

Pope Issues New Norms on Mandatory Abuse Reporting, Bishop Accountability

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis has revised and clarified norms and procedures for holding bishops and religious superiors accountable in protecting minors, as well as in protecting members of religious orders and seminarians from abuse.

The new juridical instrument is meant to help bishops and religious leaders around the world clearly understand their duties and church law, underlining how they are ultimately responsible for proper

governance and protecting those entrusted to their care.

For this reason, the new document establishes a clearer set of universal procedures for reporting suspected abuse, carrying out initial investigations and protecting victims and whistleblowers.

The new document, given "motu proprio," on the pope's own initiative, was titled "Vos estis lux mundi" ("You are the light of the world"), based on a verse from the Gospel of St. Matthew (5:14).

"The crimes of sexual abuse offend Our Lord, cause physical, psychological and spiritual damage to the victims and harm the community of the faithful," the pope said in the document, released by the Vatican May 9. The norms go into effect June 1.

To stop all forms of abuse from ever happening again, not only is "a continuous and profound conversion of



Pope Francis prays in front of a candle in memory of victims of sexual abuse as he visits St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral in Dublin Aug. 25, 2018. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

hearts" necessary, there must be "concrete and effective actions that involve everyone in the church," he wrote.

Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the

Congregation for Bishops, said the new norms ascribe a new role to heads of dio-

Please see ABUSE page 27 ▶▶



Bishop Schlert @BishopSchlert

I welcome Pope Francis's worldwide directive to the Church as an important step in holding Bishops accountable. I will be in attendance next month as U.S. Bishops meet to focus on accountability, ...

8:25 AM - 9 May 2019

Bishop Schlert @BishopSchlert · 17s and I have already pledged to hold myself accountable as I continue to fulfill my grave responsibility to keep children safe.

Bishop Schlert to Ordain Transitional Deacon May 18

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

"Truly I must acknowledge at this moment in my life that what God has worked in me has not been what I would have expected, but this is because God's plans for me are greater than I could ever have imagined," said Juan Eduardo Rodriguez, who will soon be serving the Diocese of Allentown as a transitional deacon.

Bishop Alfred Schlert will administer the Sacrament of Ordination by ordaining Rodriguez a transitional deacon during the Rite of Ordination to the Diaconate Saturday, May 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown.

As a transitional deacon, Rodriguez will share God's word, bring Viaticum to the dying, celebrate funerals, assist with and bless marriages, baptize, instruct people in the faith and perform works of charity.

"The Diocese is very happy and proud to be ordaining Juan Eduardo to the Dia-

conate. He truly has a servant-leader's heart, which characterizes our Lord's call to service, most especially in the ordained ministry of the deacon. I know he will bring a great deal of joy and zeal to his ministry and his assignment," said Father Christopher Butera, Diocesan director of seminarian formation and administrator of Sacred Heart, Bath.

"The timing of God is perfect, and with the help of God's grace, I will be ordained a transitional deacon of the Catholic Church for the Diocese of Allentown," said Rodriguez, who is of Dominican origin. "I have recently finished, with the grace of God, my third year of



Rodriguez

theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

"I hope to receive from God the grace of his help. These words may sound easy, but the reality of asking for the grace of God's help is not something that is always easy to do. After all, we, as humans, want to be self-sufficient, but we are called to be humble and recognize that we are not really capable of doing anything on our own.

"We all need the grace of God's help to live our particular vocations to God.

"Asking for God's help is something that must be affirmed with courage every day and learned every day, especially in my case as a transitional deacon. This can

be done by, first of all, recognizing that God is the one who knows how much help I will need and what I can accomplish with his grace.

"This is because only God knows better than we do our family history, our experiences and a thousand other variables that contribute to the unique picture of our dependence on the divine."

Rodriguez, 46, was born and raised in the Dominican Republic.

After graduating from Liceo Nocturno Los Alcarizos High School, Santo Domingo in 1992, he graduated as a graphic designer

Please see DEACON page 3 ▶▶

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Families Invited to Vocations Holy Hour for 3 Priest Candidates

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert invites families in the Diocese of Allentown to a Vocations Holy Hour Friday, May 31 at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, 1825 W. Turner St., Allentown – in prayer for the transitional deacons to be ordained to the priesthood the next day, Saturday, June 1 – and a Diocesan Act of Consecration to the Blessed Mother.

Details on page 4.



As part of the Catholic Press, The A.D. Times is the official newspaper for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Allentown, serving Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill counties.

Published biweekly or triweekly on Thursdays by Allentown Catholic Communications, Inc. at P.O. Box F Allentown, PA 18105-1538
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DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN MISSION STATEMENT

A Roman Catholic Family of Faith, centered in the Holy Eucharist, faithful to the Church's teaching, bringing the Light of Christ to each other and to our community.



POLICY STATEMENTS

The A.D. Times will consider all editorial copy and photos submitted in a fair and objective manner. The newspaper reserves the right to reject or edit any submission. Any advertising copy accepted does not necessarily reflect the views, opinions or endorsement of The A.D. Times and/or its publisher. The A.D. Times reserves the right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

DEADLINES

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

MEMBERSHIPS

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1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005,
2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015,
2016, 2017, 2018

POSTAL INFORMATION

The A.D. Times (USPS 004-111) is published on Thursdays, biweekly January to May; triweekly June to September; biweekly October to November; and triweekly in December, at a subscription cost of \$20 per year by Allentown Catholic Communications, Inc. at 1515 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Allentown, PA 18102-4500. Periodicals Postage paid at Allentown, PA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The A.D. Times, P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538

Because We Are Catholic

Lay Advisory Board Oversees Spending of Bishop's Annual Appeal Donations

By PAUL WIRTH
Diocesan Communications Staff

As a member of the Bishop's Annual Appeal Trust Advisory Board, Marian Carty of Palmerton helps ensure that every dollar donated to the appeal is spent appropriately.

"The Bishop's Annual Appeal plays a key role in the Diocese of Allentown," says Carty. "The appeal enables us to care for every member of our community, in all five counties of the Diocese, which we do 'Because We Are Catholic.'"

The Trust Advisory Board, a group of mostly lay people from across the Diocese, meets regularly to recommend how the money should be spent, and to monitor that spending.

Recently, people have asked if Bishop's Annual Appeal donations would be used to pay the costs of the clergy abuse crisis or to pay settlements for victims.

"No dollars from the appeal are used for any abuse-related expenses," says Carty.

"The Bishop's Annual Appeal is operated with transparency and accountability. The faithful can be assured that their gift is always allocated to the specific charities, educational uses and ministries for which it is intended."



"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.

Upcoming Issues of The A.D. Times

Publication Date	Advertising Deadline	News Deadline
May 30	May 20	May 23
June 20	June 10	June 13
July 11	July 1	July 4
Aug. 1	July 22	July 25
Aug. 22	Aug. 12	Aug. 15
Sept. 12	Sept. 2	Sept. 5
Oct. 3	Sept. 23	Sept. 26
Oct. 17	Oct. 7	Oct. 10
Oct. 31	Oct. 21	Oct. 24
Nov. 14	Nov. 4	Nov. 7
Nov. 28	Nov. 18	Nov. 21
Dec. 19	Dec. 9	Dec. 12

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.



2019 Quo Vadis or Fiat Days July 14-18

Are you wondering what to do with your life? Have you asked the question, "What am I looking for?"

If so, you are not alone. You are in good company because people like St. Andrew and St. John the Evangelist had these same questions and then found the answers in a man who was baptized by John the Baptist and called them to be "fishers of men."

We invite you to join the seminarians of the Diocese of Allentown and Sisters from various women's religious communities at the 2019 Quo Vadis or Fiat Days

at DeSales University from Sunday, July 14 to Thursday, July 18.

Quo Vadis and Fiat Days are open to young men and women from ages 14 to 18 (including the newly graduated).

This five-day event will include time for personal and group prayer, Mass and other Catholic devotions, talks by priests and religious sisters, and sports and other activities.



Registration materials are available at www.allentowndiocese.org. Click on the vocations information link. Spaces are limited so act fast.

THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONS PRESENTS

QUO VADIS

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

THEME **CALLED TO BE SAINTS**

DESALES UNIVERSITY
Meals and lodging provided
Scholarships available

SUN, JULY 14 TO THURS, JULY 18, 2019

A vocations event for high school-aged young men (14-18 years of age, including newly-graduated seniors) to participate in activities rooted in prayer, catechesis, evangelization and mentoring.

REGISTRATION
Early registration: \$60 before June 14
After June 14, registration \$85
REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 28
No late registrations.
No walk-ins.

THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONS PRESENTS

FIAT DAYS

THEME **CALLED TO BE SAINTS**




DESALES UNIVERSITY
Meals and lodging provided
Scholarships available

SUN, JULY 14 TO THURS, JULY 18, 2019

A vocations event for high school-aged young women (14-18 years of age, including newly-graduated seniors) to participate in activities rooted in prayer, catechesis, evangelization and mentoring.

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After June 14, registration \$85
REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 28
No late registrations.
No walk-ins.

2019 en Quo Vadis y Fiat 14-18 de Julio

¿Te has preguntado qué hacer con tu vida? Te has hecho la pregunta, "¿qué estoy buscando?"

Si es así, no estás solo. Estas en buena compañía porque personas como San Andrés y San Juan el evangelista tuvieron las mismas preguntas y luego encontraron las respuestas en un hombre que fue bautizado por Juan el bautista y los llamo a ser "pescador de hombres."

Te invitamos a unirte a los seminaristas de la diócesis de Allentown y a las hermanas de varias comunidades religiosas en el retiro del 2019 en Quo Vadis y Fiat en la Universidad de Desales, del do-

mingo 14 de julio al jueves 18 de julio.

Quo Vadis y Fiat están abiertos a hombres y mujeres jóvenes de entre 14 y 18 años (incluidos los recién graduados).

Este evento de cinco días incluirá tiempo para la oración personal y grupal, Misa y otras devociones Católicas, charlas de sacerdotes y religiosas y deportes y otras actividades.

Los materiales de inscripción están disponibles en www.allentowndiocese.org. Haga clic en el enlace de información de vocaciones. Los espacios son limitados, así que actúe rápido.

Deacon

►Continued from page 1

from the University of Santo Domingo in 1997 with a degree in graphic design.

"From a very young age, I was raised and educated in the Catholic faith. When I was a teenager, I was an altar server. And when I was a young adult, I served as a catechist, lector and singer. As an adult, I served as the religious education officer of my parish in the Dominican Republic," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez is the son of Eduardo and Juana Rodriguez of Allentown.

"I am the second of three siblings to Martin Rodriguez and Rosa Rodriguez. Two other brothers who are a gift from God are Chelsea Moronta and Alexander Garcia. In Allentown I have many relatives, friends, and brothers and sisters in the faith. I have been a member of St. Paul, Allentown since I immigrated to the United States of America in 2007," he said.

"I thank God for all the angels that the Lord has placed on this path of discernment and vocational training because without the help of them, I believe that it would not have been possible to reach this day on which, by the grace of God, I will be ordained as a transitional deacon to serve at the Lord's table and, through the celebration of the sacraments, to serve the holy people of God who are pilgrims in the Catholic Church of Allentown. God bless us."

'Yo Seré Ordenado Como Diácono Transitorio'

El tiempo de Dios es perfecto, y con la ayuda de la gracia de Dios, ¡Yo seré ordenado como Diácono Transitorio de la Iglesia Católica para la Diócesis de Allentown! Hola, soy Juan Eduardo Rodríguez.

Soy de origen dominicano, soy seminarista de nuestra Diócesis de Allentown y recientemente finalicé, con la gracia de Dios, mi tercer año de Teología en el Seminario Mount St. Mary en Emmitsburg, Md.

Yo seré ordenado como Diácono Transitorio por la imposición de las manos de nuestro Obispo Alfred A. Schlert el próximo sábado, 18 de mayo, a las 10:30 am en la Catedral de Santa Catalina de Siena, Allentown.

Yo debo reconocer realmente que en este momento de mi vida que lo que Dios ha trabajado en mí ha superado mis expectativas y esto se debe a que los planes de Dios para mí son mayores de lo que jamás yo podría haber imaginado.

Espero recibir de Dios la gracia de su ayuda. Pedir la ayuda de Dios, estas palabras pueden sonar fáciles, pero la realidad de pedir la gracia de la ayuda de Dios no es algo que siempre sea fácil de hacer. Después de todo, nosotros, como seres humanos, queremos ser autosuficientes, pero estamos llamados a ser humildes y reconocer que realmente no somos capaces de hacer nada por nuestra cuenta.

Todos necesitamos la gracia de la ayuda de Dios para vivir nuestras vocaciones particulares a la que Dios nos llama. Pedir la ayuda de Dios es algo que debe afirmarse con coraje todos los días y aprender todos los días, especialmente en mi caso como Diácono Transitorio.

Esto se puede hacer en cualquier tipo de vocación, en primer lugar, si nosotros reconocemos que Dios es el que sabe cuánta ayuda necesitamos y lo que podemos lograr con su gracia. Esto se debe a que solo Dios sabe mejor que nosotros nuestra historia familiar, nuestras experiencias y miles de otras variables que contribuyen a la imagen única de nuestra dependencia de lo divino.

Yo nací y crecí en la República Dominicana. Después de la secundaria, me gradué como diseñador gráfico en la Universidad Pública de Santo Domingo la República Dominicana (UASD).

Desde muy joven, fui criado y educado en la fe católica. Cuando era adolescente, era un servidor del altar (monaguillo), y cuando yo era un joven adulto, serví como catequista, lector y cantaba en el coro parroquial. Como adulto, me desempeñé como el encargado de educación religiosa de mi parroquia en la República Dominicana.

Mis padres son el Sr. Eduardo Rodríguez y la Sra. Juana Rodríguez. Soy el segundo de tres hermanos: Martín Rodríguez y Rosa Rodríguez. Tengo otros dos hermanos que son un regalo de Dios como digo yo: Chelsea Moronta y Alexander García.

En Allentown tengo muchos familiares, amigos y hermanos en la fe. He sido miembro de la Parroquia St. Paul en Allentown, PA, desde que emigré a los Estados Unidos de América en 2007.

Doy gracias a Dios por todos los ángeles que el Señor ha puesto en este camino de discernimiento y formación vocacional, porque sin la ayuda de ellos creo que no hubiera sido posible llegar a este día en que por la gracia de Dios seré ordenado como diácono transitorio para servir en la mesa del Señor y a través de celebración de los sacramentos al pueblo santo de Dios que peregrina en la Iglesia Católica de Allentown. Que Dios nos bendiga.

JOIN US FOR A VOCATIONS HOLY HOUR

led by Bishop Alfred A. Schlert
In PRAYER for the
transitional DEACONS to be
ordained to the PRIESTHOOD

-And-

A Diocesan Act of Consecration
to the Blessed Mother

7 P.M.—MAY 31, 2019

Cathedral of
St. Catharine of Siena
1825 W. Turner, Allentown, PA



Bishop Schlert invites families in the Diocese of Allentown to join him in prayer for the three transitional deacons to be ordained to the priesthood on June 1, 2019: Rev. Mr. Giuseppe C. Esposito, Rev. Mr. John C. Maria and Rev. Mr. Zachary R. Wehr.

In addition, our Diocese is uniting with Flame of Love in the "Coast to Coast Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary."

The consecration date of May 31st is the commemoration of three Marian feasts: Feast of the Visitation, The Lady of All Nations and Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces.

For details on the unified consecration, visit www.flameoflove.us



Healing OUR Church

A pastoral response to the sexual-abuse crisis

Thank you!



“Many people have told me they would like a forum to discuss their reactions to the sexual abuse crisis in the comfort of their home parish. 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. Thank you to the pastors and administrators across the Diocese of Allentown who have agreed to hold ‘Healing Our Church’ sessions at their own parish or in cooperation with nearby parishes.”

– Bishop Alfred Schlert



Berks Deanery

Boyertown, St. Columbkil – Father Martin Kern, Pastor.
 Douglassville, Immaculate Conception BVM – Monsignor John McCann, Pastor.
 Hamburg, St. Mary – Father Donald Cieniewicz, Pastor.
 Kutztown, St. Mary – Monsignor Walter Scheaffer, Pastor.
 Mohnton, St. Benedict – Father Philip Rodgers, Pastor.
 Reading, Holy Guardian Angels – Father Robert Finlan, Pastor.
 Reading, Holy Rosary – Monsignor Joseph DeSantis, Pastor.
 Reading, St. Catharine of Siena – Monsignor Edward Domin, Pastor.
 Reading, St. Mary (worship site of St. Catharine of Siena, Reading – Monsignor Edward Domin, Pastor).
 Reading, St. Peter the Apostle – Monsignor Thomas Orsulak, Pastor.
 Robesonia, St. Francis de Sales – Father Edward Essig, Pastor.
 Sinking Spring, St. Ignatius Loyola – Father Thomas Bortz, Pastor.
 West Reading, Sacred Heart – Monsignor Joseph DeSantis, Pastor.

Carbon Deanery

Lake Harmony, St. Peter the Fisherman – Monsignor John Chizmar, Pastor.
 Lehigh, SS. Peter and Paul – Father William Seifert, Administrator.
 Palmerton, Sacred Heart – Father William Champion, Pastor.

Lehigh Deanery

Allentown, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena – Monsignor Francis Schoenauer, Pastor.
 Allentown, Immaculate Conception BVM – Father John Gibbons, Administrator.
 Allentown, Sacred Heart of Jesus – Father John Gibbons, Pastor.
 Allentown, St. Francis of Assisi – Monsignor Victor Finelli, Pastor.
 Allentown, St. John the Baptist – Father Gregory Karpyn, Administrator.
 Allentown, St. Paul – Father Michael Mullins, Pastor.
 Allentown, St. Thomas More – Monsignor John Murphy, Pastor.
 Allentown, SS. Peter and Paul – Father Gregory Karpyn, Administrator.
 Catasauqua, Annunciation BVM – Father John Krivak, Pastor.
 Coplay, St. Peter – Monsignor John Martin, Pastor.
 Emmaus, St. Ann – Monsignor Edward Coyle, Pastor.
 Northampton, Assumption BVM – Monsignor Thomas Koons, Pastor.
 Orefield, St. Joseph the Worker – Monsignor Robert Wargo, Pastor.
 Whitehall, Holy Trinity – Monsignor Daniel Yenushosky, Pastor.
 Whitehall, St. John the Baptist – Monsignor Gerald Gobitas, Pastor.

