

Serrans Honor Newly Ordained as Agents of Healing and Hope

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

“It’s a great time to be a priest – to be the one called by our Lord – to bring the light of Christ into the darkness that has clouded our Church this past year,” said Father Thomas Bortz June 17 during the Ordinandi Dinner at St. Mary, Hamburg.

“You three get to be agents of healing, figures of hope and instruments for renewal for the people of Allentown.”

Father Bortz, pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring, was guest speaker at the celebration for the newly ordained priests – Father Giuseppe Esposito, Father John Maria and Father Zachary Wehr.

Hosted by the Serra Clubs of the Diocese of Allentown District I-80, the dinner drew an estimated 200 guests and priests.

After thanking the Serrans for their prayers and support of seminarians and priests, Father



The newly ordained priests thanking Serrans and the faithful at the Ordinandi Dinner are, from left, Father John Maria, Father Giuseppe Esposito and Father Zachary Wehr. (Photos by John Simitz)

“The greatest thing you get to do is feed God’s people, and you get to feed them with the greatest gift ever.”

Bortz said the “yes” of the newly ordained men was not to go to the seminary but to a calling to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

“Your formation gave you answers when God questioned your commitment, and the sacred chrism on your hands was you telling the world that you’re ‘all in,’” he said.

“And nothing aggravated Satan more.”

Recalling the terroristic attacks on 9/11, he told the guests that the prince of darkness directed the tragic day.

“Three planes were hijacked, two of which successfully reached their targets. But the third failed. Passengers realized what was happening and they responded heroically. They sprang into action, and their willingness to sacrifice their lives to save others from a simi-

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Program Focuses on Catholic Response to Same-Sex Attraction

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

“Genes impel strongly in certain behavioral directives, but can’t compel us,” said Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, presenting “Welcoming in Truth and Charity: The Church’s Authentic Teaching on Same-Sex Attraction” June 22 at Berks Catholic High School, Reading.

Discussing the moral element, Father Pacholczyk said, “We’re not responsible for born inclinations. We are responsible for how we act on them.

“You can’t use the excuse ‘God made me this way.’”

Sponsored by Bishop Alfred Schlert, the morning event included a question-and-answer discussion.

Father Pacholczyk is director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, Philadelphia and directs the center’s National Catholic Certification Program in Health Care Ethics.

He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts and holds a doctoral degree in neuroscience from Yale University.



Father Pacholczyk studied for five years in Rome at both the Gregorian University and the Lateran University, where he did advanced work in dogmatic theology and

bioethics. “Genes do not compel our sexual behaviors – we have the freedom to choose,” Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk says while presenting “Welcoming in Truth and Charity: The Church’s Authentic Teaching on Same-Sex Attraction” June 22 at Berks Catholic High School, Reading. (Photos by John Simitz)

bioethics.

He writes and speaks widely on bioethics and medical ethics. Since 2001 he has given several hundred presentations and invited lectures, and participated in debates and roundtables on contemporary bioethics throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

Those attending included Bishop Schlert; Father Adam Sedar, diocesan secretary for clergy; and Mary Fran Hartigan, diocesan secretary for Catholic life and evangelization.

“Father Tad beautifully explained the

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Diocese of Allentown Reduces Staff, Takes Other Cost-Cutting Measures

To continue its charitable and pastoral mission throughout its five counties while freeing up funds to compensate victims of clergy sexual abuse, the Diocese of Allentown has cut operating costs and is reducing its office work force by 24 percent.

Most of the employment reduction occurred through attrition, including a voluntary retirement program. The Diocese also has reviewed business processes and restructured some departments. In addition, it implemented a pay freeze for employees, as well as clergy in administrative roles.

When the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program was announced, the Diocese said funding it would place diocesan operations under severe financial stress. As a result, cash reserves are no longer

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Because We Are Catholic

Priest Answers Call to Serve in Military

By PAUL WIRTH
Diocesan Communications Staff

After five years as a priest in the Diocese of Allentown, Father James Harper soon expects to be on his way to the U.S. military, where he will provide spiritual guidance to service members in the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

"The need for priests in the military is serious," he said. "There are only 45 active duty priests to serve the whole Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard." He said about 25 percent of service people are Catholic, but only 6 percent of military chaplains are Catholic priests.

When he was in high school at Reading Central Catholic, the now 32-year-old Fleetwood native had only two career paths in mind: military officer or priest. Having achieved the latter, his new assignment will combine it with the former, as a lieutenant junior grade in the U.S. Navy.

Bishop Schlert granted permission for the assignment despite the need for priests in the Diocese of Allentown. "We cannot be indifferent to the needs of the broader Church, especially as it pertains to our men and women who selflessly serve in the military," said Bishop Schlert. "Their distance from home, and proximity to danger and armed conflict, make it necessary that they have access to good priests."

"We are very proud of Father Harper for answering this call, as have other priests of the Diocese of Allentown. God will bless us with vocations to the Priesthood when we are generous in serving the greater needs of the universal Church."

Father Harper will be "on loan" to the military, but will remain a priest of the Diocese of Allentown and will return to ministry here after his Navy duty ends. He recently attended a weeklong retreat for potential military chaplains in Washington, D.C., which included Mass in the Pentagon chapel, constructed in the portion of the building damaged in the 9/11 attack.

Upon final acceptance into the program and on completion of his initial training, a likely first assignment could be with the Marines or on an aircraft carrier.

During his time in the Diocese of Allentown, Father Harper has served as assistant pastor at Notre Dame Parish, Bethlehem, and St. Thomas More Parish, Allentown. This summer, while he awaits the call to report to duty, he is in residence at his home parish, Holy Guardian Angels in Reading, helping with Mass and other duties.



Father James Harper, left, with Archbishop Timothy Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services, U.S.A.

"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.

Cost-cutting

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available to cover budget deficits. Therefore, cost reductions were necessary to enable charitable and pastoral programs to continue.

No parish or school assets, no money donated to the Bishop's Annual Appeal,

and no future collections at parish Masses are being used to fund the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program.

The Diocese of Allentown and its ministries touch the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, throughout Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill counties. While many of these programs are supported by donations, ad-

ditional financial and staff support is provided by the Diocese.

The cost-cutting actions took place in diocesan administrative offices, where 96 people worked before the reductions. Operations at parishes were not affected. Diocesan officials expressed gratitude to affected employees for their years of dedicated service and offered them prayerful best wishes in future endeavors.

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.



Serrans

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lar fate as the twin towers ruined the terrorists' ultimate plan to severely cripple our country," said Father Bortz.

"There's a strong analogy here with what we have in our newly ordained. These three young men have willingly surrendered themselves, given their lives to God, so that others may live, and I'm talking eternally. They too have responded heroically at a time when God needs them.

Stressing that Jesus brings his light of the world through good, faithful and joyful priests, he acknowledged that man was responsible for the first fall in the Garden of Eden, and priests are responsible for the recent clergy abuse scandal.

"And God knew it would take priests to bring life to a fallen Church. The priesthood is not about the priest. Ordination is not about men promising obedience to a Bishop. There is no gift, there is no grace, there is no vocation bestowed that is given solely or even primarily for the benefit of the recipient," said Father Bortz.

Instead, he told the guests, what transpires at ordination is that God opens them up and capacitates them for a "radical and generous self-donation" on behalf of his people.

"My three new brothers, the priesthood is given to you, but it's for them," said Father Bortz.

Reminding the newly ordained priests that they will never build up God's Church by themselves, he urged them to let God help.

"Love your people with God's help. Pray more than you are obliged to pray. Pray for your people, and don't be afraid to pray for yourself. That's not being selfish. Surrender your personal agendas and be docile to the Spirit," he said.

Father Bortz also advised the new priests to keep Jesus at the center of their spiritual life and that their pastoral fruitfulness is tied to personal prayer and an intimate relationship with Christ.

"Loving your people means more than occasionally being seen in the vicinity of those you serve. It means engagement, relationship and commitment. It means discovering the joys, the needs and, perhaps most poignantly, the sufferings of the people we are called to shepherd.

You get to be the new life in Christ. You get to be the light of Christ to which God's people are called," he said.

"So you can't let anything or anyone wipe away the joy you have right now in your heart."



Members of the Serra Clubs, clergy and guests celebrate the newly ordained priests at St. Mary, Hamburg.

In addition, he advised the priests to pray before they preach, work diligently at being a good homilist and jokingly referred to the late comedian George Burns, who said "an excellent homily should have a good beginning and a good ending, and they should be as close together as possible."

"People will be attracted to your freshly minted priesthood. Some will be gracious, needy, combative, polite, whiny, grateful, liberal, conservative, broken, cordial, confused, generous, flattering, devoted and challenging. And you have been ordained to serve them all and love them all, because our Lord offered his life for these people," said Father Bortz.

"The greatest thing you get to do is feed God's people, and you get to feed them with the greatest gift ever. At every holy sacrifice of the Mass through the power of the Holy Spirit you get to perform a miracle by changing the bread and wine into the sacred body and precious blood of Jesus for the spiritual nourishment and transformation of your people."

