Associated Press found was not encouraging.

"Elementary and secondary schools have no national requirement to track or disclose sexual violence, and they feel tremendous pressure to hide it," AP reported.

"Even under varying state laws, acknowledging an incident can trigger liabilities and requirements to act. And when schools don't act – or when their efforts to root out abuse are ineffectual – justice is not served."

2018 began with sentencing of Larry Nassar, the former U.S.A. Gymnastics and Michigan State University sports doctor who was world famous because

he treated the top U.S. Olympic women gymnasts.

He was convicted and sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison after pleading guilty to seven counts of criminal sexual conduct. More than 150 women and girls testified during the court proceedings that he sexually abused them over the past two decades.

The U.S. Olympic Committee has launched an investigation on the inaction of then-USOC CEO Scott Blackmun and chief of sport performance Alan Ashley in the roughly yearlong period after they were informed of the allegations against Nassar.

In late 2018, another medical doctor was in the abuse spotlight over sexual misconduct that allegedly occurred from the 1950s through the 1970s: Dr. Reginald Archibald, who ran a prestigious clinic for about 30 years at Rockefeller University Hospital in New York, where he treated children who were small for their age.

The New York Times reported Oct. 18, 2018, that "parents sought him out" to get help for their children with this condition. The hospital, according to the story, sent a letter to as many as 1,000 of his former patients in September 2018 asking if Archibald had had inappropriate contact with them. The story said the hospital

knew about the possible abuse in 2004; Archibald died in 2007.

As 2019 began, yet more news broke about sexual abuse. This time the alleged abuser is one of the biggest names in music and has been for over 20 years: R. Kelly.

In January a documentary series titled "Surviving R. Kelly" detailed decades of sexual abuse allegations against him. He has repeatedly denied the claims, but many interviewed in the series alleged Kelly had been sexually inappropriate with them when they were underage.

Interviewees included Kelly's ex-wife and the singer's two brothers "as well as parents of women who say their daughters are currently being mistreated by Kelly," USA Today reported.

While doctors, teachers, clergy and other authority figures can be abusers, they also "can be neighbors, friends and family members," according to Darkness to Light (www.d2l.org), a South Carolina-based nonprofit organization dedicated to child abuse prevention. "Significantly, abusers can be and often are other children."

About 90 percent of children who are victims of sexual abuse know their abuser, and only 10 percent are abused by a stranger, Darkness to Light says: About 60 percent of those victims are sexually

abused by people the family trusts; approximately 30 percent of them are sexually abused by family members.

The younger the victim, the more likely it is that the abuser is a family member. Of those molesting a child under 6, 50 percent were family members. Family members also accounted for 23 percent of those abusing children ages 12 to 17.

About one in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday, according to Darkness to Light. "About one in seven girls and one in 25 boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18."

Because of underreporting and a lack of systematic, nationwide data collection, estimates of sexual abuse can vary.

"Child sexual abuse is far more prevalent than most people realize," according to Darkness to Light. "Child sexual abuse is likely the most prevalent health problem children face with the most serious array of consequences."

Understanding the scope and scale of child sexual abuse in this country is only the start.

Greg Erlandson contributed to this story. In future articles, Catholic News Service will look at treatment for victims, the pursuit of predators, the threat of human trafficking and the impact of the internet on child abuse.

Centers

►Continued from page 26

feel very responsible for what happened to them. They feel the abuse was their fault."

Dominguez continued, "The thing about sexual abuse for kids that is so confusing is that, first, more often than not, the child knows the offender so it was someone they trusted, and often because of that trust, the abuse was allowed to happen."

She continued, "In addition, because of the body's natural physiological response, some parts of the abuse might have felt physically pleasurable to the child." The combination of shame, self-blame and fear creates a particularly combustible set of emotions.

"People who want to sexually abuse children are strategic," warned Ashley Harrell, director for family advocacy, prevention and outreach at Safe Shores. "They groom the whole family. Often, family members will say, 'This is the person I trusted the most!'"

As a result, a child who reports abuse within the family's trust circle may not be believed – a further traumatizing experience.

As well, when the abuse is finally confirmed, innocent members of the family are horrified and heart-broken. Reconstructing trust within the family – absent abusers and those who deny it happened – is major task.

In addition to long-term mental health treatment, Safe Shores provides a variety of other supportive services for families, including a weekly caregiver support group, offered both in English and Spanish, where dinner and child care are provided. CACs provide services without charge.