Northampton Deanery

Bangor, Our Lady of Good Counsel – Father Stephen Maco, Pastor.
 Bethlehem, Assumption BVM – Monsignor Nevin Klinger, Pastor.
 Bethlehem, Holy Ghost – Father David Kozak, Administrator.
 Bethlehem, Holy Infancy – Father Andrew Gehringer, Pastor.
 Bethlehem, Incarnation of Our Lord – Father David Kozak, Administrator.
 Bethlehem, Notre Dame of Bethlehem – Monsignor Thomas Baddick, Pastor.
 Bethlehem, Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Monsignor Edward Sacks, Pastor.
 Bethlehem, Sacred Heart – Father Robert George, Pastor.
 Bethlehem, St. Anne – Father Anthony Mongiello, Pastor (“Listening Circle”).
 Bethlehem, SS. Simon and Jude – Monsignor William Baver, Pastor.
 Easton, Our Lady of Mercy – Father Keith Laskowski, Pastor.
 Easton, St. Anthony of Padua – Father Stanley Moczydlowski, Pastor.
 Easton, St. Jane Frances de Chantal – Monsignor Stephen Radocha, Pastor.
 Hellertown, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus – Father Jerome Tauber, Pastor.
 Martins Creek, St. Rocco – Father Joseph Kweder, Pastor.
 Nazareth, Holy Family – Father Joseph Tobias, M.S.C., Pastor.
 Pen Argyl, St. Elizabeth of Hungary – Monsignor Vincent York, Pastor.
 Roseto, Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Father James Prior, C.M., Pastor.
 Walnutport, St. Nicholas – Monsignor Thomas Derzack, Pastor.

Schuylkill Deanery

Ashland, St. Charles Borromeo – Father Paul Rothermel, Pastor.
 Barnesville, St. Richard – Father Francis Baransky, Pastor.
 McAdoo, All Saints – Monsignor William Baker, Pastor.
 Minersville, St. Matthew the Evangelist – Father Leo Maletz, Pastor.
 Minersville, St. Michael the Archangel – Father Christopher Zelonis, Pastor.
 New Philadelphia, Holy Cross – Father Ronald Minner, Pastor.
 Port Carbon, St. Stephen – Monsignor William Glosser, Administrator.
 Pottsville, St. John the Baptist – Father David Loeper, Pastor.
 Pottsville, St. Patrick – Monsignor Edward O’Connor, Pastor.
 Ringtown, St. Mary – Father Eric Tolentino, Administrator.
 St. Clair, St. Clare of Assisi – Monsignor William Glosser, Pastor.
 Schuylkill Haven, St. Ambrose – Monsignor Edward Zemanik, Pastor.
 Shenandoah, Divine Mercy – Monsignor Ronald Bocian, Pastor.
 Sheppton, St. Joseph – Father Eric Tolentino, Administrator.
 Tremont, Most Blessed Trinity – Father Jason Stokes, Pastor.

NFL Pro Talks Addiction and Recovery at DeSales University

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

DeSales University, Center Valley faced the opioid epidemic and addiction crisis April 25 with stories from a pro football hall of famer and a Catholic school alumnus, who both experienced success before turning to cocaine, alcohol, heroine and pain killers.

Former National Football League player Cris Carter and Joe Ashdale, a talented athlete and alumnus of Father Judge High School, Philadelphia, were on hand at the University Center to share their love of sports and their descent into drugs and alcohol.

Along with athleticism and addiction, both men are also affiliated with Ambrosia Treatment Center, Florida, for whom Carter is a spokesperson and where Ashdale sought treatment and is now the resident manager.

Carter, one of seven children who grew up poor and raised by a single mother, said Ohio State University awarded him a football scholarship and sent a car for him the morning after his high school graduation.

During his junior year he was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles under Coach James David "Buddy" Ryan with a \$1 million contract and flourished as one of the top wide receivers in the league.

What few people knew was that Carter had become a full-blown drug addict off the field.

"I was trying to cop dope every night," he said.

After games and practices he would maneuver the streets of South Philadelphia and Camden, New Jersey in his luxury car looking for drugs.



Former National Football League player, Cris Carter, who was abruptly cut from the Philadelphia Eagles after one season, shares his story of addiction at DeSales University, Center Valley. (Photos by John Simitz)

"One time a guy came over to my car. He gave me the drugs and I gave him the money. He recognized and swiped my Eagles hat off my head. There was nothing I could do. I couldn't even run after him," said Carter.

Unable to make the drive back to his plush home in Cherry Hill, Carter said he would often sleep in his car in the parking lot of Veterans Stadium and ask workers to wake him up when the stadium opened.

His use of ecstasy, alcohol and crack caught up with him, forcing Ryan to shock the football world and cut Carter from the team on Labor Day 1990.

"Most guys didn't know I was an

addict – but Ryan did. It was the worst day of my life when he cut me. He told me that he didn't trust addicts," recalled Carter.

"After starting 38 games, an equipment guy handed me a garbage bag to clean out my locker. I remember crying while driving over the Walt Whitman Bridge," he said.

Although Carter said he was already clean for six months before being cut, Ryan still released him and he was immediately picked up by the Minnesota Vikings.

While it was one of the worst days of his life, Carter said Ryan did him a huge favor by cutting him, never speaking about his addiction and telling the press, "All he does is catch touchdowns."

"That's how my life changed. It changed in one day," said Carter.

"I had to change. When you are involved in substance abuse – people can't trust you. That's what we do. That's what addiction looks like. But today, I am 28 years, seven months and four days sober."

Carter also said that no one should ever say "I won't drink or do drugs ever again" and take recovery one day at a time.

"People have to get it in their minds that people have addictions and they deserve the help that is out there," he said.

Ashdale, who was raised with two sisters and one brother by loving parents, said he wasn't interested in getting help after getting drunk for the first time when he was 13 to impress older friends.

Never waking up with a hangover, he

said there was no way to predict that he would become an addict since he was blessed with a loving family and never suffered trauma.

His descent into addiction increased by buying Percocet from a fellow student who just had his wisdom teeth removed.

Despite binge drinking and blacking out, he excelled at baseball and academics.

"On paper, everyone loved 'Joey,'" he said.

Ashdale was also the kid who outdrank everyone, wanted the spotlight on him and was rolling in kegs of beer after his parents went out for the evening.

Accepting a baseball scholarship from Gwynedd Mercy University, Philadelphia, Ashdale said his roommate became his "live in" pharmacist after he suffered a knee injury.

Unable to play baseball, he walked onto the golf team and was elected class president – and maintained his alcohol and drug habit.

During his senior year he rarely attended class and was stealing to afford his addiction.

Then he was called to Student Services, where he was surprised to find his father and the dean of students waiting to tell him to leave the university.

In and out of rehabilitation centers, Ashdale forged and cashed checks belonging to his sister, stole cards from a christening party, and gave stolen and inactive gift cards to family members as Christmas gifts.

"I ruined my family name. Friends were angry at me. I didn't get invited anywhere. I had no conscience," he said.

Ashdale finally hit rock bottom when he called a friend from a bridge that he was threatening to leap from.

"He came and got me, and I was in recovery at Ambrosia in less than a day," he said.

In recovery, Ashdale learned life skills and got a job cleaning rugs before becoming Ambrosia's resident manager after five years of sobriety.

"For me, I don't know why I became a drug addict or an alcoholic. I had everything I needed as a kid," he said.

As a recovering addict, Ashdale said he still has everything he needs.

"I have sobriety, a beautiful wife, a daughter and one on the way," he said.

The evening also featured representatives from Kolbe Academy, Bethlehem the first Catholic recovery school in the nation and a mock teen bedroom to show where kids commonly stash drugs and alcohol, sponsored by the Center for Humanistic Change.



Joe Ashdale, resident manager at Ambrosia Treatment Center, Florida, discusses his struggle with drug and alcohol dependency and how he overcame addiction.

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 Christi Commission," Twitter @ADLumenChristi and Instagram @adlumenchristi.

The hotline is at 610-871-5200 option 1 for Lumen Christi. For questions or more information, email ADLumenChristi@allentowndioocese.org.

For more information about the May 20 event, call St. Francis Church at 610-433-6102 or visit www.stfrancisallentown.org.



Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 Confirmation Schedule

The diocesan Office of Divine Worship has announced the 2019-20 confirmation schedule as follows. All confirmations will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 1 – Most Blessed Sacrament, Bally and St. Columbkil, Boyertown.

Wednesday, Oct. 2 – St. Stephen of Hungary, Allentown.

Thursday, Oct. 3 – Holy Guardian Angels, Reading and St. Joseph, Reading.

Tuesday, Oct. 8 – St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring and St. Francis de Sales, Robesonia.

Wednesday, Oct. 9 – Immaculate Conception BVM, Douglassville.

Wednesday, Oct. 16 – Holy Family, Nazareth.

Thursday, Oct. 17 – St. Catharine of Siena, Reading.

Tuesday, Oct. 22 – Sacred Heart, Palmerton; Assumption BVM, Slatington; and St. Nicholas, Walnutport.

Wednesday, Oct. 23 – St. Charles Borromeo, Ashland and St. Joseph, Frackville.

Thursday, Oct. 24 – Divine Mercy, Shenandoah; St. Joseph, Sheppton; St. Mary, Ringtown; St. Teresa of Calcutta,

Mahanoy City; and St. Richard, Barnesville.

Tuesday, Oct. 29 – Our Lady of Mercy, Easton and St. Anthony of Padua, Easton.

Wednesday, Oct. 30 – Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Roseto and Our Lady of Good Counsel, Bangor.

Tuesday, Nov. 19 – Sacred Heart, Bath.

Wednesday, Nov. 20 – St. John Baptist de la Salle, Shillington and St. Benedict, Mohnton.

Thursday, Nov. 21 – Sacred Heart, West Reading and Holy Rosary, Reading.

Tuesday, Dec. 3 – St. Margaret, Reading and St. Paul, Reading.

Wednesday, Dec. 4 – St. Peter, Reading.

Tuesday, Dec. 10 – Snow date.

Tuesday, Feb. 4 – Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, St. Paul and St. Francis of Assisi, all Allentown.

Wednesday, Feb. 5 – Immaculate Conception BVM, Our Lady Help of Christians, St. John the Baptist, and SS. Peter and Paul, all Allentown.

Thursday, Feb. 6 – Holy Trinity and St. John the Baptist, both Whitehall; St. Peter, Coplay.

Tuesday, Feb. 11 – Sacred Heart of Je-

sus, Allentown.

Thursday, Feb. 13 – St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall and Annunciation BVM, Catasauqua.

Tuesday, Feb. 18 – Notre Dame of Bethlehem.

Wednesday, Feb. 19 – St. Anne, Bethlehem.

Thursday, Feb. 27 – St. Thomas More, Allentown.

Tuesday, March 3 – Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bethlehem.

Wednesday, March 4 – St. Rocco, Martins Creek and St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Pen Argyl.

Thursday, March 5 – Assumption BVM and Queenship of Mary, both Northampton; St. John Fisher, Catasauqua.

Tuesday, March 10 – St. Ann, Emmaus.

Wednesday, March 11 – St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield.

Thursday, March 12 – St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown; St. Ursula, Fountain Hill; Sacred Heart, Holy Ghost, Incarnation of Our Lord, and SS. Simon and Jude, all Bethlehem.

Tuesday, March 17 – St. Jane Frances

de Chantal, Easton.

Thursday, March 19 – Assumption BVM, Bethlehem.

Tuesday, March 24 – St. Joseph, Coopersburg.

Wednesday, March 25 – All Saints, McAdoo and St. John XXIII, Tamaqua.

Thursday, March 26 – St. Mary, Hamburg and St. Mary, Kutztown.

Tuesday, March 31 – Holy Infancy, Bethlehem.

Thursday, April 2 – St. Joseph, Summit Hill.

Tuesday, April 21 – St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven.

Thursday, April 23 – St. Peter the Fisherman, Lake Harmony; SS. Peter and Paul, Lehigh; Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph, both Jim Thorpe.

Tuesday, April 28 – Most Blessed Trinity, Tremont; St. Matthew the Evangelist and St. Michael the Archangel, both Minersville.

Wednesday, April 29 – St. Clare of Assisi, St. Clair; Holy Cross, New Philadelphia; St. Stephen, Port Carbon; St. John the Baptist and St. Patrick, both Pottsville.

Thursday, April 30 – Snow date.

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Twenty-eighth Annual We Are Remembered Mass

Diocese of Allentown

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

St. John the Baptist Church, Allentown

Mass was offered for children who have died and any who have died tragically. Especially remembered were those who died by murder, suicide or accident. All who grieve the loss of a loved one are invited to join the ministry.

A
 † All Aborted Babies
 Edwin V. Adamczak
 Mary T. Adamec
 Kathryn (Messina) Ahearn
 Herbert V. Aigner
 Marcella F. Aigner
 Stephen J. Aigner
 Anthony Alesin
 Thelma Alesin
 Robert "Bob" Ames
 Maureen Aneskevich
 Patricia Arey
 William Arey
 Arner Family
 Paul R. Arnold
 Eric Artz
 Robert J. Augustine
 Robert T. Ayers

B
 George Babyonias
 Natalie Babyonias
 Clara Badesso
 Helen M. Balik
 Joseph Balik
 Michael Balik
 Edward & Mary Bankos
 Frank Barnak
 James M. Barnak
 Lucy M. Barnak
 Diane J. Bean
 Cyndi Belcak
 Catherine Bellizzi
 James J. Bellizzi
 Eleanor Benek
 William Benek
 Michael Berish
 Rose Berish
 Rosemary Berish
 Carlos M. Berra
 † Sr. Mary Bertille, RSM
 Rebecca Bierman
 Donald G. Biery
 Brooke Ann (Artz) Billman
 Anna Billowitch
 Kenny R. Bird
 Mr. & Mrs. Russell Bird
 Kathryn Blamar
 Edward Blasko
 Greg Bogner
 Joseph Bolinsky Jr.
 Michele Bolinsky
 Tpr. Matthew R. Bond
 Raymond & Laura
 Bonenberger
 Mark J. Bonshak
 Scott Borascius
 Stanley Borascius Jr.
 Borini Family
 Jim & Mike Borrell
 Jim Bortz
 Christopher Bowen
 David R. Bowman
 Augusta Boyer
 † Msgr. John Boyle
 Al Bredbenner
 Brian Bredbenner
 Justin Bredbenner
 Bob Brennan
 Kevin Brennan
 Emma Brosky
 Jackie Brosky
 Mike Brosky
 Brian Brusok
 Betty Buchmiller
 † Fr. James Burdiss
 Regina Burkner
 Matthew J. Burns
 Frank Butsko

C
 Campo Family
 † Fr. Richard Campo
 Charles H. Campton
 William Candia
 Arthur E. Canone
 Josephine H. Canone
 Jenny Capkovic
 Mary Capkovic
 Steve Capkovic
 William Capkovic
 Anthony Capobianco
 Kathleen Capobianco
 Leonard A. Capuano
 Anna Carden, R.N.
 John Carden, M.D.
 Kevin Carr
 Paul Cary
 Barbara Caserta
 Caroline Caserta
 John Caserta
 Christopher Castetter
 Chaballa Family
 Ron Chelius
 August (Gus) Cherasaro
 Diane M. Cherasaro
 Mark Cherasaro
 Dorothy Chiccine
 Jason Christman
 TFC Blake T. Coble
 Joseph Coogan
 John Henry Craig
 Lawrence Michael Craig
 Linda Cregar
 Keith Creighton
 Jennifer Cresko

Virginia Csencsits
 Carol A. Cunningham
 David Cunningham
 John Curley
 Mary Curley
 Robert Curley
 Jerry Curran Sr.
 Judith A. Curry

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 Douglas Danner
 James Danner
 Eileen Marie Daumer
 Francis Davis
 Donald R. DeLong Sr.
 Mary DeLong
 John Demyan
 † Fr. Bill "Cookie" Dermott
 John M. Deutsch
 Nicholas Deutsch
 Cpl. Bryon K. Dickson, II
 Jane Ann (Torpey) Dinger
 Charles J. Dragotta
 Donald L. Dreisbach
 John Druzba
 Josephine Druzba
 Ronald J. Druzba
 Adam T. Duffy
 Joan Duffy
 Jeff Duke
 Jeffrey N. Dziak

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 Mr. Daniel G. Eagan
 Mr. Edward G. Eagan
 Mr. John P. Eagan
 Jenna Rose Eline
 Randy Endy
 David Ernesti
 James Evolo

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 Ronald Falcone
 J. Julian Familia
 John D. Fegley
 John R. Fegley
 Mark A. Fegley
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 Stephen Glenn Forsyth
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 Wendy Foster
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 Jane Frazier
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 Patricia A. Freyenhagen
 Michael Frinzi
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 Bernard A. Gallagher, Jr.
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 Edward Gillette
 Pauline M. Gilmartin
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 Katharina Glaessmann
 Frank S. Gober
 Paul & Catherine Godiska
 Godiska Family Deceased
 Gwendolyn Goehringer
 Jackie Gornick
 Linda Grady
 Christopher Graham
 Pete Graybar
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Grembowicz
 CPL. Kyle J. Grimes
 Elinor Groller
 Kenneth F. Groller
 Rita Guerrieri
 Donald W. Gutekunst
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H
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 Jean Fisher Hafer
 JoAnn Martin Hafer
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 Mrs. Katherine M. Haggerty
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 John Hrebik Jr.
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 Sharon James
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 William F. & Margaret
 Janowiak Sr.
 William F. Janowiak Jr.
 Raymond Johnson
 Virginia Johnson
 Betty Julo
 Joseph Julo

K
 Joseph Michael Kakalejcik
 Mary Tomchick Kakalejcik
 Albert Kasdorf
 Rosemary Kasdorf
 Virginia Kasdorf
 Cecelia Polito Katona
 Joseph & Elizabeth Katona
 Joseph Katona Jr.
 Steve Katona
 John Patrick Keating
 Tpr. David Kedra
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 Alvin Kemp
 Irene Kemp
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 John J. Kennedy
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 Lynn Weaver
 Dr. Brett Curtis Weber
 Randy Weber
 Gerd "fritz" Weide
 Florence Weikel
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 Laurie Dawn Welsh
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Z
 Charles Zabroski
 Donna Marie Zambrotta
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 Mary Elizabeth Zubia

† All Souls

We apologize for any omissions or errors in our transcription. Please contact us and we will make the needed corrections for all future publications. Thank you.