In his remarks, Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert told the guests that the newly ordained priests – who were the first men he administered the Sacrament of Holy Orders to as transitional deacons last year – are a great sign of joy and hope for the Diocese.

"We needed some good news and a morale booster – and this was it," he said.

Bishop Schlert then asked the Serrans and guests to look at the quality of the three new priests and pointed to the fact that vocations come at different times, to



Father Thomas Bortz encourages the new priests to "love their people."

different people and in different regions.

With Father Esposito, 37, who worked as a registered nurse; Father Maria, 51, a father and grandfather; and Father Wehr, 28, who earned a degree in education before entering the seminary – Bishop Schlert noted that there is no area in the Diocese that is not fertile ground for vocations.

"God calls 'who' and 'when.' It is our part to pray. God works beyond our expectations," he said.

Acknowledging that some may say it

is a terrible time to be a Bishop, he told the faithful that it's not a terrible time to be the Bishop of Allentown because of good priests, good religious and supportive faithful.

"We have challenges. But we have a Diocese very full of hope. Everything we need to serve our local Church is right here," said Bishop Schlert.

Before the dinner, a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Monsignor Da-

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Mary Marzen presents gifts to the new priests on behalf of the Serrans.



Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, second from left, talks with, from left, a diocesan seminarian, Father Esposito and Father Maria during the dinner.

Serrans

►Continued from page 3

vid James, diocesan vicar general.

Father Adam Sedar, diocesan secretary for clergy, also served as homilist.

"Day in and day out, you will draw closer to the Lord," said Father Sedar. "Let nothing come between you and the altar like nothing came between the Lord and wood of his cross."

Other concelebrants were Father Donald Cieniewicz, pastor of St. Mary, Hamburg; the newly ordained priests; and diocesan priests.

Mary Marzen, president of Serra Club of Carbon/Schuylkill, presented the newly ordained priests with gifts.

Prayer for Vocations was led by Monsignor Daniel Yenushosky, chaplain of Serra Club of Allentown and pastor of Holy Trinity, Whitehall.

The Prayer for the Perseverance of Vocations was led by Father Edward Essig, chaplain of Serra Club of Reading and pastor of St. Francis de Sales, Robesonia.



Monsignor David James, center, celebrates Mass with, from left: Father David Kozak, Monsignor Walter Scheaffer, Father Eugene Ritz, Father Zachary Wehr, Father Donald Cieniewicz, Father Adam Sedar, Father Giuseppe Esposito, Father John Maria, Father George Winne and Father Eric Arnout.



Above, Paulette Roth presents a flower to Father Wehr, left, and Father Esposito.

Left, Father Sedar preaches the homily.

'Women Chosen for a Purpose'

Women of all ages are invited to hear about their call to be Disciples of Christ and what that means for their lives as women at "Women Chosen for a Purpose," the third Diocesan women's conference, Saturday, Oct. 5.

Included will be keynote speakers and opportunities for Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert.

A separate Spanish track will be offered.

The day will be from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at DeSales University, Center Valley.

For more information or to register, visit www.allentowndioocese.org/womens-conference.

Women Chosen for a purpose

"YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME, BUT I CHOSE YOU"
John 15:16

Keynote Speakers:
Dr. Edward Sri
Sarah Christmyer
Sr. Sophia Marie Peralta, S.C.C. (Spanish Session)
Martha Fernández-Sardina (Spanish Session)
The Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert (Mass Celebrant)

Diocese of Allentown Women's Conference
SATURDAY OCTOBER 5, 2019
DeSales University • 2755 Station Avenue • Center Valley, PA

In partnership with:

For Information and to Register Visit www.AllentownDiocese.com/Womens-Conference or Call 610-289-8900 Ext. 2021. Email: AdultFormation@AllentownDiocese.org

St. Joseph's Festival
Summit Hill
(Rt. 902 between Lansford & Mahoning Valley)

FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY
JULY 19 - 20 - 21

Friday: Festival - 6 - 10pm
Saturday: Mass - 4pm (Air conditioned)
Festival - 5 - 10pm
Sunday: St. Gabriel Procession - 3:30 p.m. followed by benediction
Festival - 5 - 10 p.m. - Fireworks after 10 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTLY
FRIDAY - Maggie & The Muts - 6:30-9:30pm
SATURDAY - Honky Tonk Medics - 6-10pm
SUNDAY - Coal'n Mountain Music by Jay Smarr - 4-6pm
 Toolshed Jack - 6-10pm
 Fireworks after 10pm.
RAIN OR SHINE

RAFFLES:
 Home Heat & Gas Cards, Festival Cash Drawing, Char-Broil Gas Grill, 5 Piece Pasadena Fire Pit Set, Football tickets, August 8th game between Philadelphia Eagles vs Tennessee Titans

THEME BASKET CHINESE AUCTION
 Browse - Friday - Saturday - Sunday
 Drawing - Sunday night between 9 & 10 p.m.

HOMEMADE FOOD:
 SOUPS, HOT DOGS, BBQ, HAMBURGERS, FRENCH FRIES, PIZZA, BLEENIES, HALUPKI, HALUSKI, PIEROGIES, SAUSAGE 'N PEPPERS, ROAST PORK SANDWICH, MEAT-BALL SANDWICH, WINGS, FUNNEL CAKES, WAFFLES & ICE CREAM, OUR FAMOUS BLOOMIN' ONION, FRIED OREOS, CAKE, COFFEE, SODA & BEER, ICED TEA, BOTTLED WATER & JELLO SHOTS

KIDDIE RIDES & GAMES
 Small Games of Chance #: 11718

PLANT STAND & BAKE SALE
in the Church Social Hall

Response

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dignity and worth of every human person. As such, every person is welcome in the Church. He also made the essential distinction between the person and his/her actions. The person is always to be loved and accepted, but actions can be sinful," said Bishop Schlert.

"It was great to see so many people present for this lecture. Father Tad explained well that true love always includes both the acceptance of the person and the challenge to conversion to the truth of the Gospel, which is the only way to true freedom," said Father Sedar.

Father Pacholczyk said homosexuality has multiple variables. "Temperament is the biological contributor; however temperament alone is not enough to create a homosexual orientation. The temperament type must be met with the right environmental factors in order to produce same-sex attractions."

Father Pacholczyk spoke of a man who was raped by a coach in his youth, and subsequently later got into a steady homosexual relationship and lived with the man. He knew it was wrong and asked God to help him. He told the partner he was living with that he'd never see him again.

Through counseling he's found healing, and is now married with two children. At times he still struggles with attraction to men, but through faith and counseling the healing continues.

Father Pacholczyk made the comparison that some people may be genetically disposed to violence, but they have no right to attack anyone.

He said God did not make us a certain way. "We are born with original sin."

"Genes do not compel our sexual behaviors – we have the freedom to choose."

Father Pacholczyk said the Catechism of the Catholic Church, addressing same-sex attraction, says, "People don't choose homosexuality, it is a trial."

Father Pacholczyk said the late Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFR) Father Benedict Groeschel, discussing choosing to act on inclinations, said, "Homosexuality is a condition, gay and lesbian is a decision," meaning that to live in a way as to march in gay pride parades "moves away from the true direction our Lord would have us follow."

"We must find our own identity in God."

"Christ casts the definitive light to know what our lives are to be about," Father Pacholczyk said.

"Rather than declaring, 'I am gay,' say, 'I'm a person with same-sex attraction, and my identity is in Christ,'" Father Pacholczyk said. He made the comparison to someone saying, "I'm a person with disabilities," not "I'm a disabled person."

Father Pacholczyk said the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith Letter to



Seminarians, laity and religious listen to the morning presentation.

Bishops on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons published in 1986 – the congregation then led by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI – said to "look at the human person – don't get stuck on identity categories. We are made in the image and likeness of God."

"The complementarity of man and woman enables sharing in a unique communion of persons," Father Pacholczyk said.

"Human sexuality is not some sort of accident. It runs so deep that in marriages there is the love of God himself."

Discussing the order of human sexual love, Father Pacholczyk said there is a plan with three signposts: complementarity, faithful and permanent union, and open to human life (fruitful).

Father Pacholczyk said sections 11 and 12 of Blessed Pope Paul VI's "Humane Vitae," issued in 1968, says the Church teaches that each and every marriage act must remain open to the transmission of life, and speaks of the unitive and procreative meaning of marriage.

"Sex is for babies and bonding," Father Pacholczyk said.

Quoting the Catechism of the Catholic Church 2357, Father Pacholczyk said, "Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that 'homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered.' They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved."

Father Pacholczyk said the Church has often been wrongly accused of calling people who engage in homosexual acts as disordered. "The Church is not branding people as intrinsically disordered – the act is."

He said other intrinsically disordered acts include lying and calumny (false statements against another), masturbation, contraception and sexual assault.

"Two men might each be a good father, but neither can be a mom. The ideal for children is the love of their own mom and dad – no same-sex couple can provide that," Father Pacholczyk said.

Quoting the Catechism of the Catholic Church 2359, Father Pacholczyk said, "Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection."