Therapy is one part of the CAC mission, providing evidence for investigations is another. Safe Shores conducted close to 800 forensic interviews last year.

Down the hall from the Clinical Services Suite, past brilliant tropical fish languidly circling in a tank, is a room dedicated to interviewing child victims, outfitted with ceiling cameras and microphones. Children are told exactly where

all the equipment is.

To avoid the once common practice of repetitious interviews of child victims by police, prosecutors, social workers, doctors and judges – a procedure that was unduly traumatizing in itself – CAC forensic teams conduct a fact-finding interview in a "developmentally sensitive and legally sound manner" as part of a larger investigative process, explained Leyla Sandler, Safe Shores' forensic services director.

The process results in one conclusive interview shared with all parties, a document that often becomes part of criminal proceedings against a perpetrator. Typically, law enforcement observes a forensic interview from another room.

In fact, members of the multidisciplinary team are located in the same building with Safe Shores, based in a renovated elementary school. Together under one roof are: officers with the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department; staff from the DC Child and Family Services Child Protective Services unit; attorneys with the U.S. Attorney's Office and Office of the Attorney General for D.C.; and

medical staff from the Child and Adolescent Protection Center, which is part of a unit of Children's National Medical Center.

Again, the purpose is to minimize trauma on the child, and maximize efficiency for the justice system to make perpetrators accountable.

Most important, Safe Shores staff sees tangible proof that victimized children heal.

"What we see as healing is a reduction in trauma symptoms, so kids can tolerate normal stressors and frustrations that we all encounter day to day. We see a decrease in nightmares. We see better academic performance. We see enhanced communication with caregivers. We see re-engagement in activities that used to bring them pleasure – a team activity or Cub Scouts. We see children better able to tolerate their emotions," said Dominguez.

She added, "Having a renewed sense of trust and safety, that is key. Because that's the biggest thing lost when a trusted adult abuses you: You're left asking, 'Who can I trust?'"

Florida Man Starts New Podcast on Catholics in Sports

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A Florida man with a five-year track record in podcasting has started a new series on Catholics in sports. Its title is deceptively simple: "Catholic Sports Radio Podcast."

Bruce Wawrzyniak (pronounced WARS-knee-ack) has had the idea in the back of his mind for some time, he told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from Tampa, Florida, where he lives.

"I had the idea a couple of years ago and actually registered the domain name CatholicSportsRadio.net. And then I sat on it for a couple of years, unfortunately, I kept renewing the domain but never doing anything about it," he said.

"For some reason – it was not a New Year's resolution, but when the calendar flipped over to Jan. 1 – it was in my head. It was something I passionately believed in."

Then came the work of finding sports figures to interview. Wawrzyniak had been able to secure a bevy of performers, primarily from the world of music, for his first podcast, "Now Hear This Entertain-

ment," which he still does.

Wawrzyniak said he told himself, "I know I can parlay this into success for Catholic Sports Radio, and I can't delay this any longer."

Listeners may think it's just Wawrzyniak behind the microphone and a control board, but he told CNS he has one helper:

"My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It's me, myself and I, and a lot of prayer.... He really is helping me. I wrestled for quite a while with Satan wanting to take me down and not wanting this project to go through, not wanting this project to succeed."

But through the podcast's first eight installments – a new one gets posted every Monday morning at www.CatholicSportsRadio.net as well as being carried by a raft of streaming services that include iTunes, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Stitcher and TuneIn – he's found some intriguing people.

The most notable of them is Joe DeLamielleure, a Pro Football Hall of Fame guard for the Buffalo Bills who was part of the "Electric Company" offensive line



Bruce Wawrzyniak, who has started a new podcast series on Catholics in sports, is pictured in an undated photo. (CNS photo/Jeff Fay, courtesy Bruce Wawrzyniak)

that helped O.J. Simpson accomplish some of the greatest rushing feats the sport has seen.

But does the podcast conversation turn to O.J. and Simpson's tabloid-scarred life after football? No. Rather, Wawrzyn-

iak gets DeLamielleure to talk about his growing up as one of 10 children in the small Detroit suburb of Center Line, Michigan, in a house with just one bathroom and one bathtub.

Gifts

►►Continued from page 1

people want to know and understand the teachings of the church and, despite what many people think, they long for and need times of silent reflection and opportunities to serve their communities.