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

We Are Remembered

28 Years of Shining Hope of Christ Through Grief

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

“How strange this fear of death is. We are never frightened at a sunset.” So wrote George MacDonald (1824-1905), Scottish author, poet and Christian minister.

This thought resonates with the heart of We Are Remembered Ministry, which celebrated its 28th Annual Easter Mass April 24 at St. John the Baptist, Allentown.

Those gathered for the annual liturgy have grief in their hearts, but know they will see their loved ones again because Christ has taken the sting and fear out of death by dying for our sins; the beauty of their loved one remains with them through the hope of Christ, the hope that is central to the ministry’s purpose.

“On the Road to Emmaus, Jesus was present to the disciples, just as he is present to us,” said Father Jim Torpey, celebrant and homilist at the evening liturgy. Father Torpey is advisor to the ministry and instrumental in its founding in the Diocese of Allentown in 1991.

Father Luigi Palmieri, retired to Holy Family Villa, Bethlehem, concelebrated. Deacon William Urbine, who serves Notre Dame of Bethlehem, assisted.

We Are Remembered ministers to all faiths, parents who have lost a child and all who have lost someone to death under tragic circumstances. All who grieve the loss of a family member or friend are welcome.

A total of 611 names were enrolled and remembered at this year’s evening liturgy, attended by approximately 150 people.

We Are Remembered supports those affected by tragedies such as SIDS, suicide, homicide and opioid overdoses.

One of the enrolled this year was Jim

Bortz, who lost his life April 22. He was the brother of Father Tom Bortz, pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring.

Others included in the Book of the Remembered are those whose names were enrolled recently, over the years, as well as who have been remembered since the ministry began, starting with Jim Minter, Bridget Fertal and Dottie Mascari.

Rich and Eileen Badesso, and choral members of Sacred Heart, Bath provided music, including the beautiful song “We Are Remembered,” which Rich Badesso wrote and dedicated to the ministry more than a decade ago.

Carol Fertal served as lector as her husband Ed stood by her side. Their daughter, Bridget Jane’l Fertal, was killed 28 years ago when We Are Remembered began in the Diocese.

Before and after Mass those gathered had the chance to sign the Book of the Remembered and write a note to their loved one.

In his homily, Father Torpey referenced the evening’s Gospel, Luke 24:13-35, The Road to Emmaus, which is always proclaimed at the annual liturgy.

“Words were not necessary to express the heartbreak of the disciples on the Road to Emmaus. And we don’t need to explain to anyone the heartbreak we suffer ... or the hope that endures. That’s the beauty of the celebration of this Gospel on the Road to Emmaus.”

“On The Road to Emmaus, Jesus encourages them to look through the clouds so their hearts would still be open to his message of hope.”



JoAnne Julo places the Book of the Remembered on the altar during the 28th Annual Easter Mass of We Are Remembered Ministry April 24 at St. John the Baptist, Allentown. (Photos by John Simitz)

Father Torpey said the disciples, like us, heard the news about the empty tomb. Christ walking with them was not recognized by “the sun setting on their journey.”

“As in this picture, some of the most amazing sunsets appear not when there are no clouds in the sky – that’s a gift from almighty God,” Father Torpey said as a poster of a sunset photo stood in front

of the pulpit.

The sunset photo was taken by this writer, in my other role as a freelance photographer. It paints flares of a December sunset over a field in Orefield, just off Route 309.

Father Torpey said when there are clouds – losses – such as losing a child,

Please see REMEMBERED page 11 ▶▶



Approximately 150 people attend the evening liturgy.



“Time allows clouds and tears of rain. But in the very gift of the Eucharist we can get a glimpse of the view of God. Our loved ones who have gone can see him clearly,” Father Jim Torpey says in the homily.

What is We Are Remembered?

We Are Remembered reaches out to people at the time of the death of a child/family member and at the annual Mass, celebrated the Wednesday after Easter, when the Gospel proclaimed is “The Road to Emmaus.”

Father James Torpey is advisor to the ministry. Rich and Eileen Badesso coordinate the mailings/enrollment of names, and provide music for the ministry, available via iTunes.

The late Bishop Thomas Welsh allowed the ministry to begin in the Diocese. It works in cooperation with the Diocesan Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization.

For more information, write to We Are Remembered Ministry, P.O. Box 20082, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0082.



Bill Frost, minister of the altar, carries the “I’ll Remember You” sunset photo by Tami Quigley in the recessional. Behind him are, from left, Father Jim Torpey, Deacon William Urbine and Father Luigi Palmieri.

Bishop's Annual Appeal Kicks Off in Schuylkill County

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

"It's wonderful to be with you here tonight on this spring evening," said Bishop Alfred Schlert, main celebrant and homilist of an evening Mass April 8 at St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven that kicked off the 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA) in Schuylkill County.

"It's good to see so many here ... you're the backbone of your parish."

The Diocese of Allentown and BAA Trust Advisory Board hosted the evening that launched this year's appeal, "Because We Are Catholic," which has a goal of \$4.6 million to help those in need.

The liturgy was followed by a reception in the parish hall, which included presentations by two BAA Trust Advisors: John Boyer, parishioner of St. Ambrose; and Mark Scarbinsky, parishioner of St. Clare of Assisi, St. Clair.

The appeal always begins after Easter. Monsignor William Glosser, pastor of St. Clare of Assisi and vicar forane of the Schuylkill Deanery, was principal celebrant.

Also concelebrating were Monsignor William Handges of Pottsville, pastor emeritus of St. Peter, Coplay; Father Ronald Minner, pastor of Holy Cross, New Philadelphia; Father Paul Rothermel, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo, Ashland; and Apostles of Jesus (AJ) Father Barnabas Shayo, assistant pastor of All Saints, McAdoo and chaplain at Lehigh Valley Hospital Schuylkill, Pottsville.

Also, Father Eric Tolentino, administrator of St. Mary, Ringtown and St. Joseph, Shepton; and Father Christopher Zelonis, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel, Minersville. Monsignor Edward Zemanik, pastor of St. Ambrose, concelebrated and was master of ceremonies.

"Jesus gets himself into trouble when he refers to God as his father. As Christians, we have the image of God as a loving father. People of the Old Testament didn't see him that way, they saw him as more of a judge," said Bishop Schlert in his homily, adding part of the reason they subsequently wanted to put Jesus to death is that he saw God as his father.

"We are people of the Trinity," the Bishop said.

"We as a Church reach out in love to those most in need. In penance, we meet a loving God. In the Eucharist, we meet the divinity of Christ. At confirmation, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us in love.

"We are asked to put the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit into what we do every day.

"All of us are born in love, surrounded by the love of the Trinity, and will stay in



"I challenge each of you to be an ambassador for Christ," Trust Advisor Mark Scarbinsky tells those gathered for the Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA) kickoff in Schuylkill County April 8 at St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven. (Photos by John Simitz)

the love of the Trinity."

The Bishop thanked those gathered for all they do, and said, "Calling God our Father through Jesus and in the Holy Spirit – it's what makes us Catholic."

"The best way to start our appeal this year is with the greatest prayer ever – the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass."

As the evening segued into the reception, Father Zemanik led those gathered in a prayer and Paul Acampora, secretary of Diocesan Secretariat for Stewardship and Development, offered words of welcome.

"Being with you is a blessing," Acampora told the faithful of Schuylkill County.

Acampora said news stories say that people are not giving to the Church, but said that's not true, as the appeal has received nearly a half million dollars so far and it hasn't even officially started.

"People like you are making a difference locally and across the country."

The event included a screening of the BAA video.

In 2018, BAA supported community services with \$2,153,000; education \$846,000; vocations \$508,000; parish life \$423,000; parish sharing \$370,000; and administration \$300,000.



"Because we are Catholic, it is our calling to reach out to those who need it most. No contribution is too small – every dollar makes a difference," Trust Advisor John Boyer tells those attending the kickoff reception.

Mark Scarbinsky

Scarbinsky thanked everyone for their past support of BAA and voiced confidence "we can count on you this year."

"Being a trust advisor has opened my eyes to the need and also to the different Catholic ministries who work hard meeting those needs," he said.

Scarbinsky spoke of the Limited Purpose, Protection of Trust Assets and Segregation of Trust Assets.

Scarbinsky said assets are used solely for the intended purpose of the trust. "We make sure the money is used for intended purposes."

The money, he said, is protected from

claims of creditors of the Diocese.

Of the Segregation of Trust Assets, Scarbinsky said, "These assets can never be an asset of the Diocese. They are an asset of the trust, a completely separate account."

Scarbinsky said board members are appointed by the Bishop for a three-year term, with a minimum of five members mandated by the trust; there are currently 12 members.

"They are representatives of the appeal. The theme this year, 'Because We Are Catholic,' drives to the heart of our

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"The best way to start our appeal this year is with the greatest prayer ever – the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass."



Bishop Alfred Schlert, center, celebrates Mass with, from left, Apostles of Jesus (AJ) Father Barnabas Shayo, Father Ronald Minner, Monsignor William Handges, Monsignor William Glosser, Monsignor Edward Zemanik, Father Eric Tolentino, Father Paul Rothermel and Father Christopher Zelonis.



Monsignor Edward Zemanik, left, chats with Angle and Joe Zawisza, parishioners of St. Ambrose.



John and Mary Strauss, parishioners of Holy Cross, New Philadelphia, enjoy the celebratory evening.



Rick and Deb Dasch, parishioners of St. Ambrose, are joined by Gail Braun, parishioner of St. Mary, Hamburg, center.

Remembered

▶▶Continued from page 9

family member or friend, “It’s hard to see anything bright or cheerful, or we could say sunny.”

“It’s beautiful to see the power of God found in nature,” he said, alluding to the photo, which is titled “I’ll Remember You.”

“I immediately thanked God for the gift of this image, to behold that.”

“Clouds make the view all the more beautiful,” Father Torpey said. “Sometimes you have to step back – that’s what we have in We Are Remembered.”

“We Are Remembered was given to us by the hand of almighty God – it allows us to step back and see the larger picture.”

“For our loved ones who have died in the Lord, think of St. Peter at the pearly gates welcoming our family and friends in the name of Jesus the Nazarene.”

“Sometimes we can’t see the sun or broader picture, but the sunset continues to guide us.”

Father Torpey said We Are Remembered is not there to take people’s pain away. He noted sometimes people don’t know what to say to someone who is grieving; they don’t know how to comfort. So they say things such as “don’t cry” or “you can have another child.”

“We may in response want to stay silent or lash out,” Father Torpey said. “But we have to take a step back and see the broader picture.”



Carol Fertal serves as lector husband Ed stands nearby.

“What we are here to do is ask God to share with us a piece of the bigger picture.”

Father Torpey said as he watched the man make the print of the “I’ll Remember You” sunset, at first he just saw a bunch of lines, then all of a sudden some sun, and red in the sky. “That’s it – that’s what it’s like to see the larger picture,” he said.

“God thinks not in days, years or centuries, but fits the span beyond space and time.”

“On the Road to Emmaus, Jesus en-

courages them to look through the clouds so their hearts would still be open to his message of hope. He knows we have been broken by the loss of love, but wants us to make just a little more space for the message of hope.

“Time allows clouds and tears of rain. But in the very gift of the Eucharist we can get a glimpse of the view of God. Our loved ones who have gone can see him clearly.”

“Clouds, the storms of life, have tried to stop us from seeing the son,” he said,

meaning Christ the Son of God, not the sun in the sky.

“The “I’ll Remember You” sunset,” Father Torpey said, “As our friends are home, their names proclaimed in the halls of heaven, and as in the song, “We Are Remembered.”

“The intentions of the ministry and the names in the Book of the Remembered are remembered in all my Masses.”

Father Torpey expressed thanks to the parish of St. John the Baptist and its administrator, Father Gregory Karpyn, for opening the parish to We Are Remembered. He thanked Bishop Alfred Schlert, who approves the ministry in the Diocese of Allentown, and the Diocesan Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization that works in cooperation with the ministry.

Father Torpey also thanked the late Bishop Thomas Welsh, who allowed the ministry to begin in the Diocese. Bishop Welsh’s name is in the Book of the Remembered.

Women of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall served cookies and other goodies at the ensuing fellowship, which gave those attending time to share memories of their loved ones and receive a spring flower. We Are Remembered obtained the flowers from Hickory Grove Greenhouses, Catasauqua and its proprietors, the Eline family, who themselves lost a child.



Choral members of Sacred Heart, Bath provide music for the Mass.



Mary Frances Fuehrer, left, and Betty Keating select their gift of a spring flower during the time of fellowship.

Kolbe Academy to Facilitate Addiction Series

Kolbe Academy, Bethlehem, the first Catholic high school in the nation for students battling addiction and participating in recovery from substance and alcohol abuse, will facilitate an addiction series in June.

“We Thirst,” Christian Reflections on Addiction, will be Monday, June 10 through Thursday, June 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem.

“We Thirst” is a comprehensive educational and inspirational series on the topic of addiction from a Christian perspective.

This program provides extensive knowledge while encouraging faith, hope and love. It has been featured on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops podcast “Made for Love,” radio shows, as well as news and magazine articles.

Due to high demand, the series is being filmed for video production.

The series is free and all are welcome.

For more information on the series or to register, contact Mark at 610-559-4534 or wethirstseries@gmail.com, or visit website www.wethirstseries.com.

For more information on Kolbe Academy, visit <http://kolbe-academy.com/>, <https://www.facebook.com/KolbeAcademyLV/> or <https://twitter.com/KolbeAcademy>.

SCHEDULE

MON 6/10

TUE 6/11

WED 6/12

THU 6/13

7PM - 9PM



FREE! ALL ARE WELCOME!

We Thirst™

CHRISTIAN REFLECTIONS ON ADDICTION

Schuylkill

▶▶Continued from page 10

Catholicism.

“In Lent, we are more attuned to the sufferings of Christ, and to the sufferings of those around us. I’m not here to talk about your level of donation – that’s between you and God. I challenge each of you to be an ambassador for Christ.”

John Boyer

Boyer said he’s been a BAA trust advisor since its inception in 2012. “I’m proud to be part of this wonderful group.”

Boyer said approximately 48 percent of BAA funds go to health and human services, including Catholic Senior Housing. “Catholic Charities is the largest recipient of the appeal,” he said, funding such things as feeding the hungry, assisting families with counseling in their grief and other traumas, case management for older adults and pregnancy support.

“Last year over 100 households in Schuylkill County received counseling, and 1,000 meals were served at the Pottsville Soup Kitchen,” Boyer said. “These are our neighbors.”

Boyer said BAA supports the three Diocesan special learning centers, including St. Joseph Center for Special Learning, Pottsville. Students in Schuylkill County benefit from the Bishop’s Catholic Scholar Program, and “in something that’s near and dear to my heart, grade schools in Schuylkill County receive a stipend.”

He added BAA funds also help adult formation, Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, and seminarians. “I’m proud to say we have two diaconate candidates from our parish.”

Boyer said if a parish exceeds its BAA goal, 50 percent of the money is returned

to the parish.

He said administrative costs of the appeal are only 6 percent, and administrators make sure the funds go where they can do the most good.

“Because we are Catholic, it is our calling to reach out to those who need it most. No contribution is too small – every dollar makes a difference.”

Bishop Schlert

“The most important thing about the appeal is we do it because we are Catholic,” the Bishop said. “When someone comes for service, we don’t ask if they are Catholic.”

Bishop Schlert referenced the Diocesan Mission Statement, “A Roman Catholic family of faith, centered in the Eucharist, faithful to the Church’s teaching, bringing the light of Christ to each other and our community.”

“Bring the light of Christ to each other and our community – we do this in many ways, but BAA lets us do it in concrete ways,” Bishop Schlert said. “That happens not because of me, but you.”

“I’m very proud of the work we do together in BAA.”

Eileen Barlow

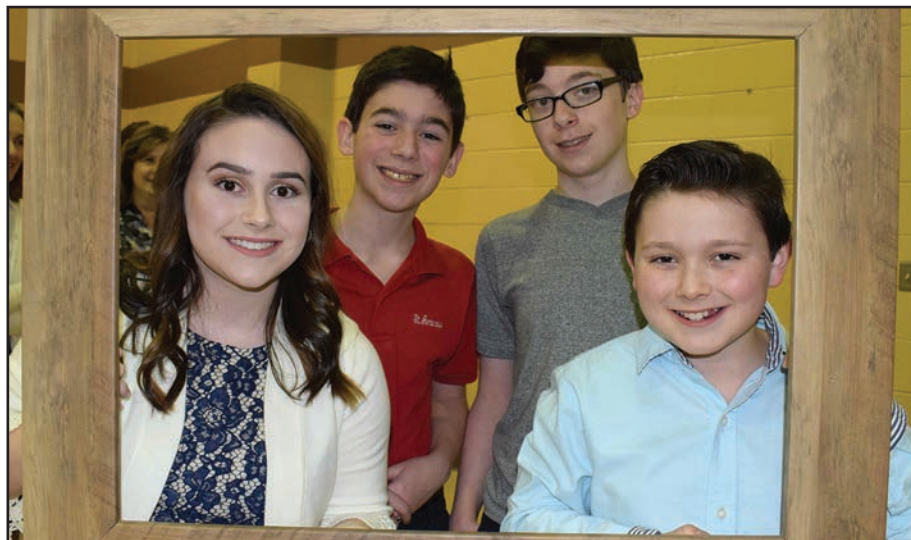
“The appeal – in all its forms – has been a part of my life since childhood,” said Eileen Barlow, parishioner of St. Joseph, Frackville. “My mother used to ‘collect’ for Catholic Charities when I was young. I can still picture her going door-to-door.”

“I have worked in and for the Church since I was in my teens and have seen the need for support of our seminarians, clergy, special needs students, soup kitchens, and the like. We are charged with caring for the least of our brothers and sisters, and this is a small way in which I can give back.”



Above, Sister of St. Joseph (SSJ) Mary Jane Dunleavy and Tony Pilo of St. Patrick, Pottsville enjoy the event.

Below, Riley McDonald, cantor at the Mass, left, enjoys the reception with altar servers, from left, Cole Andrefski, Ian Andrefski and Bo McDonald.