Father Pacholczyk said he wanted to give a "shout-out" to the Apostolate of Courage in the Church. Courage is an international apostolate of the Catholic Church that ministers to persons with same-sex attractions. It was founded in New York City in 1980, and offers support and friendship to those who experience same-sex attraction.

Father Philip Bochanski, executive director of Courage International, presented "Clarity and Charity: An Authentically Catholic Response to Same-Sex Attractions and Gender Dysphoria" Nov. 7, 2018 at DeSales University, Center Valley, during a program sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Adult Formation.

Quoting the Catechism of the Catholic Church 2358, Father Pacholczyk said, "The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. This inclination, which is objectively disordered, constitutes for most of them a trial."

"They must be accepted with respect,

compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition."

Father Pacholczyk also emphasized the value of using "person first" language in discussions of this issue. To call a person "gay" or "lesbian" is to reduce that person's identity to his or her sexuality.

Rather, language such as "person who experiences same-sex attraction" or "person with SSA" is more respectful of that person's identity as being created in the image and likeness of God as a whole, multi-faceted person who cannot be reduced to merely his or her sexual inclinations.

Father Pacholczyk explained the scientific evidence showing that no person is "born gay," and that genetic factors are at most only a small part of why some persons may experience such attractions.

Father Pacholczyk explained that although we always welcome the person with respect, compassion and sensitivity, and that although same-sex attraction in itself is not sinful, acting on that attraction is always objectively wrong.

Like lying or adultery, such actions are intrinsically evil and there are no circumstances that can justify such actions.

Sharon Dandrea, parishioner of St. Catharine of Siena, Reading, attended the session with Andrea Rentschler, a non-Catholic. Both thought the presentation was of value.

Both women agreed that "Father Pacholczyk has a moral compass that reflects our moral compass."



Father Pacholczyk fields a question from a member of the audience.

Courage Offers Support

In the Courage program, the Diocese of Allentown ministers with respect, compassion and sensitivity to persons who experience same-sex attraction. Courage does not attempt to solve a problem or change an orientation, but rather to accompany people as they journey toward the truth, the truth that is the person of Jesus Christ.

Mindful that every difficulty can be an opportunity for growth in holiness, Courage offers spiritual friendship, fellowship and encouragement to live chaste lives in accordance with the natural law and the constant teaching of the Church.

Holistic in its approach, the program is intended to supplement and support lives of prayer, meditation, individual spiritual direction, frequent reception of the sacraments and service to others.

EnCourage is a related program offering support to families of those persons who experience same-sex attraction.

More information is available by calling 610-334-9147 or at www.couragerc.org. All calls are confidential.

Priestly Vocations in the Domestic Church

The Second Vatican Council teaches, "The family is, so to speak, the domestic church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their child; they should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each of them, fostering with special care vocation to a sacred state" ("Lumen Gentium," 11).

The charge from the fathers of the council is clear – the dual mission of the family is to teach the faith and encourage vocations.

Some speak of a crisis in vocations to the priesthood. Over the past 20 years, the number of seminarians in theological studies in the United States has been relatively flat, fluctuating between 3,300 and 3,600 every year. However, during the same period the total number of priests has dropped from 45,699 in 2000 to 36,580 in 2018.

We know a vocation to the priesthood comes from God. But the crisis does not. We hear the assurance from God through the prophet Jeremiah, "I will give you shepherds after my own heart" (3:15). God will always provide generously for his people. Then why are we experiencing such a need for priestly vocations?

Some people will look outside the Church and blame the secularized culture that has encouraged young people to avoid making commitments, made it difficult to have large families, and discouraged the practice of religion.

These are certainly factors that have made the situation more difficult, but I think families can take some simple steps to stem the tide of secularism and become fertile ground for a vocation to the priesthood.

At the outset, we have to jettison the idea that

vocation direction and the work of encouraging priestly vocations is someone else's job. Remember, fostering vocations is at the heart of the Christian family. Can every parent honestly say, "I am a vocation director"?

The first step to foster vocations to the priesthood, especially for parents, is to get the first vocation right – the vocation to holiness.

If children see in the concrete example of their parents a deep striving for holiness, and if they hear from their parents the invitation for each of them to pursue the same glorious end, we would have more holy marriages and more holy vocations to the priesthood.

My second suggestion might sound radical – go to Mass every Sunday. When I was growing up, going to Mass was not an option. It was part of what it meant to be a member of my family.

If children are not being raised to worship God, they will worship something else. We are all hardwired to worship. When parents make going to Mass non-negotiable, they set the priority on the supernatural.

I know that many parents struggle with this particular idea and the commandment to keep holy the Sabbath Day. They don't want to push their children. They don't want to make Mass a burden to them.

But would we approach going to school the same way? Would you say to your young child, "Listen, if you don't want to go to school, just stay home. I don't want making school a burden for you." No, of course not. Going to school is critically important.

Mass needs to be a weekly priority. There are

By Monsignor Andrew Baker, a priest of the Diocese of Allentown, serving as rector of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland.



plenty of other activities that can be optional on Sunday. We cannot expect our seminaries to be full if our churches are empty on Sunday.

Third, families can foster vocations to the priesthood by teaching their children about the lives of heroes – the saints.

Today, there are many, many movies about superheroes from the DC or Marvel comic books. Young people throughout human history have looked to heroes. A hero inspires us. A hero reveals the true, good and beautiful way to live our life.

The saints – the supernatural heroes – can become friends of our children, inspiring them, interceding for them, and helping them to understand what God wants of them. They will not only be an inspiration, but they will be faithful friends who will bring many to a vocation to the priesthood.

An older priest recently told me, "Tell the seminarians that the priesthood is a wonderful life." Indeed, it is.

Pope St. John Paul II once wrote, "Family, become what you are" (FC, 17).

One way families can become what they are is by being a domestic church bearing the fruit of vocations to a wonderful life – the priesthood.

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Conference 2019

*O LORD, my God, I cried out to you for help
and you healed me. Psalm 30:2*

Jesus is The Good Shepherd...the One who heals; Pope Francis



Dr. Mary Healy



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August 2, 3, and 4, 2019

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MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:

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Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Commends Lawmakers for EITC Increase

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) June 28 commended all state lawmakers who supported an increase in funding for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC).

The final budget calls for a \$25-million increase, which will help low-income families across the commonwealth send their children to the school of their choice.

"We are thankful for this compromise," said PCC Executive Director Eric Failing, who noted that the original amount requested by Speaker of the House Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny) was \$100 million.

"With an estimated 50,000 students on a waiting list for EITC assistance, PCC will continue to advocate for additional

funding in 2020. Every family who wants to exercise their right to choose the right school for their children should have an opportunity to receive help from EITC. We especially thank Speaker Turzai for his tireless work and support."

EITC and its sister program, the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC), directly help students who attend private schools, but also help save money for public schools.

OSTC will get \$5 million out of this budget.

The Commonwealth Foundation found these programs have saved taxpayers an estimated \$3.5 billion since 2002.

PCC is based in Harrisburg and is the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops.

Sunday Scripture

Sunday, July 14

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel

Sunday, July 21

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel

Sunday, July 28

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 30:10-14
Psalms 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37
Colossians 1:15-20
Luke 10:25-37

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalms 15:2-5
Colossians 1:24-28
Luke 10:38-42

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalms 138:1-3, 6-8
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13

Institute for Catechesis and Formation Courses

The Institute for Catechesis and Formation is offering the following courses. ICF courses are meant for any adult Catholic looking to grow deeper and learn more about the faith. There are no prerequisites for these courses. Cost is \$30. Register at www.allentowndiocese.org/icf.

CAT I – The Creed

An overview of fundamental Catholic teachings based on the founding symbol of our faith. This course provides catechists with a foundation in the basic tenets of the Catholic faith, and is a good starting point leading to further study. The course is highly recommended for catechists; but everyone is invited to learn more about what it means to say, I believe....

Presented Saturdays, July 27 and Aug. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at two lo-

cations: St. Thomas More Allentown by Father Clifton Bishop and at St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring by David Kuhns.

CAT II – Classroom Applications

Practical information for catechists on their role as formators in the faith. The course includes learning to create lesson plans, communication with parents and how to engage them in religious instruction, material delivery at age-appropriate levels, and more.

Presented at two locations and dated: by Mary Ellen Johns Saturdays, Aug. 10 and 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Thomas More, Allentown; and by Peggy Place Saturdays, Aug. 17 and 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring.

Recommended to Your Prayers by Pope Francis

Apostleship of Prayer Intention for August

Evangelization: That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly "schools of true human growth."

The monthly intentions are also available on video, with a reflection, or download the app at www.apostleshipofprayer.org.

Prayers for Priests, Deacons, Vocations

Please kindly remember in your prayers all of the living and deceased priests and deacons of our Diocese. Please also pray for our seminarians and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Prayer for the Perseverance of Vocations

O God, you have constituted your only-begotten Son supreme and eternal priest for the glory of your majesty and the salvation of mankind: grant that those whom he has chosen ministers and dispensers of his mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Serran Prayer for Vocations

O God, who wills not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, St. Joseph her spouse, St. Junipero Serra and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ, to spend and consume themselves for souls through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Marriage Encounter

"As I have loved you, so you also should love one another," Jesus commands us.