"A church always on the defensive, which loses her humility and stops listening to others, which leaves no room for questions, loses her youth and turns into a museum," Pope Francis wrote. "How, then, will she be able to respond to the dreams of young people?"

Young people have a natural desire to improve the life of the church and the world around them, the pope said. If older people in the church will let the young people try, it will keep the church youthful, too.

"Let us ask the Lord to free the church from those who would make her grow old, encase her in the past, hold her back or keep her at a standstill," Pope Francis wrote.

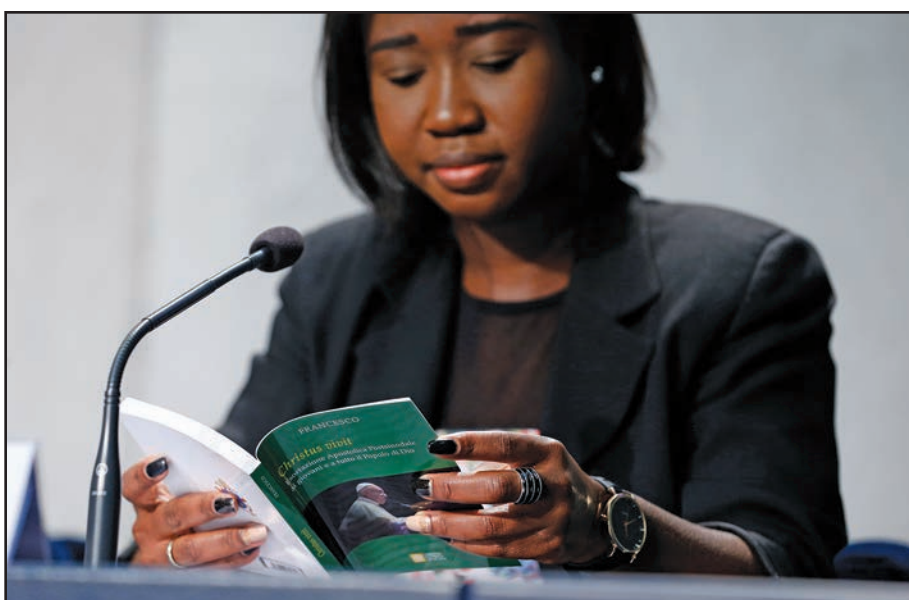
"But let us also ask him to free her from another temptation: that of thinking she is young because she accepts everything the world offers her, thinking that she is renewed because she sets her message aside and acts like everybody else."

The core of the pope's message to young people was that they remember they are loved by God and saved by Jesus, who continues to live and act in the world and in their lives.

"His love is so real, so true, so concrete, that it invites us to a relationship of openness and fruitful dialogue," even when one is angry with God, the pope said.

"He does not get upset if you share your questions with him. He is concerned when you don't talk to him, when you are not open to dialogue with him."

Drawing on the final documents from the synod and from a presynod gathering



Laphidil Oppong Twumasi, a youth leader from Ghana, reads Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, "Christus Vivit" (Christ Lives), during a news conference for its presentation at the Vatican April 2. (CNS photo/CNS photo/Paul Haring)

of young people in Rome, Pope Francis urged parishes and dioceses to rethink their young and young adult programs and to make changes based on what young people themselves say they want and need.

"Young people need to be approached with the grammar of love, not by being preached at," he said.

"The language that young people understand is spoken by those who radiate life, by those who are there for them and with them. And those who, for all their limitations and weaknesses, try to live their faith with integrity."

Directly addressing young people, he said, "Take risks, even if it means making mistakes. Don't go through life anesthetized or approach the world like tourists. Make a ruckus."

And, he told them, reach out to other young people, do not be afraid to mention

Jesus, and to invite friends to church or a church-sponsored activity.

"With the same love that Christ pours out on us," the pope said, "we can love him in turn and share his love with others in the hope that they too will take their place in the community of friendship he established."

Youth ministry cannot be elitist or focused only on the teens and young adults already active in the church's life, he said. It must be "a process that is gradual, respectful, patient, hopeful, tireless and compassionate," as Jesus was when he walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Parents, pastors and spiritual guides must have "the ability to discern pathways where others only see walls, to recognize potential where others see only peril. That is how God the Father see things; he knows how to cherish and

nurture the seeds of goodness sown in the hearts of the young."