Writing Your Legacy Letter

Share Your Legacy With the People You Love

Friday, June 14, 2019
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
John Paul II Center for Special Learning
1092 Welsh Rd., Shillington, PA

or

Thursday, June 27, 2019
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Nativity BVM High School
One Lawton Hill, Pottsville, PA

Join us for a free, half-day workshop to learn how you can create your own, unique Legacy Letter to share with loved ones. A Legacy Letter – also known as an “Ethical Will” – is a way to share love, wisdom, life lessons, and faith from one generation to the next. Hosted by the Diocese of Allentown, this is a complementary workshop. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to Ginny Downey at 610 871-5200 ext. 2244 or gdowney@allentowndioocese.org

TALLER DE FORMACIÓN

“FACILITADOR: INSTRUMENTO DE BUENA COMUNICACIÓN”

PRESENTADOR
REV. GEORGE WINNE

FECHA
SÁBADO 8 DE JUNIO, 2019

HORARIO
8:30AM A 1:00PM

LUGAR
CENTRO PARROQUIAL AVE MARIA DE LA IGLESIA ST. MARY
94 WALNUT RD. HAMBURG, PA 19526
(RUTA I-78 – SALIDA 30)

Cuota de Inscripción: \$10.00
Inscripciones cierran el 24 de Mayo

EN ESTE TALLER APRENDERÁS SOBRE:

Destrezas de una comunicación efectiva • Buenas actitudes para un facilitador • Como manejar un compartir de grupo, etc.

Para mayor información comunicarse a la
OFICINA DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS
610-289-8900 ext. 2025
oha@allentowndioocese.org / www.allentowndioocese.org/oha

Spotlight on Members of the Commission for Young Adults

Ed Burns, Parishioner of St. Stephen of Hungary, Allentown

Biographical background

Ed Burns, 26, parishioner of St. Stephen of Hungary, Allentown; bachelor's degree from Penn State University; and marketing consultant.

How were you raised in the faith?

My home parish is St. Mary, Hamburg. I was raised in the faith like most in my generation. We went to Mass and CCD, but never talked much about the faith at home.

CCD was a lot of feel-good formation; it was nice, but there wasn't much there to hold on to. It lacked substance. Jesus was talked about as a nice guy. We talked about mercy, but never about justice. Confirmation was essentially a graduation out of the faith.

Why did you accept the opportunity to serve on the commission?

I accepted the opportunity to serve on the commission because our culture is mired in mediocrity and meaninglessness. The one, true faith provides us with the means to salvation. In a time of unparalleled hopelessness (drug use, suicide, depression), the faith provides hope.

Catholicism matters and brings meaning to people's lives. I hope that the commission will help to encourage the people, not just Catholics, of our Diocese to be more holy and assist the Diocese in saving souls.

What are some of the issues you



would like to see addressed and why?

Tepidity. We are tepid in the faith, and that is why we are floundering in our attempts to attract and retain the youth. The greatest saints of every generation were courageous to speak out against the evils of the world around them, and they worked diligently to grow in holiness.

We are afraid to say when things are wrong because many Catholics, lay and clergy, have embraced relativism, which is rampant in our culture; this is a cancer that needs to be addressed.

The other major issue I would like to see us address is the rejection of tradition within the Catholic Church over

the last century. The traditions of our faith are what keep us alive spiritually; the sacraments enliven us with grace. These things matter very much. The Church has truth and beauty, two things people are starving for today.

Why are young adults so important to the future of the Church?

Young adults are important to the Church now. There is immediacy here. If we do not engage young Catholics in their faith now, we will not need to worry about an impending priest shortage because the priests we have will have no one to serve.

What do you believe has caused some young adults to drift from the Church, and how can the Church reach out to them?

Young adults have left the Church because they never truly encountered the Church. Young adults, generationally, were not catechized in the faith to understand why the Church exists in the first place. In order to effectively reach out to them, the Church must have something significant for them to come into.

We must be counter-cultural, different from anything they can get in the world. That means embracing our traditions, ensuring we are more reverent with the Eucharist, taking the sacraments seriously, preaching hard truths from the pulpit and providing better catechesis.

We do not need to manufacture anything to be appealing; that has been tried and left wanting. We simply need to be Catholic, and then we will know that if people leave, it is because it has been found difficult and therefore been left untried.

If we do not work to be more holy, if the Church does not double down on being authentically Catholic, then there is no reason for young people to embrace the Church.

In light of the clergy abuse crisis, how and why did you remain steadfast in the faith?

The clergy abuse crisis is a crisis of holiness. It seems many of our leaders forgot why we are Catholic, and that is heartbreaking. The crisis is a call to greater holiness for all of us. Impurity of any kind in the clergy is a reflection of the impurity of our society, and the impurity within each of our hearts.

It is also a clear call that we are in desperate need of "spiritual fatherhood." Our priests and our bishops must lead the faithful to heaven through courageous example, guidance in holiness, and chastisement when we fail.

This is why it's such a blessing to have a good and holy bishop in Bishop Schlert. He is willing to take the brunt of the backlash and has done so in an exemplary way; moreover, he understands that the sacraments will restore the Church to her proper glory.

Sarah DeArment, Parishioner of St. John the Baptist, Pottsville

Biographical background

Sarah DeArment, 27, wife and mother, master's degree in professional counseling, pediatric clinical therapist at Geisinger and lifetime member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Pottsville.

How were you raised in the faith?

I was raised in the Catholic faith from birth, and my faith is the greatest gift my parents have ever given me. My mom was Protestant until I was 12 years old, so I had experience growing up with both Catholic and Protestant churches.

My mom went through our parish's RCIA program when I was 12, and thanks be to God, we have all been Catholic ever since. Now my husband and I are starting our own family and strive daily to pass on the faith that was given to us.

Why did you accept the opportunity to serve on the commission?

I accepted the opportunity to serve on the commission first and foremost, because ... what an honor. It is truly refreshing and inspiring that our Bishop is so invested in our young people, the future of our Church.

I left the first commission meeting feeling very hopeful about the future of our Diocese and of the Church. The people of the Allentown Diocese have quite a generation rising up.

What are some of the issues you would like to see addressed and why?

I am passionate about Church teachings regarding marriage, family life and

particularly natural family planning versus artificial contraception. I feel that the Catholic Church has a wealth and depth of hidden beauty and truth regarding these topics that most of us are too afraid to talk about.

I am part of a generation that is seeking truth and holistic answers, and I am most certain that many of these answers can be found right here in the Church within the Kingdom of God.

Why are young adults so important to the future of the Church?

My husband and I are newly married and have been blessed with a beautiful daughter, Philomena, and beautiful goddaughter, Lucy. We look at them and know that they are the future of our Church, and we are also reminded as new parents that we are the future of the Church.

Faithful Catholics everywhere are struggling with the abuse crisis that has plagued our beloved Church. It is easy to feel ashamed, embarrassed or use current events as an "excuse" to slowly back away, attend one less Mass, and fade gradually from the Church.

But we are actively in battle, and this is a turning point, a time for mindful and deliberate choice. Our young people (babies, children, teens – and their parents) are our future, and this is why my husband and I feel so passionate about passing on the faith.

What do you believe has caused some young adults to drift from the Church, and how can the Church reach out to them?



grateful every day for my mother-in-law, who prayed fervently to Mary for my now-husband to return home to the Church. And here we are.

In light of the clergy abuse crisis, how and why did you remain steadfast in the faith?

I choose to remain steadfast in the faith despite the crimes, sins and faults of our human Church leaders because I know that truth is the foundation of the Catholic Church.

I've attended two evangelical universities and have had much experience in the Protestant and Evangelical worlds. We have a lot to learn from these brothers and sisters in Christ. However, I know that truth lives in the Catholic Church.

We have the real deal that no one else has – Jesus in the Eucharist, and universality of Mass and the Communion of Saints all over the entire world. Now is the time to dig in, to remain steadfast, to be truly Catholic and most important, to be the Body of Christ on earth.

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours" – St. Teresa of Avila.

'Alpha' Deepens Faith for Teens from Schuylkill Catholic Youth Ministry

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

Teens from Schuylkill Catholic Youth Ministry explored and re-examined the faith during a 12-week series of interactive sessions Jan. 27 through April 7 before culminating the experience with a 12-hour retreat on March 23.

Thirteen teens participated in Alpha for Teens, a series that includes 12 episodes about the basics of the Christian faith designed for teens age 14 to 18, which sparked conversation about life, Jesus' existence, Christianity and God's plan for salvation.

Annie Sarlo, director of Schuylkill Catholic Youth Ministry, guided the series, which included a meal, a short video targeting specific questions about the faith and small group discussion.

"The event was a great success," she said.

The highlight of the series, which focused on prayer and developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, was the retreat held on a farm in Zion Grove.

"The teens and youth ministry leadership team gathered for 12 hours of fun, inspiring talks and an evening of Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship music, prayer and healing ministry, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation," said Sarlo.

Guest speakers at the retreat were Christine Fauci-Wittman, licensed therapist, and Sister Mary Gianna, who survived the Columbine shooting as a sophomore student.

Both women shared their personal testimonies and encouraged the students to grow in a life of prayer.



Annie Sarlo, back, director of Schuylkill Catholic Youth Ministry, enjoys a retreat day with teens after completing the series Alpha for Teens. From left are Briar Riegel, Jacob Challenger, Haley Rymarkiewicz, Richie Joyce, Caitlyn Corby, Katherine Joyce, Riley Cassidy, Camden Diebert, Josh Kuzmitsky and Max Whittman. (Photos courtesy of Annie Sarlo)

Sister Mary Gianna, formerly Jenica Thornby, was born a non-Catholic and never imagined God would call her to religious life. But growing up without any faith she struggled with some of the most basic questions concerning human life, including what life was about, who she was and what she was living for.

Her life changed forever when she was 16 years old on April 20, 1999, the day two of her schoolmates opened fire, killing 12 students and a teacher, and wounding 23 others.

She escaped being in the library, the center of the tragedy, when an inner prompting urged her to leave school that day just minutes before the shooting, in-

stead of going to the library to study as she normally did.

"Growing up, I didn't really know if God existed or not, or that he had a plan. What made me leave school that day? I always went to the library," she said. "Then I remember being told, 'God must have a plan for your life.'"

She came to the realization that God existed, leading her to a Catholic parish, where youth ministers share the message of the Gospels. Jenica became a member of the Catholic Church and went on to study at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio before entering religious life and the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Not only did God lead me out of Columbine that day – he was leading me home on that day. He was leading me to himself," she told the teens.

"And I wanted to say 'yes' with all my heart to God's plan. I realized that he had a plan, and I wanted to say 'yes' to that plan," said Sister.

"Her story was a powerful testimony to the power of the nudging of the Holy Spirit," said Sarlo.

According to Sarlo, the Holy Spirit has also nudged the teens who want to host Alpha for another group of teens.

"They have been so encouraged by their experience that they want to share it with their peers," she said.

The series and the retreat have bolstered friendships, prayer life and a desire to learn more about the faith.

"I have felt like I'm part of a community," said one participant.

"My prayer life has completely changed since the retreat. I met a lot of cool new people. I want to keep coming to youth ministry," said another teen.

As Schuylkill Catholic Youth Ministry continues to expand, Sarlo said she is humbled and blessed to witness teens grow in the faith.

"Building a youth ministry from the ground up isn't easy. I've met so many friendly and welcoming people in the region. A team quickly came together to support the new initiatives," she said.

"These past few months have blown me away, and I rejoice in Jesus' work in each soul that has been part of our ministry. I can see a culture of missionary discipleship starting to form. The Holy Spirit is on the move. And I'm blessed to be part of his work."



Sister Mary Gianna, left, who escaped the Columbine High School shooting as a teen, discusses how God's plan for her came to fruition.



Father Brian Miller, pastor of St. Joseph, Frackville, leads Eucharistic Adoration with teens on retreat at a farm in Zion Grove.

Theology on Tap to Discuss 'The Lost Art of Listening'

"The Lost Art of Listening" will be discussed at the next Theology on Tap Monday, June 24 at 7 p.m. at Hops at the Paddock, 1945 W. Columbia St., Allentown.

In a world of constant noise and distractions, it can be challenging to stop and listen, even if we are listening for the voice of God.

Join us as Father Arthur Purcaro of Villanova University, Philadelphia discusses the lost art of listening and how we as young adults can slow down and listen for God's gentle inspiration as we discern our path in life.

The monthly series is sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry (OYYAFM).

The series is designed to welcome married or single young adults ages 21 to 35 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.allentowndiocese.org/tot or email Alexa Smith at asmith@allentowndiocese.org.

June 24, 2019 @ 7 PM
Hops at the Paddock
1945 W. Columbia Street
Allentown, PA

Relics of St. John Neumann to Visit St. Patrick May 22

The relics of St. John Neumann, who served as Bishop of Philadelphia and was greatly connected to our local Church, will be visiting our Diocese at St. Patrick Parish in Pottsville on Wednesday, May 22.


St. John Neumann established 11 parishes in what would become the Diocese of Allentown.

These relics will be accompanied by Father Anthony Michalik, who will re-

flect on St. John Neumann and his relevance to our lives, followed by the opportunity for prayer, veneration and blessing with the relics.

The opportunities will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.


For questions, contact the Office of Adult Formation at adultformation@allentowndiocese.org or 610-289-8900 ext. 2021.



RELICS of ST. JOHN NEUMANN

All are welcome to come and venerate the first class relics of the patron of sick children and of immigrants.

John Neumann C.Ss.R. was a Catholic priest from Bohemia. He immigrated to the United States in 1836, where he was ordained and later joined the Redemptorist order and became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. St. John worked tirelessly founding Catholic schools and promoting devotion to the Eucharist. He founded a new religious institute—the Third Order of Saint Francis of Glen Riddle and within seven years, built 89 churches, and several hospitals and orphanages. He is the first United States bishop to be canonized.



New Museum for St. John Neumann Opens at His Shrine

Editor's note: This article is reprinted with permission from a May 1 posting on www.CatholicPhilly.com.

By LOU BALDWIN
Catholic Philly

Archbishop Charles Chaput blessed the new St. John Neumann Museum that has opened in the renowned national shrine to the saint during a visit to St. Peter the Apostle Parish in North Philadelphia April 29.

Philadelphia's fourth Catholic Bishop, John Nepomucene Neumann was born in 1811 in Bohemia, where he studied for the priesthood. Because there was a great need for priests in America he came to this country and was ordained in New York in 1836. In 1842 with his bishop's permission he joined the Redemptorist congregation, primarily to minister to German immigrants.

He was the first candidate to join the Redemptorists in the United States, although he was European by birth and already an ordained priest when he joined. After several assignments he was appointed bishop of Philadelphia in 1852 and served in that capacity until his sudden death in 1860.

According to Bishop Neumann's stated wishes he was buried under St. Peter the Apostle Church, where at the time other fellow Redemptorists were interred. Because there was persistent visitation to his grave by pilgrims who were convinced of his holiness, a cause for his canonization ultimately opened.

As part of the process his remains were exhumed and placed within an effigy in a glass sarcophagus beneath an altar near his original grave.



Archbishop Charles Chaput blesses the new St. John Neumann Museum in Philadelphia April 29, assisted by officials with the Redemptorist congregation, of which St. John was a priest and later the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. (Photos by Sarah Webb)

He was declared venerable by Pope Benedict XV in 1921, beatified in 1963 by Pope Paul VI and canonized a saint by Pope Paul VI in 1977 with his feast day Jan. 19, the anniversary date of his death.

"After his death as people visited his grave, the pastor at the time told them they should pray for him, not to him, but the people found his piety and holiness an attraction," said Redemptorist Father Raymond Collins, rector and director of the National Shrine of St. John Newman.

"Really the core of his spirituality was a genuine humility, and that's what he

prayed for."

The new St. John Neumann Museum, on the lower floor of the parish school building, contains many artifacts related to St. John Neumann and historic materials connected to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, the formal name of the Redemptorists.

The museum also has an expanded gift shop, lecture facilities and a café that can accommodate about 50 people.

As a congregation the Redemptorists were founded in Italy by St. Alphonsus Ligouri in 1748 but quickly spread throughout Europe, and since then worldwide. The Baltimore Province to which Neumann would belong was formally established in 1850.

Many of the artifacts for the museum, as they concern St. John Neumann and the congregation itself, have been transferred from Baltimore and other locations, including Brooklyn to the St. John Neumann Museum, according to Dr. Patrick Hayes, the Redemptorist archivist and museum curator.

Almost everything connected with St. John Neumann is now at the museum, including documents and papers from his years as bishop of Philadelphia, Hayes explained.

These would ordinarily be in the archdiocesan archives, but were turned over to the Redemptorists during the lengthy canonization process because the congregation had the leading role in the very complex cause.

Included in the collection are books, vestments, letters and other items of Philadelphia's first canonized saint.

"He fit in a lot of work during his eight years in Philadelphia," Hayes said.

In the summer he would visit the far-flung places. He would go to Gettysburg

by train, then on by carriage and finally by horseback to visit the most out-of-the-way hamlets. He could speak 11 languages. He even learned Gaelic, which was the language of some Irish immigrants he would encounter in the confessional.

One elderly Irishwoman according to tradition declared "Thank God we have an Irish bishop now."

A big part of St. John Neumann's legacy, Hayes believes, are the approximately 100 schools started in those eight years, as well as about 80 parishes.

"He connected with the people on the margins, and that is so great a thing for a bishop to do," Hayes said.

Not everything in the museum is directly connected with St. John Neumann or even the mission of the Redemptorists.

One of its most important artifacts is a very rare copy of the Douay Rheims Bible printed in 1790 by Philadelphia printer Mathew Carey. It is the very first English language Catholic Bible printed in its entirety in North America.

There were only about 500 copies printed, and of that about 40 are known still to exist. This copy in its original binding may be in the most pristine condition of any of them, certainly of the 10 copies or so that Hayes has seen.

It is believed to have come from the library of Maryland's Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence and the last to die. A cousin of John Carroll, America's first Catholic bishop, he was reputed to be the wealthiest man in the 13 original colonies. Apparently, he kept excellent care of his books.

This copy of the Bible somehow got to the Redemptorist novitiate in Annapolis and then to the Redemptorist seminary in New York, and now it is back home in Philadelphia.

Although the book is too valuable just to pass around, an interactive digital copy is on display that visitors can peruse at their leisure.

Another rare book in the collection of a humble nature is a Chippewa catechism compiled by a Redemptorist missionary in the 1830s.

John Neumann was himself a book-lover and not only of sacred texts. Several of his books in the collection are on botany, written in both English and German.

"We have field guides he used," Hayes said. "He signed everything he read, and that love of nature is important for people today."