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our marriage for others to see?

You can learn more about loving sacrificially when you attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend.

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St. FRANCIS RETREAT HOUSE

EASTON PENNSYLVANIA

A Place of Peace

A Franciscan Pilgrimage with St. Francis and St. Clare

AUGUST 9 - 11

St. Francis of Assisi was himself a pilgrim. In 1219 he set out for the Holy Land, seeking to visit the places Jesus walked. He found himself taking part in an historic dialogue with a Muslim leader, offering a message of peace and reconciliation. St. Clare of Assisi explored the Gospel way, paralleling the spiritual journey of Francis with her unique vision of religious life for women. This retreat explores "pilgrimage" as a model, encouraging participants "to visit" several key places associated with the lives of Francis and Clare, and suggesting spiritual themes for today as this "pilgrimage-retreat" unfolds.

Bio: Fr. Friedman entered the Franciscan Friars of Cincinnati in 1968, and was ordained as a Catholic priest in 1976. He currently ministers at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, D.C., where he works to promote the mission of the Franciscans serving in the Holy Land. Fr. Greg's ministry has been primarily in electronic and print media. He can be seen in video homilies for the U.S. Bishops at www.usccb.org.

Cost: \$205.00

..... Fr. Greg Friedman, O.F.M.



WEEKEND Retreats begin at 4:00 PM on Friday and conclude after lunch on Sunday.

WEEK-LONG Retreats begin at 4:00 PM on Sunday and conclude after the noon meal on Friday.

Retreat costs include single room occupancy with private bath, all meals and materials.

Partial Scholarships may be available. Please contact Fr. Henry about this possibility.

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Jubilarians 2019

'Well done, good and faithful servant'

Editor's note: Each year The A.D. Times highlights clergy and religious celebrating 25, 50, 55, 60 and more years of ordination or profession. This year priest jubilarians were featured in the June 20 issue. Sister jubilarians and one brother jubilarian are honored in this issue.

Sisters of Christian Charity

80 years

Sister Mary Stanislaus Surgoft
Current assignment: Retired, motherhouse, Mendham, New Jersey.
Home parish: St. Aloysius, Philadelphia.
Date entered order: Aug. 28, 1938.
First profession of vows: Aug. 21, 1941.
Final vows: Aug. 20, 1947.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Joseph, Jim Thorpe; Our Lady Help of Christians, Allentown; Reading Central Catholic High School.



75 years

Sister Mara Beadle
Current assignment: Retired, motherhouse, Mendham, New Jersey.
Home parish: St. Mary, Scranton.
Date entered order: Aug. 29, 1943.
First profession of vows: Aug. 21, 1946.
Final vows: Aug. 20, 1952.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: Our Lady Help of Christians, Allentown; St. John the Baptist, Pottsville.



70 years

Sister Theresa Marie Yeakel
Current assignment: Retired, motherhouse, Mendham, New Jersey.
Home parish: Our Lady Help of Christians, Philadelphia.
Date entered order: Sept. 5, 1948.
First profession of vows: Aug. 21, 1951.
Final vows: Aug. 20, 1957.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: Reading Central Catholic High School.



60 years

Sister Mary Mark Smith
Current assignment: Secretary.
Home parish: Sacred Heart Basilica, Hanover.
Date entered order: Sept. 4, 1958.
First profession of vows: Aug. 21, 1961.
Final vows: Aug. 21, 1963.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: Our Lady Help of Christians, Allentown.



Sister Marilyn McCusker
Current assignment: Teacher, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg.
Home parish: Immaculate Conception, Bronx, New York.
Date entered order: Aug. 28, 1958.
First profession of vows: Aug. 21, 1961.
Final vows: Aug. 20, 1967.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Joseph, Jim Thorpe.



Bernardine Franciscan Sisters

75 years

Sister Anna Suszek
Current assignment: Retired, St. Joseph Villa, Reading.
Home parish: Holy Trinity, Nanticoke.
Date entered order: Aug. 10, 1943.
First profession of vows: Aug. 12, 1945.
Final vows: Aug. 12, 1950.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Joseph Villa, Reading.

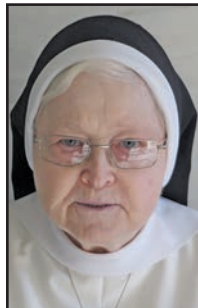


60 years

Sister Joanne Slanga
Home parish: St. Josaphat, Philadelphia.
Date entered order: Sept. 8, 1958.
First profession of vows: Aug. 11, 1960.
Final vows: Aug. 12, 1964.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: Alvernia University Library, Reading.



Sister Mark Ann Florkiewicz
Current assignment: Retired, St. Joseph Villa, Reading.
Home parish: St. Stanislaus, Nanticoke.
Date entered order: Sept. 8, 1958.
First profession of vows: Aug. 12, 1960.
Final vows: Aug. 12, 1965.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Joseph Villa, Reading.



Sister Miriam Jude Remar
Current assignment: Retired, St. Joseph Villa, Reading.
Home parish: Our Mother of Sorrow, Bridgeport.
Date entered order: Sept. 8, 1958.
First profession of vows: Aug. 11, 1960.
Final vows: Aug. 12, 1965.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Joseph Villa, Reading.



50 years

Sister Patrice Marie Klausing
Current assignment: Professional counseling and spiritual direction.
Home parish: Mount Calvary, Forestville, Maryland.
Date entered order: Sept. 2, 1968.
First profession of vows: June 26, 1970.
Final vows: Aug. 11, 1974.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: Bernardine Franciscan Sisters' Administration, Reading; Alvernia University, Reading.



25 years

Sister Angela Maria Teixeira de Sousa
Current assignment: Translation Office of the Bernardine Franciscans.
Home parish: Paróquia São João Batista – Uruburetama, Ce, Brazil.
Date entered order: Aug. 11, 1993.
First profession of vows: Jan. 13, 1996.
Final vows: Dec. 17, 2000.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: Translation Office of the Bernardine Franciscans, Reading.



Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

75 years

Sister Agnes Bonner
Former name: Sister Catherine Michael.
Current assignment: Prayer and hospital ministry, Assisi House, Aston.
Home parish: St. Joseph on the Brandywine, Wilmington, Delaware.
Date entered order: Aug. 12, 1942.
First profession of vows: Aug. 11, 1944.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: Holy Name High School, Reading.



70 years

Sister Agnes Borkowski
Former name: Sister Walter Josephine.
Current assignment: Volunteer, University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center.
Hometown: Baltimore, Maryland.
Date entered order: Sept. 22, 1946.
First profession of vows: Aug. 11, 1949.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Francis Orphanage, Orwigsburg; Easton Catholic Elementary School.



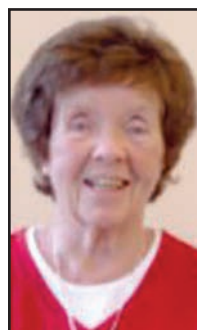
Sister Agnes St. Joseph Bresnen
Current assignment: Local House Ministry, Lancaster.
Home parish: Holy Angels, Trenton, New Jersey.
Date entered order: Aug. 11, 1946.
First profession of vows: Aug. 25, 1949.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Mary Magdalen School, Lost Creek.



Please see JUBILARIANS page 9 ►►

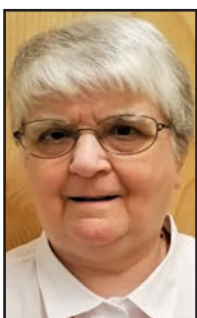
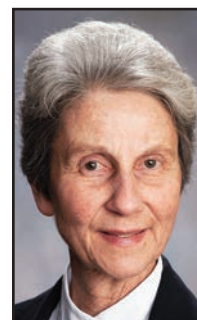
Jubilarians 2019**'Well done, good and faithful servant'**