"Each young person's heart should thus be considered 'holy ground,' a bearer of seeds of divine life, before which we must 'take off our shoes' in order to draw near and enter more deeply into the mystery."

A long section of the document is focused on discerning one's vocation, which, he said, always is a call to serve God and serve others, but always in a unique way.

Discovering one's vocation, he said, "has to do with finding our true selves in the light of God and letting our lives flourish and bear fruit."

For most young people, that will mean marrying, forming a family and working, the pope said.

"Within the vocation to marriage we should acknowledge and appreciate that 'sexuality, sex, is a gift from God. It is not taboo. It is a gift from God, a gift the Lord gives us,'" he wrote.

Sexuality "has two purposes: to love and to generate life. It is passion, passionate love. True love is passionate. Love between a man and a woman, when it is passionate, always leads to giving life. Always. To give life with body and soul."

Pope Francis also encouraged young people not to dismiss out of hand the fact that God may be calling them to priesthood or religious life.

God's call to each person is individual, made-to-measure just for him or her, the pope said, so discovering that call can be done only with calm, silence, prayer and the wise help of someone who truly knows how to listen and ask the right questions.

A vocation, he said, is a gift that "will help you live to the full and become someone who benefits others, someone who leaves a mark in life; it will surely be a gift that will bring you more joy and excitement than anything else in this world."

House, Pro-Life Leaders Back Discharge Petition on Born-Alive Bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Rep. Ann Wagner, R-Missouri, spoke to the crowd of journalists and activists gathered before her: "I came to Congress to be a voice for the voiceless and ... with the Born-Alive Act ... today we will finally start the process of bringing this vote to the floor."

At a news conference April 2 outside the House of Representatives, Minority Whip Steve Scalise, R-Louisiana, Wagner and a handful of their Republican colleagues announced that they would be filing a discharge petition for the embattled Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, a move that will bring the bill to the floor of the House for a vote if the petition receives signatures from a simple majority of House members.

A discharge petition is a means of bringing a bill out of committee and to the floor for consideration without a report from the committee by "discharging" the committee from further consideration of a bill or resolution.

The legislation has stalled in the Senate, and the leadership in the Democrat-controlled House has prevented the bill from being brought to a vote multiple times. The Senate version was written by Ben Sasse, R-Nebraska, and the House version by Wagner.

Scalise related to the crowd gathered outside the House that his constituents are shocked that such a bill is even needed.

"When I say we need to bring this bill to the floor for a vote, the first thing people say is, 'How is it legal in America to kill a baby after it has been born alive outside the womb?' ... It's shocking. ...



Minority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., speaks during a news conference outside the House of Representatives in Washington April 2. (CNS photo/Handout)

It's something no American should stand for," the congressman remarked.

He continued by mentioning that this sort of legislation frequently creates bipartisan consensus: "When you talk to people from every walk of life — Republicans, Democrats ... and yes, even most pro-choice Americans recognize that a baby born alive outside the womb should have full protection under law."

The legislation, H.R. 962, requires that any child born alive after an abortion attempt be afforded "the same degree" of care that would apply "to any other child born alive at the same gestational age."

The bill does not dictate bona fide medical judgments nor require futile measures, but rather requires that babies born alive during abortions are treated in the same manner as those babies spontaneously born prematurely.

While existing federal legislation technically confers personhood on those delivered during abortions, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would institute a higher standard of medical care for abortion survivors, care that many pro-life advocates say would turn the tables in favor of life for them.

Also important among its provisions

are clauses that require all violations to be reported, and language that holds practitioners accountable by instituting fines or jail time for those who do not deliver the proper medical aid.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-California, stepped up afterward to describe the Democrats' efforts in stonewalling the bill.

"Twenty-five ... 25 is the number of times we've heard 'no' from the Democrats who are leading the House," McCarthy said, "Today everything changes. ... No longer can those who belong to Congress hide behind the Democratic leadership and say they did not have an opportunity to vote."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, called it "humane, pro-child, human rights legislation" that needs to be voted on "now."

He also emphasized the bill is clear "that no mother of a child born alive can ever be prosecuted. And it empowers the woman upon whom the abortion is performed to obtain appropriate relief in a civil action."

After the news conference, House members planned to begin gathering the 218 signatures needed on the discharge petition.

"I strongly urge all representatives to sign this petition, and then vote for the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act," said the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"This bill would add specific requirements to help ensure that babies born alive after an abortion attempt can have a fair shot at life."