If you wish to venerate St. John Neumann by a visit to his tomb at his shrine in St. Peter the Apostle Church, take time to learn about John Neumann the man by dropping in at the museum.

The National Shrine of St. John Neumann is located at 1019 N. Fifth St., in Philadelphia. For more information, visit the shrine's website, <https://stjohnneumann.org/>.



A display case shows some of the artifacts from St. John Neumann's life in the new museum at the National Shrine of St. John Neumann in Philadelphia.



The original charter of the Catholic Daughters of America Easton Court #358.

Members of CDA Easton Court #358 will commemorate the court's 100th anniversary May 19.

Easton Court Catholic Daughters of America to Commemorate Centennial

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

The Catholic Daughters of America (CDA) Easton Court #358 will mark its 100th anniversary of engaging in the religious, charitable and educational apostolates of the Church – in the original church where it was founded – on Sunday, May 19.

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert will be principal celebrant and homilist for the Anniversary Mass at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy (St. Bernard Oratory), Easton.

CDA, one of the largest and oldest national organizations of Catholic women in the Americas, founded in 1903, established Easton Court #358 representing the Lehigh Valley in 1919.

The national organization was founded in Utica, N.Y. by John Carberry and several other Knights of Columbus as a charitable, benevolent and patriotic sorority for Catholic ladies. It was originally called the “National Order of Daughters of Isabella,” and is dedicated to the principles of “Unity and Charity,” the order’s motto.

Under the patronage of the Blessed



Mother, CDA members share a deep feminine spirituality, and are united by their faith in Jesus Christ and their devotion to the Church and the Holy See.

Patricia Bleam, court regent, said 50 charter members established the Easton Court, which also includes members from Allentown, Bethlehem and Bangor areas, and at one time reached a membership of 180 women.

The history of the Easton chapter began with an announcement by Father John Edward McCann, pastor of St. Ber-

nard, Easton, who invited all Catholic women interested in forming an organization in February 1919.

Fifteen women met and Mary Moran Duffin was selected chairman. An application was sent to the CDA state office, and on March 30, 1919 Easton Court was chartered with 50 members.

By 1964 there were eight active CDA courts in the Diocese. Today three CDA courts are in existence: Easton; Ryan Court, Jim Thorpe; and St. James Court, Frackville.

Along with participating and supporting church apostolates, CDA engages in creative and spiritual programs, which provide its members with the opportunity to develop their God-given talents in meaningful ways that positively influence the welfare of the Church and all people throughout the world.

It also strives to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

“We do a little bit of everything in support of the Church and to support our brothers and sisters,” said Bleam.

Over its century of existence, Bleam

said, CDA has supported the bishop, priests, local seminarians and local charities, including Third Street Alliance, Easton and the St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry.

In addition, CDA administers scholarship programs and strives “to be helping hands where there is pain, poverty, sorrow or sickness.”

Bleam, who joined CDA when she was 18 in 1959, said she followed in her mother’s footsteps by becoming a member.

“Becoming a member tends to be handed down through the family. All of my aunts and sisters were members, too,” she said.

CDA has nearly 66,000 members in 1,150 courts in 45 states across the United States, and in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Kenya and Peru.

The anniversary Mass is open to the public at Our Lady of Mercy, 132 S. Fifth St., Easton. A sold-out reception will be held after Mass at Parkview Event Center, Easton.

For more information about CDA, visit www.cdapa.com/.

Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse

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

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

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

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

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Servants to All Benefits from Local Poverty Relief Fund Grant

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

“Working Together to End Homelessness in Schuylkill County” is the tagline prominently featured on the website of Servants to All, which received a \$10,000 grant this year from the Diocese of Allentown Local Poverty Relief Fund to bolster its mission.

The grant specifically aided the organization’s My Father’s House, which provides emergency shelter and supportive services.

Servants to All also received grants the three previous years.

My Father’s House is a safe and caring environment that serves Schuylkill County by providing housing, material goods, and

supportive services to homeless men and women striving to obtain sustainable independence.

“We operate a Day Center at 4 S. Centre St. in Pottsville that operates as the main hub of the program,” said Jeanette Traino Sinn, executive director.

“We also operate an overnight facility at the United Presbyterian Church, which provides 13 beds for men and women while they work to complete their goals with our case managers at the Day Cen-

For more information on Servants to All, call 570-728-2917, email servantstoall@comcast.net or visit www.servantstoall.org.

ter.”

United Presbyterian Church is located at 214 Mahantongo St., Pottsville.

Services include spiritual nourishment, food, clothing, material goods, personal goods, transportation, shelter, education and training.

Traino Sinn said visiting priests aid with spiritual nourishment by such things as joining morning prayer or fulfilling special requests such as joining events, or one-on-one time with clients for individual needs.

The mission statement of Servants to All states: “Through the love of the Father, we work to restore dignity, build integrity, instill accountability, and thus transform the

lives of poor and displaced individuals and families. Our programs are tailored to foster self-reliance and sustainability by empowering individuals to make positive life choices. Because we are God’s first, we are servants to all.”

Servants to All describes its beliefs and values this way: We believe in “community,” cohesive society which encourages, supports and provides opportunity for each member to realize its highest and best use of their God-given talents. It believes in being uniquely created by God with talent and dignity – every individual, especially the poor, homeless and elderly, is meant by God to support and be supported by its community in order to create growth and flourish. No person is a solitary being.

The vision of My Father’s House is to seek to provide effective programs allowing for lasting resettlement of displaced individuals who have multiple and complex needs.

The mission is to break the cycle of repeat homelessness by strengthening the individual’s internal mechanisms related to positive life choices, and by building partnerships and deep foundations before building bridges to sustainable independence. Through compassionate, intensive training, the goal is to reintroduce capable, confident and well adjusted members into society.

The funding received by the 2019 grant helped provide supportive services to homeless and at-risk individuals in Schuylkill County and the surrounding counties.

These services include emergency housing, food, clothing, personal care items, material goods, transportation assistance, prescriptions and copays, identification cards such as birth certificates and ID cards, temporary housing and security deposits, as well as rental and/or utility assistance.

Servants to All was incorporated Sept. 26, 2012 and granted tax-exemption as a 501 (c) (3). It operated as a temporary winter shelter from February to May 2014, and purchased the day program “My Father’s House” on Dec. 1, 2014.

In November 2015 Servants to All began distributing clothing and supplies to the poor and homeless, and began providing clients hotel and rooming house vouchers, as well as supportive services.

Servants to All opened its overnight shelter on Nov. 15, 2016 and continues today to provide overnight shelter to men and women.

Servants to All serves a wide range of people in need and plays a large role in reducing homelessness in Schuylkill County, including specific and targeted vulnerable populations, such as veterans,



My Father’s House, operated by Servants to All at 4 S. Centre St., Pottsville, received a \$10,000 grant from the Diocese of Allentown Local Poverty Relief Fund to bolster its mission of providing emergency shelter and supportive services. (Photos courtesy of Jeanette Traino Sinn)



The client services area at My Father’s House.

Tim’s Success Story

Tim, of Schuylkill County, first shared his success story April 6, 2018.

When Tim first arrived at Servants to All, he had almost nothing – no identification, no money, no housing, no clothes other than what he was wearing and no support system. What he did have was a series of life experiences that had turned him into a person he wanted to change.

Now Tim has a family, two jobs, a house and a new outlook on life. Tim credits his progress not just to Servants to All’s programming, but to the staff as well.

He said the goal-setting process is what ultimately helped him change his life around. He set his plans, and the staff made sure he met those goals by providing support, guidance and keeping him “true to the course.”

While Servants to All met Tim’s basic survival needs of food, shelter and clothing, he was able to focus on finding a job and saving enough money to get back on his feet.

“There were times when I was tempted to go back to what I had always known, but they helped me see another way,” he said.

Now he chooses to give back to the program. Working around his busy schedule and taking care of his infant son, Tim stops in to bring food donations, help with building upkeep, assist with moving donated materials and, perhaps most important, talk with and mentor people who might be in a similar situation.

Tim said while everyone comes from different backgrounds, everyone has the same goal toward personal progress. His experience at Servants to All taught him to give more than he takes in life.

“If I help even one person, it’s worth it,” Tim said. He’s grateful the program exists so it could help him and continue to do the same for others. He said he could not stress enough just how much the staff at Servants to All helped his life.

When people tell Tim they need assistance, he always sends them to Servants to All because, “They’ll help you. If you need help, they’ll help you. They’re good people. Good program.”

Oscar’s Success Story

Oscar, of Schuylkill County, first shared his success story June 20, 2018.

Oscar said he was homeless and had hit rock bottom, nearing a breakdown, when he found Servants to All. With help from the organization, things started to look less bleak.

“You really pulled me out of the gutter. I was thinking bad things then,” Oscar said.

Oscar said he would recommend Servants to All to anyone in need. Servants to All helped connect him with resources he never would have known about, such as the rapid rehousing program.

Oscar stayed at Servants to All’s overnight shelter while he went through the rapid rehousing process. He had a place to sleep during the time it took him to locate an apartment, assemble the necessary paperwork, have the apartment inspected and move into the apartment.

Servants to All and its case managers were able to provide him support during the daytime.

In addition to the support regarding rapid rehousing, Oscar received assistance with food, transportation and clothing.

“I thank God you guys were there for me. I would’ve never made it without you guys. You helped me get my life back together,” Oscar said. “I think Servants to All is the best.”

Oscar said he also met a lot of good people and made good friends through Servants to All. He said everyone he has dealt with so far has been “tremendously nice, good and helpful.”

Oscar still comes by Servants to All to visit and help out current clients.

The welcoming environment and staff at Servants to All allow him to pay it forward and help other people.

“It’s like I have a new family,” Oscar said.

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Servants

▶Continued from page 17

persons with disabilities, re-entry population, and families and youth.

It also supports the needs of the elderly in collaboration with local Senior Services and Adult Protective Services.

“The target population of the people we serve are sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, people being discharged from an institution with no permanent residence available, people who would be discharged from an institution if there was a permanent residence available and displaced victims of domestic violence,” said Traino Sinn.

In 2018, Servants to All provided emergency housing to 146 homeless individuals and provided supportive services to 309 individuals. “During the next 12 months, we expect to provide housing to over 150 different individuals and assist over 500 individuals with personal needs,” said Traino Sinn.

Today it has 10 employees and more than 50 volunteers that continue the work that its board of directors began.

The board launched Servants to All with the mission to help those in need, and to be servants for our heavenly Father. The board is comprised of 14 individuals from Schuylkill County that bring diverse skills and experience.

For more information on Servants to All, call 570-728-2917, email servantstoall@comcast.net or visit www.servantstoall.org.

Ladies from Angels Sharing Warmth come to My Father’s House to provide a home cooked meal for the program’s clients and the at-risk community.



Children from Bethesda Vacation Bible School who came to help Servants to All with two summer projects gather to share a smile.



Weeknight Confessions Are Available

Young adults in the Diocese of Allentown have been asking for a more widespread availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the week.

Due to these requests, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton and some other parishes are now offering confession on Wednesday nights from 8 to 9 p.m.

We hope that this increased availability will allow many to experience the great mercy of God found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As always, confessions can also be made by appointment.

For a full list of confession times in the Diocese of Allentown, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/confession.



Pre-Need selections are available at Diocesan Cemeteries



Holy Savior Cemetery
2575 Linden Street
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Resurrection Cemetery
547 N. Krocks Road
Allentown, PA 18106

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

The Mausoleum at Holy Saviour and Resurrection Cemeteries.
Inspirational beauty in an affordable, peaceful Catholic setting... right here in your home diocese.

Call us now for more information!
610-866-2372 ext 1
www.allentowndiocesecemeteries.org



Bishop Schlert Leads Helpers of God's Precious Infants on Prayer Pilgrimage



Helpers of God's Precious Infants unite in prayer April 13 during a Prayer Pilgrimage outside the Allentown Women's Center, Bethlehem. (Photos by Sue Braff)

Helpers and other pro-life supporters pray the rosary during a peaceful presence across from the Allentown Women's Center. Helpers are a group of people committed to maintaining a loving and prayerful presence outside abortion centers and meditating on the value of human life during Mass. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/helpersallentown.



Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, right, leads the prayer of the rosary for the protection of unborn children with Barry Bazzone.



Mark Napierkowski, parishioner of St. Anne, Bethlehem and development director of Mercy School for Special Learning, Allentown, meditates on the rosary while praying for the protection of life at all levels.



Bishop Schlert, left and Monsignor Thomas Baddick, pastor of Notre Dame of Bethlehem, celebrate Mass at Notre Dame in observance of respect for life. "We are a church so steadfast in the protection of life. We have a consistent practice of protecting human life, whether it is the unborn, the young, the frail, the elderly or those on death row," said Bishop Schlert during his homily.



Above, faithful offer prayers for the unborn at Notre Dame.



Right, Helpers and those preparing for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults listen to the homily during Mass.

'Father Forgive Them, for They do not Know What They are Doing'

By SISTER MEG COLE
Catholic Charities Therapist

I recently attended the movie "Unplanned." This movie is a very poignant and significant expose of the abortion industry, as well as those who have an abortion.

I was somewhat hesitant in going, as my ministry at Catholic Charities is post-abortion counseling with men and women who have had an abortion. So this ministry is an "about face" with those who are now suffering for having made that fateful visit to an abortion center.

These men and women made a seriously difficult choice in a time-sensitive situation. They are now deeply regretful and in a great deal of emotional, psychological and spiritual pain.

Who they were when this distressing experience happened and who they are now are two entirely different people. And actually, in many cases, they did not make the sad choice, someone else made

it for them. Such was the very young woman's experience that stood out to me in this movie.

The movie has many emotional moments that actually continue to flashback in my mind and heart. But one scene in particular is when a determined, angry, punishing and resentful father shoves his reluctant, beautiful, pregnant teenage daughter into the violent auspices of the abortion clinic.

How could he? How could he be so self-protective and not weigh the misery that his daughter and grandchild would now have? How could he have not made the choice to use love as his way out of this situation and take the option for life? How did he think taking her to an abortion clinic was going to improve her life?

I get that under the weight of knowing his teenage daughter was pregnant he was probably afraid, his dreams for her future shattered, his reputation may be somehow on the line. But did he not consider a future that could have included a

An intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion

June 21-23, 2019

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

For *registration information contact:



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat in June for Anyone Seeking Healing After Abortion

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, an intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion, will be the weekend of June 21-23.

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

Deadline for registration is Thursday, June 13.

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

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

healthy daughter and grandchild?

Did he not have enough faith, hope and love to accept that he as a dad had the ability to manage this situation and be the face of mercy and compassion for his daughter? Could he not have made the hard, brave and independent choice, look into the distance and see the daughter he loved yesterday needed his love all the more today? How was he so heart blind?

It is only at the point of the movie where his daughter is back there longer than he expects that he starts to panic. Little did he know that the botched job of the staff was causing his daughter to have major blood loss. It is one of the scenes I can't seem to get out of my head.

All through the movie, and even now when I have flashbacks I pray, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

These being the first thought and words out of the heart and soul of Jesus

as he suffers on the cross, when he was in the most powerless, humiliating and humbling situation of his life, can also be our words for those who have forced a woman into an abortion. And in my prayer now, it is for fathers and future grandfathers who participate and who come to the resolution for their daughter to have an abortion.

In some cases, it is the father of the son who influences his son and girlfriend to have an abortion. (I have had a father tell me that he offered to buy his son's girlfriend any car she wanted and to pay her full college tuition if she would just have the abortion.) A father's indifference toward his grandchild has driven him to be heartless in the face of what could have been a loving moment.

I have now met regretful grandfathers

Please see RETREAT page 21 ▶▶

A Salute to Tom Flynn Celebrating a Legacy of Leadership – May 30, 2019, Reading DoubleTree

Supporting Reading's talented and deserving students Reading Collegiate Scholars Program



- Offers 10 full-tuition scholarships to Reading High School students to attend Alvernia for four years
- Increases graduation rates and admission to college through the readiness component
- Boasts 100% graduation rate of Alvernia's RCSP Class of 2018



ALVERNIA
UNIVERSITY

Visit Alvernia.edu/Flynn-Gala

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@allentowndioecese.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@allentowndioecese.org or call 610-871-5200, ext. 2264.

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@allentowndioecese.org.

Saturday, May 18
Chicken Dinner, St. John the Baptist, Allentown, social hall, 4-6:30 p.m., adults \$12, children under 10 \$5, no sales at door, 610-432-3505.

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 Christi Commission, at St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, church hall, 7 p.m., adults only, 610-433-6102 or www.stfranciscusallentown.org.

Wednesday, May 22
"Relics of St. John Neumann," St. Patrick, Pottsville, two presentations by Father Anthony Michalik, 3-5 p.m., 7-9 p.m., veneration, prayer, blessings with first class relic, no registration, free, 610-289-8900, ext. 2021, adultformation@allentowndioecese.org.

Monday, May 27
Mass for Memorial Day, SS. Peter and Paul, Lehigh, 9 a.m. at parish cemetery, North Fourth Street, bring lawn chairs; rain location in the church.

Saturday, June 8
Applebees Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast, St. Michael's Byzantine Church, at Applebees, 1510 Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, 8-10 a.m., adults \$7, children 2-12 \$4.50, 484-553-3828, jmk@cbheritage.com.

Friday, June 14
"Writing Your Legacy Letter," John Paul II Center for Special Learning, Shillington, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., no charge, hosted by Diocese of Allentown, RSVP 610-871-5200, ext. 2244, gdowney@allentowndioecese.org.

Saturday, June 15
Holy Father Collection (Peter's Pence), also Sunday, June 16.

Sunday, June 23
Solemnity of Corpus Christi, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, noon Mass followed by Eucharistic procession to chapel, exposition with benediction 1-4 p.m., Divine Mercy Chaplet 3 p.m.

Thursday, June 27
"Writing Your Legacy Letter," Nativity BVM High School, Pottsville, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., no charge, hosted by Diocese of Allentown, RSVP 610-871-5200, ext. 2244, gdowney@allentowndioecese.org.

Friday, June 28
Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, 8:15 a.m. Mass, exposition with benediction until 10 p.m., Divine Mercy Chaplet 3 p.m., rosary 7:30 p.m. for vocations.

July-August (as scheduled locally)
Collection for Mission Co-Op.

Saturday, July 20
Collection for Central and Eastern Europe, also Sunday, July 21.

Retreats

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

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

Monday, June 10 – Thursday, June 13
"We Thirst," addiction series, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, hosted by Kolbe Academy, 7-9 p.m., free, registration 610-559-4534, www.wethirstseries.com.