▶▶Continued from page 8

Sister Mary Teresa Coll**Former name:** Sister Margaret Veronica.**Current assignment:** Prayer and hospitality ministry, Assisi House, Aston.**Home parish:** Little Flower, Baltimore, Maryland.**Date entered order:** Aug. 25, 1946.**First profession of vows:** Aug. 11, 1949.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** St. Mary School, Catasauqua; St. Francis School, Allentown; Holy Ghost School, Bethlehem; Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Minersville; St. John the Baptist School, Whitehall; AIDS Ministry, Wernersville.**Sister Helen Ann Gaidos****Former name:** Sister John Andre.**Current assignment:** Caregiver, local house ministry, Lancaster; St. Basil the Great Convent, Phoenixville.**Home parish:** St. Gertrude, Lebanon.**Date entered order:** Jan. 6, 1949.**First profession of vows:** Aug. 11, 1949.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Sacred Heart School, Allentown; St. Joseph Hospital, Reading.**Sister Mary Louise Heinle****Former name:** Sister Kathleen Joseph.**Current assignment:** Prayer and hospitality ministry, Assisi House, Aston.**Home parish:** St. Elizabeth, Baltimore, Maryland.**Date entered order:** Aug. 25, 1946.**First profession of vows:** Aug. 11, 1949.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** St. Lawrence School, Catasauqua.**Sister Ida Marie Nicklas****Current assignment:** Secretary to principal, Hallahan High School, Philadelphia.**Hometown:** St. Ludwig, Philadelphia.**Date entered order:** Aug. 25, 1946.**First profession of vows:** Aug. 11, 1949.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** St. Francis Home, Orwigsburg; Sacred Heart School, Allentown.**50 years****Sister Elizabeth Howe****Former name:** Sister Peter Christi.**Current assignment:** Emergency room physician, St. Joseph Medical Center, Reading.**Hometown:** Pensacola, Florida.**Date entered order:** Sept. 8, 1966**First profession of vows:** Aug. 11, 1969.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** St. Joseph Medical Center, Reading.**Sisters of St. Joseph****75 years****Sister Thérèse Benedict McGuire****Current assignment:** Retired, St. Joseph Villa, Flourtown.**Hometown:** Jersey City, New Jersey.**Date entered order:** 1944.**First profession of vows:** 1947.**Final vows:** 1952.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Notre Dame High School, Easton.**Sisters of Mercy****70 years****Sister Muriel Kershaw****Current assignment:** Convent of Mercy, Merion.**Home parish:** Holy Child, Philadelphia.**Date entered order:** Sept. 12, 1949.**First profession of vows:** March 12, 1952.**Final vows:** March 12, 1955.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Sacred Heart, Nesquehoning; pastoral minister in Carbon County parishes; St. Joseph, Summit Hill; St. Nicholas, Weatherly.**Sister Joan Donahue****Former name:** Sister Loretta Mary.**Current assignment:** Staff, Convent of Mercy, Merion.**Home parish:** St. William, Northeast Philadelphia.**Date entered order:** Sept. 12, 1949.**First profession of vows:** March 12, 1952.**Final vows:** March 12, 1955.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Sacred Heart, Nesquehoning.**Sister Miriam Theresa Lavelle****Current assignment:** Staff, Convent of Mercy, Merion.**Home parish:** St. Stephen, Philadelphia.**Date entered order:** Sept. 12, 1949.**First profession of vows:** March 12, 1952.**Final vows:** March 12, 1955.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Sacred Heart, Nesquehoning.**60 years****Sister Maureen Murray****Current assignment:** Life coordinator, McAuley convent.**Home parish:** St. Rose of Lima, Philadelphia.**Date entered order:** Sept. 7, 1959.**First profession of vows:** March 27, 1962.**Final vows:** March 27, 1967.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** St. Joseph School, Summit Hill; St. Paul School, Allentown.**Sister Katherine O'Donnell****Current assignment:** Pastoral associate, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Crofton, Maryland.**Home parish:** St. Cyril of Alexandria, East Lansdowne.**Date entered order:** Sept. 7, 1959.**First profession of vows:** March 27, 1962.**Final vows:** March 27, 1967.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Pastoral associate, St. John de la Salle Parish, Shillington.**Sister Eleanor McCann****Current assignment:** Pastoral associate, Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, residing at Convent of Mercy, Merion Station.**Date entered order:** Sept. 7, 1959.**First profession of vows:** March 27, 1962.**Final vows:** March 27, 1967.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Parish DRE and pastoral associate, Sacred Heart, Bath.**Sister Ann Quigley****Former name:** Sister Mary Vincentia.**Current assignment:** Staff, Convent of Mercy, Merion.**Home parish:** St. Columba, Philadelphia.**Date entered order:** Sept. 7, 1962.**First profession of vows:** March 27, 1962.**Final vows:** March 27, 1967.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** St. Paul, Allentown.**Retirement date:** June 1, 2015.**Missionary Sisters
of the Most Sacred Heart
of Jesus****60 years****Sister Catherine Crilly****Former name:** M. Theresine**Current assignment:** Retired.**Home parish:** St. Helena, Philadelphia.**Date entered order:** Sept. 7, 1957.**First profession of vows:** June 30, 1959**Final vows:** June 29, 1964.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Staff nurse, Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown; infirmiry nurse, St. Michael, Reading; Ministry.**50 years****Sister Barbara Winkler****Former name:** Marie Charles.**Current assignment:** MSC general superior, Sutri, Italy.**Hometown:** Philadelphia.**Date entered order:** Sept. 4, 1966.**First profession of vows:** Aug. 22, 1969.**Final vows:** Aug. 12, 1973.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Teacher, SS. Cyril and Methodius, Reading; principal, Our Lady of Hungary, Northampton; principal, Holy Family, Nazareth; provincial councilor, Reading.

*Jubilarians 2019***'Well done, good and faithful servant'**

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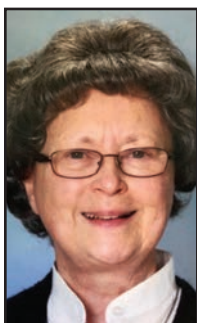
**Missionary Sisters
of the Precious Blood****60 years****Sister Pietra Aumer****Former name:** Maia Johanna Aumer.**Current assignment:** Retired.**Hometown:** Grieskirschen, Austria.**Date entered order:** Jan. 10, 1957.
First profession of vows: Dec. 8, 1959.**Final vows:** Dec. 8, 1962.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** RN, supervisor, volunteer, Holy Family Manor, Bethlehem 42 years.**Sister Klara Laukotter****Current assignment:** House manager, Precious Blood Convent, Shillington.**Hometown:** Westkirchen, Germany.**Date entered order:** October 1957.
First profession of vows: Sept. 8, 1959.**Final vows:** Aug. 22, 1963.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Our Lady of Pompeii, Bethlehem; Immaculate Conception, Tremont; Kennedy House, Holy Guardian Angels, and Holy Family Manor, Reading; Sacred Heart, West Reading; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Minersville.**50 years****Sister Nancy Iampietro****Current assignment:** Provincial assistant/secretary.**Home parish:** Our Lady of Pompeii, Bethlehem.**Date entered order:** July 26, 1966.
First profession of vows: Aug. 15, 1969.**Final vows:** Aug. 15, 1974.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Kennedy House, Precious Blood Convent and Mariawald Renewal Center, Reading; provincial supervisor**Sister Christa Mary Jones****Former name:** Mary Elizabeth Jones.**Current assignment:** Support services, Emmaus House, Ocean Grove, New Jersey.**Home parish:** Immaculate Conception, Stratford, Ontario, Canada.**Date entered order:** July 26, 1966.
First profession of vows: Aug. 15, 1969.**Final vows:** Aug. 15, 1972.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Precious Blood Convent and Mariawald Renewal Center, Reading.**Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary****75 years****Sister Mary Rachel Torrieri****Current assignment:** Camilla Hall, Immaculata.**Birthplace:** Philadelphia.**Entered the congregation from:** Our Lady of the Angels, Philadelphia.**Profession of vows:** Aug. 15, 1944.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** St. Bernard, Easton.**70 years****Sister Incarnata Maria DiPilla****Current assignment:** Camilla Hall, Immaculata.**Birthplace:** Philadelphia.**Entered the congregation from:** Our Lady of Pompeii, Philadelphia.**Profession of vows:** April 17, 1949.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** St. Joseph, Ashland.**Sister Maria Patris Hogan****Current assignment:** Camilla Hall, Immaculata.**Birthplace:** Chester.**Entered the congregation from:** Immaculate Heart, Chester.**Profession of vows:** April 17, 1949.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** St. Joseph, Ashland; St. Catharine of Siena, Reading.**Sister Mary McKinley****Former name:** Sister Josette Marie.**Current assignment:** Camilla Hall, Immaculata.**Birthplace:** Hazleton.**Entered the congregation from:** St. Patrick, McAdoo.**Profession of vows:** April 17, 1949.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Notre Dame High School and St. Bernard, both in Easton.**Sister Maria Prudens Wright****Current assignment:** Camilla Hall, Immaculata.**Birthplace:** Philadelphia.**Entered the congregation from:** St. Edward, Philadelphia.**Profession of vows:** April 17, 1949.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Sacred Heart, West Reading.**60 years****Sister Marian Gregory Mazzotta****Current assignment:** St. Pius X Convent, Broomall.**Birthplace:** Philadelphia.**Entered the congregation from:** Annunciation, Philadelphia.**Profession of vows:** Aug. 17, 1959.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** St. Peter, Reading.**Sister Jude Mary O'Donnell****Current assignment:** Villa Maria House of Studies, Immaculata.**Birthplace:** Philadelphia.**Entered the congregation from:** Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Philadelphia.**Profession of vows:** Aug. 17, 1959.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown.**50 years****Sister Dolores Joseph Bozzelli****Current assignment:** Camilla Hall, Immaculata.**Birthplace:** Philadelphia.**Entered the congregation from:** St. Louis, Yeadon.**Profession of vows:** June 28, 1969.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** Trinity Academy at the Father Walter Ciszek School and Annunciation, both in Shenandoah.**Sister M. Barbara Burnett****Former name:** Sister Charles Helene.**Current assignment:** Immaculate Heart Convent, Springfield.**Birthplace:** Philadelphia.**Entered the congregation from:** St. Timothy, Philadelphia.**Profession of vows:** June 28, 1969.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** St. Ann Convent and Our Lady of the Valley, both in Lansford; St. Joseph, Reading.**Sister Geraldine Cantwell****Former name:** Sister Hugh Margaret.**Current assignment:** Camilla Hall, Immaculata.**Birthplace:** Pottsville.**Entered the congregation from:** St. Stephen, Port Carbon.**Profession of vows:** June 28, 1969.**Places served in the Diocese of Allentown:** St. Catharine of Siena, Reading; St. Joseph and Immaculate Heart, both in Ashland; Cardinal Brennan High School, Ashland; Marian High School, Tamaqua; and St. Mary, Coaldale.**Sister M. Ellen Convey****Former name:** Sister Theresa James.**Current assignment:** St. Monica Convent, Philadelphia.**Birthplace:** Philadelphia.**Entered the congregation from:** St. Thomas Aquinas, Croydon.**Profession of vows:** June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Joseph, Reading.