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.

Friday, June 28 – Sunday, June 30
"Forgiveness: A Journey Toward Healing and Freedom," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 610-258-3053, ext. 0, www.stfrancisretreathouse.org.

Sunday, July 14 – Friday, July 19
"Icon Writing Retreat," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 610-258-3053, ext. 0, www.stfranciscusretreathouse.org.

Friday, Aug. 9 – Sunday, Aug. 11
"A Franciscan Pilgrimage with St. Francis and St. Clare," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 610-258-3053, ext. 0, www.stfrancisretreathouse.org.

Friday, Nov. 8 – Sunday, Nov. 10
"Spiritual Push," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 610-258-3053, ext. 0, www.stfrancisretreathouse.org.

Festivals/Bazaars

Sunday, May 19
"Flores de Mayo," Filipino celebration, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, Mass 2 p.m., followed by procession, potluck of Filipino dishes, church parking lot.

Friday, May 31 – Sunday, June 2
"Festa," St. Anthony of Padua, Easton at Holy Cross Park, Friday 7-10 p.m., Saturday 6-9:30 p.m., Sunday 5-8 p.m., Polka Mass Sunday 2:30 p.m.

Friday, June 7 – Saturday, June 8
"Block Party," St. Mary, Ringtown, Friday 4-10 p.m., Saturday noon-10 p.m., horseshoe tournament Saturday 11 a.m.-noon, team registration \$20, 570-985-7311.

Friday, June 7 – Saturday, June 8
Parish Festival, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, Friday 6-10 p.m., Saturday 5-10 p.m., 610-266-0695, www.sercc.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.

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

Designer Handbags, Baskets and Cash Bingo, Bethlehem Chapter of UNICO, at St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, cafeteria, 1:30 p.m., doors open noon, advance tickets \$20, at door \$25, tickets 610-691-1338, 610-865-2419.

Sundays, 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.

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@allentowndioecese.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

Sunday, June 30 – Tuesday, July 2
St. Teresa of Calcutta, Mahanoy City, Golden Age, to Tropicana Casino Resort, \$295 or \$399, 570-773-0838, 570-773-0378.

Sunday, July 14 – Friday, July 19
St. Teresa of Calcutta, Mahanoy City, Golden Age to Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, Tenn., \$859 or \$1,168, 570-773-1753.

Previously announced

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.

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.
Holy Guardian Angels, Reading, HGA Seniors to "Mamma Mia," Fulton Theatre, Lancaster, \$100, 610-921-1515 or 610-929-0384.

Wednesday, June 19
Holy Family, Nazareth, Golden Agers to "Tribute to the Beach Boys," Mount Airy Casino, Mount Pocono, \$66, 610-759-0576.
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, Golden Agers to Resorts, Atlantic City, \$40, 610-264-3721.

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

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

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.

Wednesdays, July 10, Aug. 14
St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Resorts Casino, Atlantic City, N.J., \$55, suemueller45@gmail.com, 610-392-2957.

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

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 Skyline Cruise of Atlantic City, New Jersey, \$90, 610-759-0576.

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

Thursday, Aug. 22
Notre Dame of Bethlehem, 55+ to Atlantic City Cruise and Casino, \$70, 610-866-0360.

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

Wednesdays, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13
St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Mohegan Sun Casino, Poconos, \$30, suemueller45@gmail.com, 610-392-2957.

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 Germania at White Birches, Hawley, \$86, 610-759-0576.
Notre Dame of Bethlehem, 55+ to "Streisand/Sinatra," Penn's Peak, Jim Thorpe, 610-866-0360.

Thursday, Oct. 10 – Saturday, Oct. 19
St. Teresa of Calcutta, Mahanoy City to Royal Caribbean Northbound Cruise, \$1,387.51 or \$1,085.51, 570-280-7002.

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.

Thursday, Nov. 7 – Saturday, Nov. 16
Assumption Travel Club, Assumption BVM, Slatington to Rome and Amalfi Coast, Italy, \$3,899, 610-767-3036.

Wednesday, Dec. 4
Holy Family, Nazareth, Golden Agers to Christmas Show, American Theater, Lancaster, \$96, 610-759-0576.

St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Christmas Show, Radio City Music Hall, New York City, \$219, suemueller45@gmail.com, 610-392-2957.

St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to Christmas Show, American Music Theater, Lancaster, \$85, 610-791-1758.

Wednesday, Dec. 11
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, Golden Agers to "Joy to the World," American Music Theater, Lancaster, 610-264-3721.

mothers and fathers of aborted children) can find healing and mercy at a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. God's Divine Mercy and Forgiveness can heal this deep wound of regret and sorrow. Bringing this hurt, pain and division that happens among all who are part of this momentous, historical decision that remains in the hearts and souls of all involved can be reconciled at an RVR weekend.

When Jesus uttered the words "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" he was offering the gift of forgiveness not just to those around him, but he was thinking of the future too, of us, and offering us the gift of forgiveness for each other and for ourselves.

Sunday Scripture

Sunday, May 19
Fifth Sunday of Easter

First reading
Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27
Responsorial Psalm
Psalms 145:8-13
Second Reading
Revelations 21:1-5a
Gospel
John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Sunday, May 26
Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading
Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2, 22-29
Responsorial Psalm
Psalms 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
Second Reading
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
Gospel
John 14:23-29

Retreat

►►Continued from page 20

in the post-abortion ministry. They at times justify their decision saying they thought it was the best thing to do so their child could go to college. Or he blames his wife saying she told me to do this. Or he says he didn't want his wife to know, nor did the daughter want her mother to know, and so he followed through on this decision he now sees as a desperate and regretful moment in his life.
Grandfathers (and grandmothers and

High Schools, Special Learning Centers to Graduate 827

The six high schools of the Diocese of Allentown will honor 821 in baccalaureate and commencement ceremonies this year. The three special learning schools in the diocese will graduate six students.

Allentown Central Catholic High School (ACCHS)

Baccalaureate: Thursday, June 6, 7 p.m., St. Thomas More, Allentown.
 Celebrant and homilist: Father Mark Searles, ACCHS chaplain.
 Graduation: Friday, June 7, 7 p.m., Rockne Hall, ACCHS.
 Valedictorian: Ryan Schanta.
 Salutatorian: Thomas Perun.
 Graduating: 180.

Berks Catholic High School, Reading (BCHS)

Baccalaureate: Tuesday, June 4, 7 p.m., St. Catharine of Siena, Reading.
 Celebrant and homilist: Father Stephen Isaac.
 Graduation: Wednesday, June 7, 7 p.m., Physical Education Center, Alvernia University, Reading.
 Valedictorian: Danielle Siteman.
 Salutatorian: James Hornickle.
 Graduating: 204.

Bethlehem Catholic High School (Becahi)

Baccalaureate: Tuesday, June 4, 7 p.m., Becahi auditorium.
 Celebrant and homilist: Bishop Alfred Schlert and Father Kevin Bobbin, Becahi chaplain.
 Graduation: Wednesday, June 5, 7 p.m., auditorium.
 Valedictorian: Julia Zambo.
 Salutatorian: Kaitlyn Hartman.
 Graduating: 177.

Marian High School, Tamaqua (MHS)

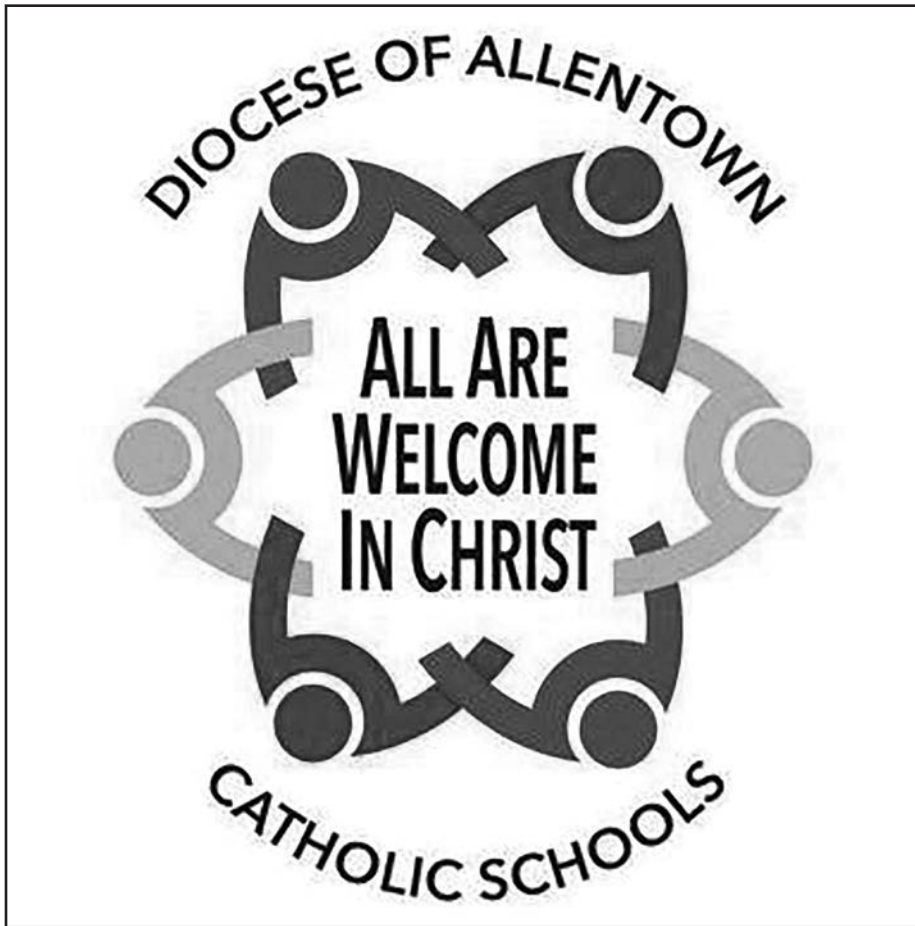
Baccalaureate: Thursday, May 30, 7 p.m., Marian gymnasium.
 Celebrant and homilist: Monsignor David James, vicar general, and Father Brian Miller, MHS chaplain.
 Graduation: Friday, May 31, 7 p.m., Marian gymnasium.
 Valedictorian: Zachary Boyer.
 Salutatorian: Emma McClafferty.
 Graduating: 65.

Nativity BVM High School, Pottsville

Baccalaureate: Monday, June 3, 7 p.m., Nativity gymnasium.
 Celebrant and homilist: Father David Loeper, Nativity chaplain.
 Graduation: Tuesday, June 4, 7 p.m., gymnasium.
 Valedictorian: Benjamin Patton.
 Salutatorian: Hadrian Vaupel.
 Graduating: 70.

Notre Dame High School, Easton (NDHS)

Baccalaureate: Tuesday, June 4, 7 p.m., St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton.
 Celebrant and homilist: Father Eugene Ritz, NDHS chaplain.
 Graduation: Thursday, June 6, 6 p.m. football field (weather permitting).
 Valedictorian: Benjamin Gormley.
 Salutatorian: Isabela Guet-Cruza.
 Graduating: 125.



John Paul II Center for Special Learning, Shillington

Graduation and Mass: Monday, June 3, 12:30 p.m., John Paul II Center.
 Celebrant and homilist: Monsignor Thomas Orsulak, pastor, St. Peter the Apostle, Reading.
 Graduates: 2 – Angel Maldonado-Flores, Samuel Stoudt.

Mercy School for Special Learning, Allentown

Graduation and Mass: Wednesday, June 5, 10 a.m., All Purpose Room, Mercy.
 Concelebrant and homilist: Father John Chmil, assistant pastor, Church of St. Matthew, East Stroudsburg.
 Graduates: 4 – Thomas Garrou, Austin Braun, Rachel MacDonald, Lea Sessoms.

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning, Pottsville

No graduates this year.

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Parish Mission at St. Ursula Highlights Eucharistic Miracles

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

St. Ursula, Fountain Hill offered a parish mission for its 100th anniversary in honor of Jesus Christ that highlighted Eucharistic miracles as the mission launched Palm Sunday evening, April 14.

The mission ran April 14-16, and visitors were able to read 85 Eucharistic miracle posters hanging around the Church.

Dr. Annamae Hein spoke April 14 on the Vatican International Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition. Hein retired as a science teacher from Dieruff High School, Allentown and with Rose Neimeister, is a parish secretary at St. Ursula.

The International Vatican Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition is printed from free DVDs issued by this organization after minimal procedures. It is administered by volunteers like Hein, scattered across the world.

It was inspired by a young boy, Venerable Carlo Acutis (1991-2006), who lived his life for Jesus. He and his mother, Antonia Salzano Acutis, researched each miracle and created the exhibit. Monsignor Raffaello Martirelli promoted the exhibition and brought it to the world. Carlo died in 2006 from leukemia at age 15.

The formal introduction of Carlo's cause for canonization came May 13, 2013 and he became titled as a Servant of God. Pope Francis declared him venerable July 5, 2018.

Information can be found on the official website of the Carlo Acutis Association and the Cause of Beatification of the Venerable Servant of God Carlo Acutis, <http://www.carloacutis.com/en/association/mostra-miracoli-eucaristici>.

"Carlos declared the Eucharist his 'highway to heaven,'" Hein said.

Father Robert Potts, pastor of St. Ursula, welcomed the faithful gathered for the April 14 opening evening of the mission.

Deacon David Rohner of St. Ursula offered "Introduction to Eucharistic Miracles Presentation," during which he spoke of transubstantiation, the conversion of the substance of the Eucharistic elements into the body and blood of Christ. "Some of our fellow Christians believe this is a symbol, but we as Catholics know it's the body and blood of Christ."

"The reason we brought the baby Jesus in procession on the first evening of our parish mission on the Eucharist during Lent is that we wanted to remind people that Jesus was born a man just like all of us with Mary's 'yes' to God," Deacon Rohner said.

"He grew up just as we have: he laughed, he cried, he played with other kids, he felt pain, he loved his mother and father, he mourned his stepfather's death (Joseph), and he grew up steeped in his Jewish faith knowing the law.

"It was a way to begin our parish mission of the Eucharist from his birth to his death and resurrection as each evening progressed."

Deacon Rohner also led the discussion "What is the Eucharist to Catholics?" at the close of the evening.

As Hein began her presentation, she said Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles has said appearance is not reality.

"In the night sky you see lots of stars. You zero in on one, but you're not seeing it as it really is. The star had to travel 35,000 light years to get to our eyes. We see starlight that has traveled a far distance and for a long time," Hein said. "When we wish upon a star we're time traveling."

With transubstantiation, "Father Barron says it comes down to the power of words. The appearance of bread and wine is not reality because of the authenticity of the words," Hein said.

Hein referred to John 6:48-69, and specifically quoted John 6:51 when Jesus said: "I am the living bread



Parishioners peruse the Eucharistic miracle posters, from left, Tom Neimeister, Mary Ann Ehrhardt, Maria Lahr and her mother Rose Roth, at St. Ursula, Fountain Hill on the opening evening of the April 14-16 parish mission for its 100th anniversary in honor. (Photos by John Simitz)

which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever."

"This confused the disciples. They didn't know whether to take him literally," she said.

Hein also referenced John 6:53: "Jesus said to them, Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you."

"At the consecration the priest quotes the direct words of Christ and it changes the reality."

The Eucharistic miracles are available for online study at: http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/mir/engl_mir.htm.

This traveling Exhibition of the Eucharistic Miracles is available for organizations to display to their communities at no cost. The complete exhibition is comprised of 173 posters representing 109 Eucharistic miracles and their locations around the world. Donations for printing costs are appreciated. For more information, call

St. Ursula, 610-867-5122.

"We hope to bring this exhibition to as many people as possible," Hein said. Samples showed muscle cells and intact white blood cells; white blood cells disintegrate after 15 minutes, and this test was done six years after the miracle occurred.

Hein then detailed several Eucharistic miracles.

Sister Rose Mulligan, a Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, spoke on the Shroud of Turin April 15. People could continue to visit the Eucharistic exhibition.

The exhibition continued April 16, along with adoration and Benediction of the Holy Eucharist. The CCD children performed a dramatic Stations of the Cross.

Also, the day prior to the mission, April 13, and Sunday morning, Palm Sunday, visitors could view the posters.

Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena-Orvieto, Italy

Hein said this is the Eucharistic miracle that led to the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Hein said among the miracle posters is this story from 1263, when Peter of Prague, a pious German priest, was having doubts about the transubstantiation of the Holy Eucharist. Because this is the heart of our Catholic faith, he was questioning his priesthood vocation.

He decided to make a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Peter in Rome to pray for enlightenment. He stopped along the way to celebrate Mass at the tomb of St. Christina in the Basilica of Bolsena, Italy.

When he raised his arms to consecrate the host it began to bleed and ran down his hands onto the corporal beneath. At first he tried to hide the blood, but soon he interrupted Mass and asked that he be taken to where Pope Urban IV was residing in nearby Orvieto. As he left the church some of the blood fell and stained the marble floor.

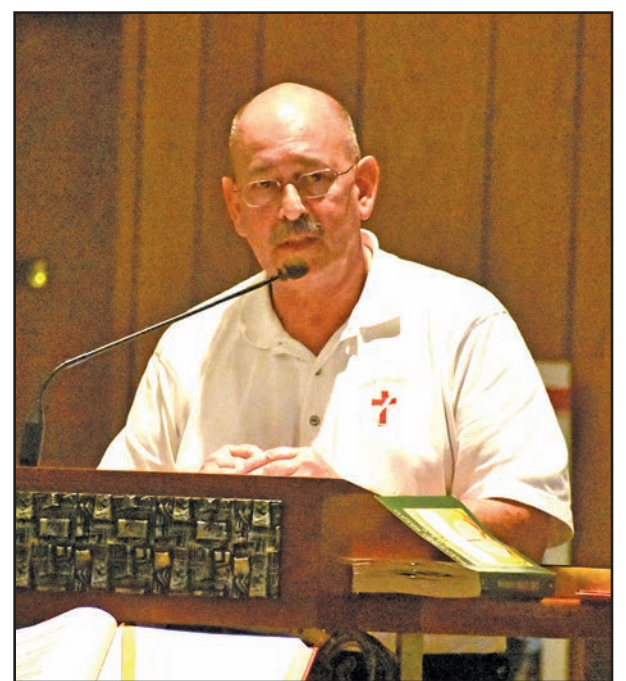
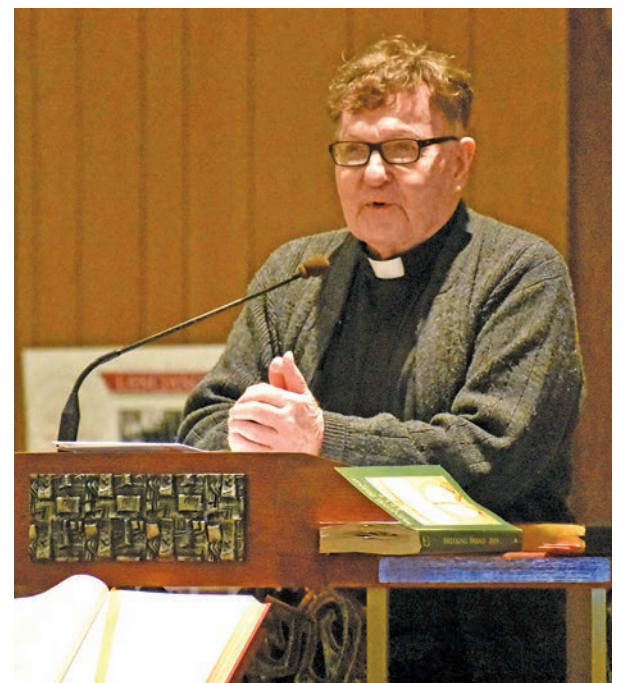
Those who traveled faster than he told the Pope of the miracle. Urban IV decided to intercept the priest himself. They met at the Bridge of the Sun, where the Pope knelt in adoration. The Feast of Corpus Christi was declared on Aug. 11, 1264.

Although more than 750 years old, the Holy Corporal



Above, Dr. Annamae Hein speaks about the International Vatican Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition.

Below, Father Robert Potts welcomes those gathered for the parish mission.



Deacon David Rohner offers an "Introduction to Eucharistic Miracles Presentation."

with the Blood of Christ can be visited in the Cathedral of Orvieto, Italy on the altar of the Golden Shrine. The Feast of Corpus Christi will be celebrated this year on

Please see MIRACLES page 24 ▶▶

Miracles

►Continued from page 23

June 20, the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano, Italy

Hein said another very famous Eucharistic miracle occurred in Lanciano, Italy in 750 A.D. While saying the words of consecration, a doubting priest witnessed the host turn into flesh and the wine turn into blood. This miracle has been extensively studied throughout history and as late as 1970 by Dr. Edward Linoli, the director of a hospital in Arrezzo and a professor of anatomy, histology, chemistry, and clinical microscopy.

His findings were later corroborated through 500 tests done by other expert scientists from the Medical Commission of the World Health Organization. The findings were published in December, 1976.

These tests found that the flesh was striated tissue of human heart muscle with white blood cells that indicated they were taken from a living heart under great duress. The blood contained a normal distribution of proteins and responded during clinical testing just as living tissue. It is type AB, the same as the Shroud of Turin. When the globules of blood are weighed separately or together they consistently weigh the same 15.85 grams.

The relics are sealed for security but are not air tight. Testing also revealed no sign of salt preservation even though it is now 1,269 years old. This miracle can be visited at the Sanctuary of the Eucharistic Miracle, Lanciano, Italy. The official website is <https://thecatholictravelguide.com/destinations/italy/lanciano-italy-eucharistic-mira->



Debbie Rohner, wife of Deacon David Rohner, carries the baby Jesus as the women's guild processes in on the first night of the mission Palm Sunday evening.

[cle-lanciano/](https://thecatholictravelguide.com/destinations/italy/lanciano-italy-eucharistic-mira-).

Eucharistic Miracle of Betania, Venezuela

Hein also spoke of this Eucharistic miracle that occurred during the midnight Mass of Dec. 8, 1991.

Father Otty Ossa Aristizabal was celebrating Mass in the chapel of the Shrine of Betania in Cua and during the consecration, saw the host bleeding. The miraculous host is preserved in the city of Los Teques, at the convent of the Augustinian Recollects Nuns of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, where it is permanently exposed for the adoration of the faithful and it is visited every year by numerous pilgrims coming also from abroad.

Tests confirmed the blood of the priest did not match the one of the particle, and that the blood was human type AB positive, matching the one found in the cloth of the Shroud of Turin and in the host of the Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano.

Many prodigious events have taken place connected to the host of the miracle, among the one which stands out that occurred to a young American who filmed the miraculous host pulsating like a heart, while it was exposed to the faithful.

On Nov. 12, 1998, Daniel Sanford, a pilgrim from New Jersey, saw the host as if in flames in the tabernacle, with a pulsating heart that was bleeding in its center. Hein showed a clip of Sanford's film to those gathered at St. Ursula.

Eucharistic Miracle of Buenos Aires, Argentina

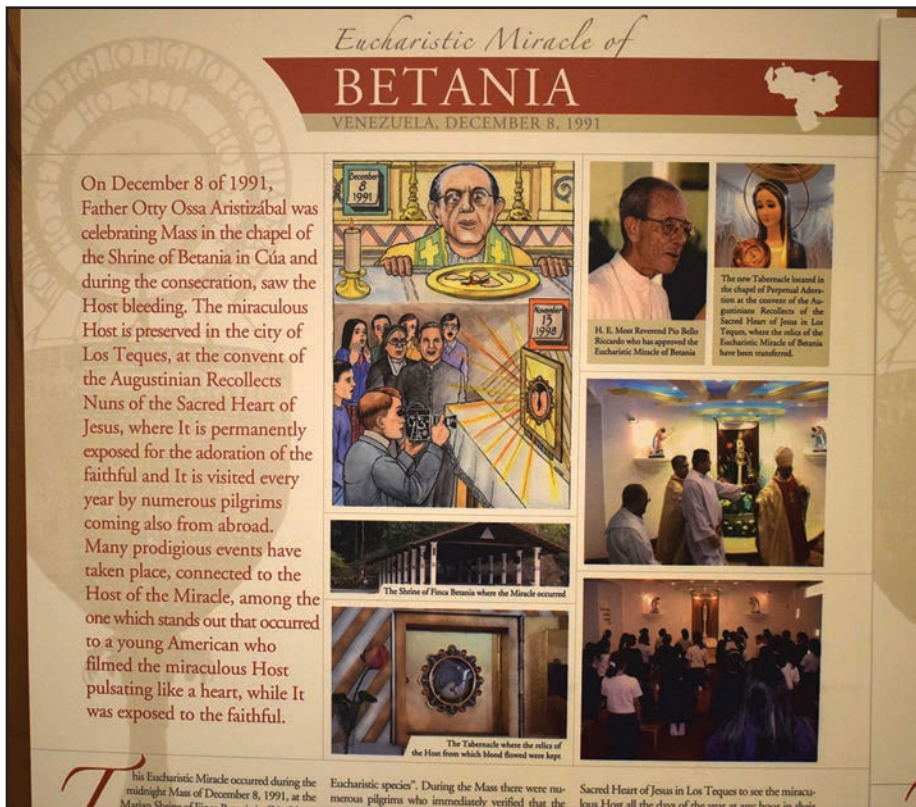
The parish of St. Mary in Buenos Aires has been the protagonist of three Eucharistic miracles that occurred in 1992, 1994 and 1996. Professor Ricardo Castanon Gomez was called by Cardinal Jorge Maria Bergoglio, then Archbishop of Buenos Aires – now Pope Francis – to analyze the miracle that occurred Aug. 15, 1996.

During Mass on the Feast of the Assumption, a consecrated host fell to the ground and was placed in a vessel of water to dissolve. On Aug. 26 a Eucharistic minister opened the tabernacle and saw the host had blood.

Analysis showed it was human blood and that it presented the entire leukocyte formula; the white blood cells were active.

Further analyses showed the samples were tissues of the heart, similar to those of the studies performed on the host of the Miracle of Lanciano. Samples showed muscle cells and intact white blood cells; white blood cells disintegrate after 15 minutes, and this test was done six years after the miracle occurred. The cells were inflamed and it is the left ventricle of the heart.

The relic of the miracle is preserved in the tabernacle at the Church of St. Mary.



The poster that describes the Eucharistic miracle of Betania.

Filipinos to Celebrate Flores de Mayo May 19

The Filipino Catholic Community in the Diocese of Allentown (FCCDA) invites everyone to its annual “Flores de Mayo – Santacruzán” celebration and festivities Sunday, May 19 at St. Jane Fran-

ces de Chantal, Easton. “Flores de Mayo” (“Flowers of May”) is a Filipino ceremony honoring our Blessed Mother, and “Santacruzán” is a procession commemorating the finding

of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem by St. Helena.

Mass will be celebrated at 2 p.m. by Monsignor Stephen Radocha, pastor, followed by a procession around the church.

Potluck and fellowship will follow at the six blue tents at the parking lot.

Participants are asked to bring and share their favorite Filipino dish.

For more information, call 610-751-3943.

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Liberación

Por DIÁCONO JOSÉ SANTOS

Qué bueno es vivir y caminar con libertad, sin prisa, sin preocupaciones, ni sujeto a los afanes temporales. Para poder llegar a ser feliz, necesitamos encontrarnos en estado de tanta libertad, que nos permita elegir lo que realmente es correcto y verdadero. Sólo cuando volvemos a vivir según el plan de nuestro "Arquitecto Creador" encontramos paz y seguridad interior.

Dios es el arquitecto que nunca repite ningún diseño. Él ha creado a cada uno, único, e irrepetible, todos venimos al mundo con una misión. Cada persona debe descubrir cuál es la voluntad del Señor, cual es el propósito en la vida de cada uno. ¿No te has dado cuenta que muchas veces queremos hacer cosas buenas y no podemos? Otras veces intentamos hacer cosas malas y no nos salen. Dios por medio de su ángel te está guiando para que cumplas tu misión.

"Yo, el Señor todopoderoso, lo afirmo: Yo libtaré a mi pueblo del poder del país de oriente y del país de occidente, y lo traeré a Jerusalén para que viva allí. Ellos serán entonces mi pueblo, y yo seré su Dios, con fidelidad y justicia."

Esto dice el Señor todopoderoso: "Esfuércense, ustedes que en estos días han oído las palabras dichas por los profetas, desde el día en que se pusieron los cimientos para la reconstrucción del templo del Señor todopoderoso. Porque hasta estos días no había paga para los hombres ni para las bestias. Y a causa del enemigo, tampoco había paz para los habitantes; y yo había puesto a los unos



en contra de los otros. Pero ahora, para los que queden de este pueblo, ya no voy a ser como en los primeros días. Yo, el Señor todopoderoso, lo afirmo. Porque la paz estará sembrada entre ellos. Los viñedos darán su fruto; la tierra, sus productos; y el cielo, su rocío. Y yo les daré todo eso en posesión a los que queden de este pueblo" (Zac 8, 7-12).

Dios por medio del profeta anuncia la liberación de su pueblo, le promete bienestar a todos los que se esfuercen a vivir según sus palabras y mandatos. La libertad es el fruto del esfuerzo y el sacrificio viviendo con justicia ante Dios, y frente a todos nuestros hermanos. Así como el fruto del trabajo, es una buena cosecha, o una paga justa en efectivo, así todo bien exige sacrificio para lograr la satisfacción.

"Pero ustedes no conocieron a Cristo para vivir así, pues ciertamente oyeron el mensaje acerca de él y aprendieron a vivir como él lo quiere, según la verdad que está en Jesús. Por eso, deben ustedes renunciar a su antigua manera de vivir y despojarse de lo que antes eran, ya que todo eso se ha corrompido, a causa de los deseos engañosos. Deben renovarse espiritualmente en su manera de juzgar, y revestirse de la nueva naturaleza, creada a imagen de Dios y que se distingue por una vida recta y pura, basada en la ver-

dad" (Ef 4, 20-24).

Los cristianos debemos vivir de una manera diferente, no somos ya del mundo, pertenecemos al Reino de los Cielos. En este nuevo reino buscamos el bien del otro, no el bien propio; porque cuando logramos hacer feliz a una persona, esto es recíproco. Es mejor poder dar, que poder recibir; cuando compartimos con los hermanos en la fe o con los hermanos más necesitados, lo hacemos porque tenemos los recursos y las posibilidades de ayudar.

Dios ha regalado dones a los bautizados y medio de estos dones, nos ha capacitado para actuar en su nombre, para hacer el bien, para mostrar misericordia como Él ha tenido misericordia de nosotros. Hay más alegría en dar que en recibir.

"Llegaron a Cafarnaúm, y en el sábado Jesús entró en la sinagoga y comenzó a enseñar. La gente se admiraba de cómo les enseñaba, porque lo hacía con plena autoridad y no como los maestros de la ley. En la sinagoga del pueblo había un hombre que tenía un espíritu impuro, el cual gritó: — ¿Por qué te metes con nosotros, Jesús de Nazaret? ¿Has venido a destruirnos? Yo te conozco, y sé que eres el Santo de Dios. Jesús reprendió a aquel espíritu, diciéndole: — ¡Cállate y deja a este hombre! El espíritu impuro hizo que al hombre le diera un ataque, y gritando

con gran fuerza salió de él. Todos se asustaron, y se preguntaban unos a otros: — ¿Qué es esto? ¡Enseña de una manera nueva, y con plena autoridad! ¡Incluso a los espíritus impuros da órdenes, y lo obedecen! Y muy pronto la fama de Jesús se extendió por toda la región de Galilea" (Mc 1, 21-28).

Hoy es necesario meditar en este evangelio, hay mucha gente, incluso entre los bautizados hay gente que puede estar afectada de diversas formas por los espíritus del mal. Me alegro que en nuestra diócesis después de cada misa se invoque la asistencia del Arcángel San Miguel para pedir a Dios ésta ayuda tan necesaria para liberar al pueblo de los espíritus malignos dispersos.

Es una realidad, la presencia del mal en el mundo. No podemos darle mucha importancia, pero tampoco ignorar que actúa por medio de las tentaciones, se anida en aquellos que viven en pecados mortales, ejemplos: adulterio y todo tipo de desorden sexual, matar como en el aborto y todas sus formas, la brujería y la adivinación, y toda clase de superstición.

La vida sacramental fervorosa, nos libera de todas estas trampas del enemigo de Dios. La Iglesia nos proporciona los sacramentos para llegar a ser verdaderamente libres, como hijos del Dios vivo que somos. Si sospecha que tú o alguien en tu familia o entorno está siendo invadido por algún mal espíritu, no dudes en recomendar a acudir a los sacramentos del bautismo, de la reconciliación, frecuentar las visitas al santísimo sacramento y vivir en persona el sacramento de la Eucaristía junto a la comunidad los domingos, y diario si está a tu alcance. "Y serán verdaderamente libres en el nombre de Jesús." Amen.

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EOE

Death

Religious Sister

Sister Lidwina Konicki, 105, of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of St. Francis, died May 13 at St. Joseph Villa, Reading.

She was born in Lansford, daughter of the late Anthony and Cunegunda (Koci-olek) Konicki. Surviving are a brother, Walter Konicki, and a sister, Carmela

Soner, both of Linden, N.J.

Her ministry as an elementary teacher and mission coordinator was served in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Texas. In the Diocese of Allentown, she served at St. Casimir, Shenandoah and St. Joseph Villa, Reading.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, May 18 at 1 p.m. at Sacred Heart Convent Chapel, Reading, with burial in the congregation's cemetery, Mount Alvernia, Reading.

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Internet, Online Porn Seen as Enabling Sexual Exploitation of Children

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

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The internet facilitates sexual exploitation, a category of child abuse, according to experts in this field interviewed by Catholic News Service.

The internet also, they say, enables near universal access to violent pornography, with a range of negative implications, including normalizing sexual aggression and the dramatic increase in children abusing other children.

In a recent report on the role of technology in sex trafficking, as reported by the Justice Department's Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking studies and based on interviews with 260 survivors, Vanessa Bouche, a political science professor at Texas Christian University, found the internet facilitated prostitution, through online ads, in 75 percent of the cases.

The average age of entry was 15. Young victims, under 1 through age 10, were exploited by family members (76 percent), while older minors were exploited by members of their social network or strangers, far more often than by family.

According to Mary Anne Layden, director of the sexual trauma and psychopathology program in the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Psychiatry, our society is at the point of "almost universal exposure" of children to pornography, which gives them "massive mis-education about intimacy and sexuality."

Children "learn that sex is non-intimate, violent, adversarial, that it is non-relational, it is degrading and it is narcissistic," she told CNS. "Almost 90 percent of pornography coded by researchers is violent, so boys are being taught: Women like to be forced; women like to be raped, fisted, choked, gagged and slapped."

Women are depicted as enjoying, or having a neutral response, to maltreatment.

"Everything pornography says is a lie, but it is a massively effective teaching tool – of toxic learning," Layden explained.

The U.S. Catholic bishops addressed these harmful effects on children in their 2015 pastoral letter on pornography, "Create in Me a Clean Heart."

"Being exposed to pornography can be traumatic for children and youth. Seeing it steals their innocence and gives them

a distorted image of sexuality, relationships, and men and women, which may then affect their behavior," they wrote. "It can also make them more vulnerable to being sexually abused, since their understanding of appropriate behavior can be damaged."

One result of exposure to this violence of pornography is an "explosive" increase in children who are assaulting other children.

Layden said it is more likely for a daughter to be assaulted by her brother than by her stepfather in a "blended" household.

Dawn Hawkins concurs with Layden. Hawkins is senior vice president and executive director of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, or NCOSE, known as Morality in Media until 2015.

"NCOSE believes the increase in children with 'harmful sexual behavior' – a term that includes rape – is due to early exposure to hard-core porn," said Hawkins.

Hawkins said there's little data, for one reason, in school settings sexual abuse between children is not reported, but the damage to victims is real.

The lawyer for an 8-year-old girl raped multiple times by a 13-year-old male neighbor, consulted NCOSE recently. The boy – a consumer of violent pornography – had lined up his younger siblings, and the victim's sibling, to serve as an audience for his illicit performance.

"We know child sexual abuse leads to depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, self-harm, PTSD, risky sexual behaviors, poor physical health and other difficult struggles," summarized Hawkins. "It often predates an individual's entry into prostitution."

"So the trauma experienced by that group of children, caused by an immature brain's exposure to pornography, could take years, even decades, to unravel," she added.