Jubilarians 2019**'Well done, good and faithful servant'**

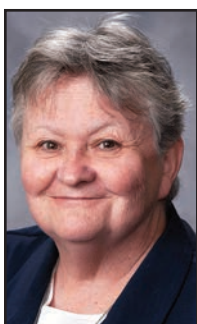
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Sister Marlene Daltwas

Former name: Sister Anna Mary.
Current assignment: St. Theresa Convent, Hellertown.
Birthplace: Philadelphia.
Entered the congregation from: St. Matthew, Philadelphia.
Profession of vows: June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: Trinity Academy at the Father Walter Cizek School and Annunciation, both in Shenandoah; St. Theresa, Hellertown.

**Sister Mary Winifred Feeney**

Former name: Sister Maria Joseph.
Current assignment: St. William Convent, Philadelphia.
Birthplace: Philadelphia.
Entered the congregation from: St. John Baptist, Philadelphia.
Profession of vows: June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Stephen, Port Carbon; St. Peter, Reading.

**Sister M. Linda Filipponi**

Former name: Sister Vincent Frances.
Current assignment: St. Francis de Sales Convent, Aston.
Birthplace: Bryn Mawr.
Entered the congregation from: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bridgeport.
Profession of vows: June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Stephen, Port Carbon.

**Sister M. Patricia Anne Flanigan**

Former name: Sister James Anita.
Current assignment: Our Lady of Fatima Convent.
Birthplace: Philadelphia.
Entered the congregation from: St. Barnabas, Philadelphia.
Profession of vows: June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Peter, Reading.

**Sister M. Eileen Therese Gillespie**

Current assignment: Mary Immaculate Convent.
Birthplace: Norristown.
Entered the congregation from: St. Patrick, Norristown.
Profession of vows: June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Margaret and St. Joseph School, both in Reading.

**Sister Elaine Marie Glanz**

Current assignment: Gillet Convent, Immaculata.
Birthplace: Philadelphia.
Entered the congregation from: St. Timothy, Philadelphia.
Profession of vows: June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: Villa Maria, Allentown.

**Sister Mary Lorraine Holzman**

Current assignment: St. Theresa Convent, Hellertown.
Birthplace: Wilkes-Barre.
Entered the congregation from: St. Ann, Emmaus.
Profession of vows: June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: Immaculate Heart School, Girardville; St. Joseph, Ashland; St. Margaret, Reading; St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown.

**Sister Thais Margiotta**

Former name: Sister Mary Thais
Current assignment: Annunciation Convent, Havertown.
Birthplace: Trenton, New Jersey.
Entered the congregation from: Our Lady of Grace, Pennel.
Profession of vows: June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Peter, Reading; Sacred Heart, West Reading; Immaculate Heart School, Girardville; St. Joseph, Ashland; Trinity Academy at the Father Walter Cizek School and Annunciation, both in Shenandoah.

**Sister Kathleen Marie Metz**

Former name: Sister Joseph Charles.
Current assignment: St. David Convent, Willow Grove.
Birthplace: Philadelphia.
Entered the congregation from: Presentation, Cheltenham.
Profession of vows: June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: SS. Simon and Jude, Bethlehem; St. Stephen, Port Carbon; St. Catharine of Siena, Reading.

**Sister M. Kathleen Nuckols**

Former name: Sister Frances John.
Current assignment: St. Raymond Convent, Bronx, New York.
Birthplace: Darby.
Entered the congregation from: St. Louis, Yeadon.
Profession of vows: June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton.

**Sister Mary O'Connor**

Former name: Sister Alice Michael.
Current assignment: Camilla Hall, Immaculata.
Birthplace: Philadelphia.
Entered the congregation from: St. Louis, Yeadon.
Profession of vows: June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: SS. Simon and Jude, Bethlehem; Seton Academy, Bethlehem.

**Sister M. Janice Owen**

Former name: Sister Helen Rita.
Current assignment: St. Theresa Convent, Hellertown.
Birthplace: Philadelphia.
Entered the congregation from: St. Joseph, Warrington.
Profession of vows: June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown.

**Sister Rose Mary Walsh**

Former name: Sister Francis de Sales.
Current assignment: Our Lady of Fatima Convent.
Birthplace: Philadelphia.
Entered the congregation from: St. Timothy, Philadelphia.
Profession of vows: June 28, 1969.
Places served in the Diocese of Allentown: St. Jerome, Tamaqua; McAdoo Catholic Elementary School.



Brother Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

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Brother James Miller

Current assignment: Superior of Sacred Heart Villa, Center Valley.
Home parish: Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, Ohio.
First vows: Aug. 15, 1969.
Final vows: Aug. 12, 1973.
Places served in Diocese of Allentown: Superior at Sacred Heart Villa since Sept. 1, 2018.
Other: Served as provincial bursar, provincial formator, superior of Aurora Community, novice director for European MSC novitiate in Ireland.

**Upcoming Issues of The A.D. Times**

Publication Date	Advertising Deadline	News Deadline
2019		
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

The A.D. Times Receives National Award

The A.D. Times, newspaper of the Diocese of Allentown, received an award for sports reporting in the Catholic Press Association (CPA) 2019 Catholic Press Awards, announced June 21.

Third place for Best Sports Journalism was awarded for "Support for Student Battling Cancer" by Staff Writer Tami Quigley in the Nov. 15, 2018 issue.

The A.D. Times competed against other nonweekly diocesan newspapers in the United States and Canada with circulation of 25,001 and higher.

This brings to 36 the number of CPA awards for The A.D. Times in its 30 years of publication, in reporting, news writing, feature writing, editorial writing, sports writing, news coverage, front page content and design, graphic design, and photography.

An office of the diocesan Secretariat for External Affairs, The A.D. Times is distributed by mail and email to more than 48,300 Catholic families in the five-county diocese, and posted on the Diocesan website, www.allentowndiocese.org.

Diocesan Preschool and Religious Educator in Need of a Kidney

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

At age 6 Grace Smith learned she would have to fight Type 1 Diabetes for the rest of her life.

For most of her life, she lived without any health complications, played sports, got married and even gave birth to a son, Patrick Smith, a teacher at Marian High School, Tamaqua.

Smith, now 60 and head of the preschool program and director of religious education at All Saints, McAdoo, successfully delivered her premature son via caesarean section and even battled and beat breast cancer in 1993, before complications from diabetes began to creep into her life.

In 2014 Smith experienced cardiac complications and kidney failure, leading doctors to place heart stents in her with the hopes of strengthening her arteries.

"My kidneys kind of rebounded, but



Grace Smith, center, works on a lesson with preschool students Cash Gavinski, left, and Lily St. Clair.

placed on the national waitlist for a kidney transplant at Johns Hopkins Comprehensive Transplant Center, Baltimore, Maryland.

"The waitlist for a kidney is normally four or five years," said Smith.

"But since my blood type is O, I can only receive a kidney from another person with type O. In my case, it will take a couple of years longer because most blood types can receive from different blood types," she said.

Although her son is an ideal candidate as a living donor, Smith said he cannot be considered because he was born with only one kidney.

"The best transplants are from living donors. There are certain requirements, testing and a lot of restrictions – so that makes it hard for people to qualify and to find the time," she said.

"My family, friends and co-workers have been very supportive. Many of my family and friends have offered rides to appointments or anything that I might

need. Some have offered to be donors, but for one reason or another do not qualify."

In addition, as part of being on the national registry, Smith must be within three hours of traveling time to receive a kidney if one becomes available.

The family is seeking persons interested in being tested as a direct donor for Smith – even if they don't share the same blood type or ultimately are not a match.

Prospective donors' time and testing would not be in vain because of the paired kidney exchange the transplant center participates in.

The paired kidney exchange, or "kidney swap," is when a living kidney donor is incompatible with the recipient, so exchanges his/her compatible kidneys with another donor/recipient pair.

"That means two live donor transplants would happen," said Smith.