Hawkins recommends the website Protect Young Minds, www.protectyoungminds.org for guidance on inoculating them from harmful imagery online. Another such site is www.faihandssafety.org, created by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Communications and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

A data set released Nov. 30 by Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, found that in almost half of its 2017 child abuse cases, boys ages 11 to 15 years were the perpetrators, physically and sexually attacking girls ages 4 to 8



An illustration shows a teenager looking over her Facebook page. The internet facilitates sexual exploitation, a category of child abuse, experts in this field told Catholic News Service. (CNS photo/Mariana Bazo, Reuters)

years old. Nurses traced the phenomena to exposure to pornography.

One potentially positive note in the disturbing trend regarding peer assault is that, unlike adult perpetrators, young offenders who receive treatment do not appear to re-offend into adulthood.

"The good news on treatment means we need mandatory reporting of these cases, so kids get help," observed NCOSE's Hawkins.

She also is excited that after "many meetings" with Google, the internet giant has quietly added a "safe search" feature, allowing a setting that automatically screens out graphic sexual imagery from popping up.

Private companies as well are beginning to respond to evidence of the harmful impacts of pornography and to federal law enforcement crackdowns on it.

The social networking site Tumblr, now owned by Verizon, announced in early December it would block all pornography and "adult content" from its site beginning Dec. 17, as a result of child pornography – a federal crime treated

with great severity – getting past its filters.

And Starbucks announced it will block customers from perusing pornography while on the store's free Wi-Fi, as a result of pressure from the South Carolina-based advocacy group Enough is Enough.

Some of these changes are a result of consumer pressure, according to Hawkins.

"The general public is becoming more aware of the public health harm," she told CNS. "Parents are concerned about the harm to their young kids."

She added, "There is a connection between pornography and violence against women.... The general public is becoming aware of this and demanding an end to the violence and sexual abuse of children."

Hawkins also cited 40 peer-reviewed studies since 2001 that stated the detrimental impacts of pornography. "There is much more widespread awareness of the harms, which have been swept under the rug and not talked about," she said.

Vigilance by Parents and Their Children Called Key to Safe Internet Use

WASHINGTON (CNS) – In his internet safety presentations at schools, Justin Gaertner emphasizes that safety "comes back to parents and kids being vigilant."

"If you see something, say something," he tells his audiences.

Wounded in war while serving in Afghanistan as a Marine veteran, Gaertner works with the Department of Homeland Security, pursuing predators who collect and trade child pornography – more accurately termed, child sexual abuse imagery – on the internet.

"We all have to be very careful," Gaertner told Catholic News Service.

One resource for guidance on internet

safety is the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, or NCMEC, runs the website www.netsmart.org with tip sheets and guidance tailored for various audiences. The site is one of more than a dozen sites with child safety resources the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection lists at <https://bit.ly/1DIKIJR>.

For parents, NCMEC suggests the best way to protect your children is to actually engage with them in accessing things online: offer to play the games they like, ask them to show you what platforms they use, discuss being respectful online and never responding to

sexual questions or requests for pictures.

"Your kids might not tell you everything but ask anyway," the center says. "Regular conversations about safety can go a long way in increasing trust and communication."

The site www.faihandssafety.org tells parents: "No technology, no piece of software, no parental control is ever a substitute for active and involved parenting. The most effecting internet safety tool is you."

Launched in 2013 by the USCCB's Department of Communications and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the Faith and Safety website has a variety of resources, including reviews

of mobile apps; ways to address issues faced by children online, such as bullying; and resources to educate parents on protecting their home networks.

It also features regular columns by leading Catholic and Orthodox figures on connecting faith and technology, as well as news updates, how-to guides and video content.

"All safety – especially mobile and online safety – begins at home," the site's homepage says. "The habits you exhibit about technology use in your home will be the same habits your children learn.... Model the behavior you yourself expect from your children."



CHILDREN at RISK

Philadelphia Holds 'Pro-Life Rally Against Bullying'

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) – More than 1,000 people gathered in Philadelphia May 10 to demonstrate against recent social media videos of a Pennsylvania lawmaker berating people for praying outside of an abortion clinic.

The "Pro-Life Rally Against Bullying" took place in front of the Planned Parenthood facility in downtown Philadelphia where the week before, state Rep. Brian Sims had confronted pro-life demonstrators and posted two videos on social media where he asked for donations to the abortion center while offering money to viewers who could provide the identities and addresses of the activists.

Shortly after the videos emerged on social media, the national organization Live Action organized a rally in response that featured representatives from the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Family Council, 40 Days for Life, Students for Life, Sidewalk Advocates for Life, Sidewalk Servants and the Susan B. Anthony List.

Lila Rose, founder and president of Live Action, was moderator. She called for Sims' resignation but also said the event was organized for a "much bigger reason" – to stand for the dignity of human life, a point emphasized in several other speeches at the rally.

Rose said: "Over 900 babies are killed every day at Planned Parenthood facilities across the U.S., and 2,600 across the nation at abortion clinics."

Author and speaker Matt Walsh, who had called for the rally through a series of Twitter posts, said "abortion is not a reproductive issue, but a parenting decision," since "by the time the abortion happens, reproduction has already occurred."

He said he hoped the rally would become a regular event.

Ashley Garecht, one of the women who had been confronted in Sims' videos, drew cheers as she commended the longtime efforts of pro-life demonstrators and volunteers, noting they "are standing on the side of the angels."

Garecht also pointed out that the rally was taking place just blocks from the former home of James Madison, a primary author of the U.S. Constitution, which enshrines "a self-evident, inalienable



Lila Rose, founder of the pro-life group Live Action that sponsored the "Pro-Life Rally Against Bullying" May 10 in Philadelphia, speaks to a crowd on the street in front of a Planned Parenthood clinic in the city. The rally was held in response to the verbal harassment of peaceful sidewalk witnesses by state Rep. Brian Sims, which came to light in recent videos he posted on social media. (CNS photo/Sarah Webb, CatholicPhilly.com)

right to life," she said.

Several speakers directly addressed Sims' claims that the pro-life advocates he had filmed were racist.

Richara Krajewski of the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia said she stood before the crowd "as a pro-life black woman."

Noting that "it's so popular now to call out racism," Krajewski wished to clarify that application of the term, particularly "in the context of pro-abortion politics."

"Real racism," she said, "is co-opting the language of liberation to advocate for the destruction of the lives of the most vulnerable. Real racism is a so-called white ally telling black and brown women that they need to choose between their dreams and their babies."

Toni McFadden, founder of Relationships Matter, described her own experience as an African American teenager who had turned to Planned Parenthood

for an abortion induced through an abortifacient prescription. In speaking engagements, McFadden now shares her insights on post-abortion healing and spiritual development "so that no more babies need to die because of convenience."

Abby Johnson, author of the book "Unplanned" and a nationally recognized pro-life advocate, met with an enthusiastic response as she announced she is now 37 weeks pregnant.

A former Planned Parenthood employee, Johnson took the organization to task for "covering up statutory rape of minors, not sterilizing instruments that are being used woman to woman" and repeatedly failing health inspections.

"That is the antithesis of health care and the antithesis of feminism," said Johnson.

Earlier in the week, Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput in a statement had encouraged people to attend the rally and

"meet the hateful actions of Rep. Sims with the love of Christ." Philadelphia Auxiliary Bishop John McIntyre delivered a final blessing at the rally.

Some 20 patient escorts from Planned Parenthood, wearing bright yellow and pink vests, lined the sidewalk during the rally. They declined to offer comment about it to www.CatholicPhilly.com, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Margaret Kuhar, a Philadelphia resident who has just finished her freshman year at the University of Mary near Bismarck, North Dakota, said the rally was remarkable for its "shoulder-to-shoulder turnout" and the rapid way it came together.

She has attended the annual March for Life in Washington more than 15 times with her family and said she has seen "a big turnaround" in the attitude of younger generations to abortion.

Abuse

►Continued from page 1

ceses by making them responsible for alerting the proper Vatican authorities of all forms of suspected abuse, including the possession, distribution or creation of pornography involving a minor.

He told Vatican News May 9 that the norms respond to Pope Francis' continued insistence for concrete and effective measures to ensure bishops and religious superiors have a very clear understanding of what their obligations are and what they should and should not do when it comes to safeguarding.

It also requires all priests and religious to report suspected abuse or cover-ups and encourages any lay person to report through a now-mandated reporting "system" or office in each diocese.

How the office or "system" works will be up to each diocese, but "the idea is that anyone who has suffered abuse can have recourse to the local church, while being assured they will be well received, protected from retaliation, and that their reports will be treated with the utmost seriousness," Andrea Tornielli, editorial director of the Dicastery for Communication, told Vatican News.

The new norms now stipulate:

* Procedures for the investigation of bishops, cardinals, patriarchs, religious superiors and all those who lead – even temporarily – a diocese or particular church, including personal prelatures and personal ordinariates.

* Leaders will be held accountable not only with suspected cases of committing abuse themselves, but also accusations of having interfered with, covered up or failed to address abuse accusations they were aware of.

* When the accused individual is a bishop, the metropolitan will receive a mandate from the Holy See to investigate or delegate a person in charge of the preliminary investigation. A status report must be sent to the Holy See every 30 days, and the investigation completed with 90 days with some exceptions. Vatican offices are also held to specific timeframes and prompt action.

* By June 2020 every diocese in the world must create an office or "public, stable and easily accessible systems" for reporting suspected abuse against a minor or vulnerable person, failure of compliance of abuse guidelines by bishops or superiors, and cases of interference or cover-ups in either a civil or canonical investigation of suspected abuse.

* All priests and religious that become aware of abuse or its cover-up must alert their bishop or religious superior prompt-

ly.

* A minor is anyone under the age of 18 and a vulnerable person is "any person in a state of infirmity, physical or mental deficiency, or deprivation of personal liberty which, in fact, even occasionally, limits their ability to understand or to want to otherwise resist the offense."

* The definition of child pornography as any representation of a minor, regardless of the media used, "involved in explicit sexual activities, whether real or simulated, and any representation of sexual organs of minors for primarily sexual purposes."

* Bishops and religious superiors will be accountable not just for protecting minors against abuse but also for protecting seminarians, novices and members of religious orders from violence and sexual abuse stemming from an abuse of power. The norms apply to reports of "delicts against the sixth commandment" regarding clerics or members of religious orders and "forcing someone, by violence or threat or through abuse of authority, to perform or submit to sexual acts."

* Those who report abuse cannot be subjected to pressure, retaliation and discrimination or told to keep silent. The seal of confession, however, remains inviolable and is not affected by the new norms.

* Procedures for carrying out the pre-

liminary investigation include the bishop immediately requesting from the Vatican that he or a delegate be assigned to begin the preliminary investigation. If he considers an accusation is unfounded, the papal nuncio is informed. The Vatican will have 30 days to respond to the request and the bishop sends a status report to the Vatican every 30 days.

* When the investigation is complete, the bishop sends the results to the proper Vatican office, which then follows existing canon law.

* The continued obligation to respect civil laws regarding mandatory reporting.

* Those who reported suspected abuse or cover-up will be told of the outcome of the investigation if they request to be informed.

* A fund can be set up by bishops' conferences, synods and church provinces to cover the costs of investigations.

The document is a follow-up to Pope Francis' 2016 document, "As a Loving Mother," on transparency and accountability of bishops and religious superiors.

The two documents together are meant to correct what had been a lack of or unclear procedures for investigating the way a bishop complies with already established norms against abuse and clearly expressing the consequences of noncompliance or cover-ups.

Bishop Schlert Among U.S. Bishops in Dialogue with Abuse Victims

WASHINGTON (CNS) – During the last days of April, a section of the student hub on the campus of The Catholic University of America (CUA) in Washington, D.C. displayed a gallery of tales of pain, but also of recovery and healing, featuring Catholics from across the country who had experienced sex abuse by clergy.

They were men and women, younger and older, of various ethnicities – profiles of Catholics who had survived torment by trusted members of the church but who also were helped to recover by Catholic communities of faith.

On May 1 just behind the walls where the tales of abuse and healing were on display, a small group of Catholics just like the ones in the stories, gathered with bishops, clergy, victim advocates and others for a daylong event on the sex abuse crisis in the Catholic Church, but also to acknowledge the pain caused, to offer comfort, express sorrow, share a meal, pray and extend the wish to heal a broken trust.

“To see the bishops up on a platform with survivors having a discussion in front of other people ... my hope is that it was the beginning of a lot more conversation between leadership and survivors,” said Kathleen Chastain, a victim services coordinator from the Office of Child and Youth Protection for the Diocese of Kansas City in a May 2 interview with Catholic News Service.

Though the bishops gathered had heard the testimony of the two survivors before – at their annual meeting in November in Baltimore – the May gathering placed them together on a stage to dialogue, a back and forth of questions and answers, a sharing of experiences, which occasionally included an outpouring of painful memories.

The event was titled “Pushing Back Against the Darkness,” an effort that came about with coordination by CUA, members of the survivor group Spirit Fire and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Survivors spoke of the abuse and its byproduct on the lives of those who’ve been abused, including broken relationships, lack of trust, depression, addictions and how it distances some of them from what they treasure most as Catholics: the Eucharist.

Some bishops spoke of the pain they, too, had felt when they arrived at dioceses where sex abuse had taken place, and how they grappled with the suffering of the families, as well as the pain of faith communities reeling from the events. Some admitted that in the past, it wasn’t a situation that the seminary and other training they had received, had prepared them to face.

More than a dozen bishops, includ-



Abuse survivors Teresa Pitt Green and Luis Torres Jr., center, pose May 1 with John Garvey, president of The Catholic University of America, back left, and U.S. prelates, at the university in Washington. Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert is front second from left. Back fourth from right is Bishop of Rockville Centre John Barres, former Bishop of Allentown. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

“In the end, the dream is that the church can be healthier and holier.”

ing Boston Cardinal Sean O’Malley and Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski, took part in the event, which included a private meeting between the prelates and a small group of survivors who attended and whose discussion was not open to other attendees.

In a May 6 interview with CNS, Bishop Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Missouri, who took part in the private meeting, said a family member attended the event, bringing to the forefront the full weight of what abuse does: it negatively affects more than the

survivor. It affects family members and friends who later wonder whether they could have prevented it, he said.

The daylong meeting, Bishop McKnight said, was “more of a family meeting,” and “much more human, and having to do with the heart and mind,” rather than discussing policy, or how to approach the problem institutionally – the focus of many meetings that have taken place among bishops.

“One of takeaways I got from it was the importance of listening,” he said. “We have to be more aware that it is not simply our responsibility to conduct a formal canonical process. We’re also supposed to be pastors.”

In a May 2 interview, Deacon Bernie Nojadera, executive director of the US-CCB’s Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection, said that though many bishops regularly meet with survivors in their dioceses, those meetings are private.

But such national meetings like the one that took place in Washington can serve as a model for future events, show-

ing the possibility that the higher rungs of the church can actively participate in the healing of a broken trust, Deacon Nojadera said.

“This can work,” he said. “In the end, the dream is that the church can be healthier and holier.”

Bishops sat at tables with survivors, ate lunch together, and participated in small group discussions with one another following panel discussions.

Some bishops spoke of their efforts to walk with those who have been abused during their journey toward recovery, of trying to reassure survivors of their worthiness and of Christ’s love.

But that’s not always an easy message to get across to those facing deep trauma. Victim advocate Chastain said the meeting was like no other, watching the willingness of the bishops to meet in such a public way with those who’ve been hurt by a group they’re associated with.

“To have them be in a room with individuals who have been harmed and you’re representing that harming party ... it’s making yourself vulnerable,” said Chastain.

Conventual Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo, university chaplain and director of campus ministry at CUA, said he watched as the bishops shared their stories with the survivors, of how they tried to reach out to those who had been harmed.

“It was really helpful to me as a priest to see bishops who have worked hard to bring survivors back into the church,” to heal the wounds and to have communities of faith participate in that process, he said.

“It’s very important, not just for the bishops, but for the entire church to hear these stories and to learn not only about

the devastation that the abuse caused, but the cover-up, and the resilience of these people and their love for the church,” Father DeAngelo said. “They’re the first step in helping the church.”

Dallas Bishop Edward Burns said that while some in the church had found the revelations to be uncomfortable, “it’s important for us to be uncomfortable” and to face the reality of what took place, he said.

“We have to enter into uncomfortable situations to bring about the healing.”

In his remarks opening the meeting, CUA President John Garvey said that like other Catholics he, too, had been grappling since last year with the emotions he had to face after accusations that former Washington Cardinal Theodore McCarrick had abused children and seminarians, and later with the Aug. 14 release of a Pennsylvania grand jury report on clergy sex abuse in some parts of the state.

“We often hear how important it is to listen to the voices of survivors. The reason is that their testimony makes the problem real. And that, in turn, can provoke anger,” he said.

“Anger is not a bad thing.... Like other emotions, anger can be deployed for vicious or virtuous ends. Anger can harm, but it can also help us heal.”

And healing can only take place when you take into account all who have been hurt, and that includes the families, friends of survivors, but also the parishes, said Bishop McKnight.

“That’s really touched me,” he said. “The trauma is to them, to their friends, their family members, people close to them. That’s why the whole church needs healing.”

Cardinal Turns on the Lights and Raises Ire of Italian Politician

ROME (CNS) -- Back in Rome less than 24 hours after visiting refugees in camps in Greece, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski turned on some lights and found himself being threatened by Italy’s deputy prime minister.

The cardinal, who distributes charity on behalf of Pope Francis, went May 11 at 10 p.m. to a state-owned building in Rome where more than 430 people – including more than 100 children – have set up housekeeping.

They have occupied the building since 2013, but on May 6 the electric company cut service, leaving the occupants without lights, without hot water and without functioning refrigerators.

Asked if it was true that he personally lifted a manhole cover and climbed down to reconnect the building to the power main, Cardinal Krajewski told the newspaper, *Corriere della Sera*, “It was a special situation. Desperate. I repeat I assume all the responsibility.”

Matteo Salvini, deputy prime minister of Italy, told a crowd at a rally May 12 that the occupants of the building owed the electric company 300,000 euros (about \$337,000) and he would be sending the cardinal the bill.

“I’ll pay it. No problem,” the cardinal told the newspaper. “And if one arrives, I’ll pay a fine as well.”

The Vatican, through Cardinal Krajewski’s office, had been assisting the residents for some time, regularly send-

ing food and medicine as well as doctors.

“The absurd thing is that we are in the heart of Rome,” Cardinal Krajewski told the paper. “These are families who don’t have anywhere to go, people who struggle to survive.”

The question people should be asking, he said, is not who will pay the electric bill, but why there are more than 400 people, including small children, living like that.