Persons interested in becoming a potential donor for Smith or other persons in need of a kidney can visit https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/transplant/programs/kidney/living_donors/index.html.

Information is also available at Lehigh Valley Transplant Center, 610-402-8506, option 5.

17 Play in Annual Clergy Golf Tournament

The Annual Clergy Golf Tournament was played June 11 at Steel Club in Hellertown, with a total of 17 participants

from the Diocese of Allentown.

Monsignor Ed Domin retained his title with a one-stroke victory over Father Brian Miller. Monsignor Domin got up and down out of the bunker on 18 to win by shooting 87.

Rounding out the top five in the Priest Division were: second, Father Miller, 88; third, Father Keith Mathur, 91; fourth, Father Allen Hoffa, 96; and fifth, Father John Pendzick, 99.

In the Senior Priest Division (65 years and older) the returning champion was Monsignor Patrick Schoenauer, who shot 100, followed by Monsignor Joseph Smith, 106.

In the Deacon Division the new champion was Deacon Jim Kochu, with a score of 103. Rounding out the top three deacons: second, Deacon Howard Schultz, 116; and third, Deacon John Stapleton, 119.

Closest to the pin on #4 was Deacon Stapleton, 11 feet, 10 inches; #8 Monsignor Domin, 22 feet, 10 inches; #13 Father John Gibbons, 17 feet, 3 inches; #16 Monsignor Schoenauer, 12 feet, 8 inches; and longest drive on #15 was Father Hoffa, 287 yards.

Special thanks went to C.J. Wagner Trophies and Awards for donating the trophies.



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The Movement at Bethlehem Catholic Honored for its Charitable Work

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

The spirit of charity is alive and well at Bethlehem Catholic High School (Becahi), where a group of students involved with The Movement has been recognized for their efforts.

The Movement is a new charity club formed to engage “students and other members of our community in helping charitable organizations reach their goals, while growing closer as a community,” said faculty moderator Stephen Tomaszewski.

“It allows our students to serve with compassion, build community connections, as well as develop leadership and organizational skills that will carry them beyond the classroom.

“This club recognizes the fact that not all charity is just raising money for an organization, rather volunteering time or even donating supplies. This club has the ability to get the entire student body involved in making a difference in our own community.”

The Movement was recognized with the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter at the National Philanthropy Day Awards Celebration Breakfast Nov. 15, 2018 at DeSales University, Center Valley.

“As a club, we decided on main non-profit organizations that we felt were prominent in our community and affected a range of students at our school,” said Tomaszewski.



Student members of The Movement at Bethlehem Catholic High School present a check to Janell Massey, leader of the Sassy Massey Smiles Foundation, second from right, at the conclusion of the Student Body Lock-in March 1-2, from left, Joseph Kurtz, Elizabeth Lieb, Maddie Wickel, Julia Zambo, Stephen Botek, Jordan Judd, Caden Giordano, Katherine Martinez, Olivia Ronca, Sonia Salomoni and Holly Peslis. Not pictured are Dillon Murphy and Henry Pavis. (Photos courtesy of Stephen Tomaszewski)

In September the club held a car wash and raised over \$1,000 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. In November it ran a Dine and Donate Week

at The Clubhouse Grille in Bethlehem and raised \$1,600 for the Wounded Warriors Association.

“We also spent a few days after school with many kids from the student body to fill out encouraging cards for our servicemen and women overseas. We packaged these cards up and sent them to Operation Gratitude, a foundation that puts together care packages for veterans.”

In January the club ran a diaper and wipes drive for the Cay Galgon Life House, Bethlehem.

The club held a 12-hour Student Body Lock-In at the school March 1-2, which raised \$29,000 for a pediatric cancer organization called Sassy Massey Smiles Foundation.

Student members of The Movement presented the check to Janell Massey of Coopersburg, leader of the foundation and a graduate of Becahi, who lost her

daughter Jillian to pediatric cancer. The foundation’s mission is to spread her kindness by delivering miles of smiles to sick children by providing toys and child life programs with playroom resources to create fun, happy and memorable play experiences during a hospital stay or clinic visit.

daughter Jillian to pediatric cancer.

The foundation’s mission is to spread her kindness by delivering miles of smiles to sick children by providing toys and child life programs with playroom resources to create fun, happy and memorable play experiences during a hospital stay or clinic visit.

Students subsequently went with Massey to purchase \$29,000 worth of toys for numerous children’s hospitals. For more information on the foundation, visit www.sassymassey.org/.

“The Movement was and is designed as a student empowerment group to become active and engaged in their community. I truly believe leadership is ownership, and that is exactly what these students carry out with this special and unique group,” said Tomaszewski.

“Their motto this year has been ‘A Wave of Change.’ They have made a significant impact on the culture of the school and the Becahi community. The dedication these students have shown throughout the year to a commitment of self-sacrifice is awe-inspiring.”

Tomaszewski said special recognition should be given to Holly Peslis, the group’s chairperson. “Her countless hours of work and organization were vital to the group’s ability to reach their goals.”

“Out of the many activities I have found myself involved in throughout my four years at Becahi, The Movement, by far, has been the most impactful. It has given me the opportunity to make lifelong memories with my peers and form incredible relationships with each organization,” Peslis said.

“With each step of planning and the overwhelming response from the student body through each event, I felt as though our ‘movement’ was making a difference in our community.”

Tomaszewski said The Movement name was derived from a

lifestyle clothing company called The Positive Vibe Movement, which was launched five years ago by Matt Bahnick, a 2010 graduate of Becahi. Bahnick and his brother A.J. run the company from their parents’ Schnecksville basement.

“A portion of his clothing and apparel sales goes to suicide prevention. Matt is a former player of mine from when I was an assistant baseball coach here at the school. We have stayed in touch and I think his message is one everyone can relate to,” said Tomaszewski, who teaches social studies at Becahi and coaches baseball at Moravian College, Bethlehem.

The Positive Vibe Movement recently gained viral attention when Philadelphia Phillies outfielder Bryce Harper wore one of the hats the brothers sell.

“The dedication these students have shown throughout the year to a commitment of self-sacrifice is awe inspiring.”



Catholic Writers Conference Live 2019 Returning to Lancaster

The Catholic Writers Guild (CWG) is hosting Catholic Writers Conference Live (CWCL) Tuesday, July 30 through Friday, Aug. 2 in Lancaster, in conjunction with the Catholic Marketing Network’s CMN Momentum 2019 Tradeshaw.

CWCL provides writers, artists, editors and illustrators opportunities for networking; workshops on writing, publishing and marketing; pitch sessions; critique sessions; and more.

Attendees have access to the CMN Tradeshaw floor, allowing interactions with publishers, vendors and bookstore owners from across the country. Also in

conjunction with CMN, prayer and liturgical events and a mini-pilgrimage will be offered.

Popular speaker, author, CatholicTV personality and CatholicMom.com Brand Manager Danielle Bean will deliver the keynote address.

More information and registration are available online at <https://catholicwritersguild.org/live-conference>. Clergy and religious attend for free.

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Spotlight on Members of the Commission for Young Adults

Meredith Corrales, Parishioner of St. Joseph, Frackville

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

Biographical background

Meredith Corrales, 31, parishioner of St. Joseph, Frackville. Graduate of the former Cardinal Brennan High School, Ashland and bachelor's degree from the University of Dallas, Irving, Texas. Stay-at-home mom of Noel, age 2.

How were you raised in the faith?

I was raised in a very devout Catholic family. We went to Mass every Sunday together. I have gone to Catholic school all my life from grade school through college.

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

I accepted the opportunity to serve on the commission because I feel that the recruitment of young people is one of the greatest challenges the Church faces today. I also feel that everyone yearns to know and love God. Many problems in our culture today would be resolved if more people were open to accepting his love.



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

I would like to see the Church address the issues of mental health in young adults, specifically depression and anxiety. These conditions are rampant in our

society, even though we lead lives of apparent luxury when compared with the rest of the world.

I believe the Catholic Church, with the help of trained professionals, has the unique opportunity to offer solace and solutions for many of these problems.

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

Young adults are the future of the Church. Future generations are poised to recognize the false promises of the sexual revolution and the lies of individualism in an age of social media.

Young adults have watched several major institutions reveal their scandalous secrets, whether it be Hollywood, political parties or the Church, and seeing these scandals has increased our yearning for transparency and truth.

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 drifted from the Church for a variety of reasons. I think

a big reason is that our culture celebrates instant gratification and an extreme version of individual "freedom" where we should do whatever we want, whenever we want.

The Catholic Church teaches the very opposite of these things – emphasizing self-sacrifice, responsibility and unity through the Body of Christ – which are rarely fun or popular stances.

The Church can reach out to young adults when the sheen of popular culture wears off, leaving only emptiness. The Church can foster a strong community among young adults built on values that bring true joy and peace.

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

I believe that the Holy Spirit guides the Church, and that human error and evil have always affected members of the Church since its beginning. I still have complete faith that the doctrines of the Church are true and will bring me to a closer relationship with God, despite the failings of a few of our Church leaders.

Andrew Ivankovits, Parishioner of Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown

By TARA CONNOLLY
Staff writer

Biographical background

Andrew Ivankovits, 26, parishioner of the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. Graduated from Allentown Central Catholic High School and earned a bachelor of science degree in marketing from DeSales University, Center Valley. Works as a clinical analyst at St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem.

How were you raised in the faith?

My family is Catholic, and the faith is important to them, so my parents sacrificed to send me to Catholic grade school and high school. I am blessed to have the family that I have.

As I grew up I slowly realized that many people my age didn't have the same experience that I did: two parents at home, parents who made priorities of a home-cooked meal and coming together around the dinner table at the end of the day, parents who fostered my faith formation.

My mom always came with us to church even though she wasn't Catholic. I'm the oldest of two, and when I was born, she agreed to raise us Catholic and held to that.

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

I am honored to be a part of the commission. I think it is wonderful that Bishop Schlert wants to hear what we have to say. I accepted the invitation to be a part of the commission because he has made it clear that young adults are on his priority list.

Since the abuse scandal broke I, like all practicing Catholics, had to ask myself some hard questions about what I believe. I think for a lot of people the Grand Jury report was a make-or-break moment; are you going to stay, or go?

I was in shock at first, but as I took that anger and hurt and sorrow that I felt to prayer, and talked to other Catholics, family, and friends, and read articles about the scandal, it was clear to me that there was no way I was going anywhere. If I don't have my faith, I don't have anything.



I came back to that line from Scripture "Lord, you have the words of everlasting life, to whom shall we go?" I decided I was either going to go and leave it all, or I was going to stay and triple down on my faith.

So when the opportunity to serve the commission came up, I jumped at the chance because if I'm going to remain Catholic, then I want to be a part of the solution to the mess that we've found ourselves in as a church and not just a passive spectator.

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

I would love to see more confession times offered on days other than Saturday. I think there are a lot of people (not just young adults) who struggle to make it to confession on a Saturday.

I would also love to see more opportunities for adoration. I live in Allentown, so I am blessed to have St. Francis (of Assisi, Allentown) and St. Joseph the Worker (Orefield) close by, but not everyone is so fortunate.

I would love to see more devotional practices as well. I think more events like the Vespers that Bishop Schlert organized would be a great way to tap into the richness of the faith.

The Church is a deep well; there's so

much to draw from. We can spend a lifetime unpacking all of the deposit of faith that the Church offers.

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

I don't want to sound cliché, but young adults are important to the Church because we're the future of the Church, and even though millennials get a bad rap, the other young adults that I know are cognizant of this fact.

We are aware that one day we will be at the helm and will need to pass the faith on to our children. And whether it is young adults' slow realization of responsibility that sets in as we get jobs and try to make our way in the world, or if young adults have a deep desire for authenticity in a loud, confusing and often contradictory world, we desire to hear the truth proclaimed from the pulpit.

We don't want to be coddled – we don't want a Gospel that's watered down, sugar coated or spoon fed – we want the truth, and the Catholic Church holds the truth. I think what we bring is a genuine desire to hear the Gospel, even when it's hard to hear; hopefully that inspires those generations older than us to crave the truth of the Gospel in the way that we do.

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

I think there are a lot of little reasons for why someone who grows up with the faith leaves the Church when they turn 18, when they go to college or after they leave college. I don't think it's just one thing that pushes someone away from the faith, but I do think people feel pushed away from it.

I forget where I read it, but someone who was commenting on why they left the Church after the Grand Jury report was released said something like "I didn't leave the Church, the Church left me."

As someone with faith, that statement doesn't make sense to me because I know that if I stopped practicing the faith, that is my decision and a reflection on me. But, for those who stopped practicing the faith I get the sense that they feel abandoned.

I don't know why an individual person leaves the faith, but I do know that our culture has convinced people that sin doesn't exist, and that hell isn't real. I think that modern notions like "your truth" and "your own value system" sound pretty attractive to someone in their 20s and 30s who is trying to figure out how to navigate life.

I think that reaching out to them will be a particular challenge because those who were raised in the faith and still left seem to have bought into the notion that relativism is the "truth," and have bought into this idea that you just have to be a "good person" and that heaven is guaranteed and hell doesn't exist.

In their mind they don't need the Church because they can do it on their own. The scandal for them is just another reason in a long list of reasons to not go back to church.

I think that regardless of how happy these people may look, they are secretly miserable, and they deny the truth and rationalize their lifestyles. They don't have anything in life to anchor them down, and they float from one thing to the next based on how they feel that day.

I think that if the Church preaches the hard truth of the Gospel, returns to devotional practices, and is clear on the questions surrounding topics like contraception, homosexuality, and fornication, it would give young adults who lack so much structure and direction in their lives a reason to consider Catholicism again. When we water down the faith, we just sound like every other "inspirational" voice out there.

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

While my family laid the foundation for my faith when I was young, I think the group of friends that I was blessed enough to encounter after college is a big part of the reason I wasn't just lukewarm about practicing my faith after graduation. Meeting peers who knew so much more than I did about the faith and the saints and the rich history of the Church pushed me to take my faith more seri-

Please see IVANKOVITS page 16 ►►

'The Lost Art of Listening' Focus of Theology on Tap Session

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

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.

With this in mind, "The Lost Art of Listening" was the focal point of the June 24 Theology on Tap gathering at Hops at the Paddock, Allentown.

"The more we relate, the more fully human we are – the more like God we are, the more divine we are," said presenter Augustinian (OSA) Father Arthur Purcaro, vice president of mission and ministry at Villanova University, Philadelphia.

Father Purcaro discussed how young adults can slow down and listen for God's gentle inspiration while discerning a path in life.

"If I live in isolation, ignore the needs of others, I'm less like God," said Father Purcaro. "Dialogue makes me more like God."

He said communion with one another and communication depend on how we treat one another. "We all need one another," Father Purcaro said.

Father Purcaro said communication depends on our attitude toward one another. "If we treat someone as if they are worthless, that diminishes them," he said.

"I discover God in me and I discover



Left, Augustinian (OSA) Father Arthur Purcaro listens to a question while presenting the Theology on Tap session "The Lost Art of Listening." (Photos by Tami Quigley)

Above, young adults mingle before the program, including, from left, Steven Thomas (red shirt), parishioner of St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, and Bobby Campanella (purple polo shirt), parishioner of St. Nicholas, Walnutport.

God in you. We discover more by sharing more.

"We're all searching and sharing our experiences of God."

"I bring to you my understanding of God, and as a community, I try to listen."

Father Purcaro said the Church is not just priests. "We even pray for the Pope."

"To think I have the whole truth, I

don't need you, is wrong and lacks the humility that is God," he said.

"To allow myself to be enriched by you, I have to listen to you."

Father Purcaro said Jesus came that we might be one – that's the importance of sharing. Discovering truth is what happens when we listen.

He cautioned that much talk is not dialogue, but trying to convince rather than comprehend.

"Jesus welcomed people into the community and walked with them," Father Purcaro said. "When we take people as they are, where they are, that's trying to listen – to compose, not impose, ideas. Dialogue is listening, not just declaring."

Father Purcaro said relationships make us more like Christ.

He said the Church feels that part of its essence is to listen. "Listening is much more than simply silence. It's actively trying to understand a person's point of view."

Father Purcaro said Vatican II brought the Church into the modern world.

Ecumenism, Father Purcaro said, is things we do together, like feeding the hungry.

"Actively listen, pause and try to hear what they're saying," he said.

Father Purcaro said Blessed Pope Paul VI's encyclical "Ecclesiam Suam" (His Church), issued Aug. 6, 1964, identified the Church with the Body of Christ. In it,

"The Church is called to dialogue," Father Purcaro said.

"We need to search together and admit our mistakes. We want the Church to be perfect, but it's not. The challenge is to be the people of God."

"All of us are called to proclaim the Gospel and help people discern God in our lives."

Father Purcaro encouraged the young adults to continue to grow in their faith, such as through programs in their parish or Diocese.

"We are called to be followers of Christ. Go to the source, the Gospel. The Church is about life."

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

The next Theology on Tap, "The Five Keys to Freedom" presented by Meghan Cokeley, director of the New Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, will be Monday, July 15 at 7 p.m. at Hops at the Paddock.

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

"To allow myself to be enriched by you, I have to listen to you."



Yamilette Ayala, right, talks with another young adult before the program.

Theology on Tap to Discuss 'The Five Keys to Freedom'

"The Five Keys to Freedom" will be discussed at the next Theology on Tap Monday, July 15 at 7 p.m. at Hops at the Paddock, 1945 W. Columbia St., Allentown.

Presenter will be Meghan Cokeley, director of the New Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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

It 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.

Schuylkill Catholic Youth Ministry Summer Events

Schuylkill Catholic Youth Ministry's remaining summer events are:

July 19-22 Steubenville Youth Conference.

Saturday, Aug. 10, 5 to 10 p.m., "Let Your Light Shine," an evening at the Singley Farm, Zion Grove, with games, a cookout, bonfire, reflection, Eucharistic adoration and a surprise ending.

For more information, visit "Schuylkill Catholic" on Facebook or email annie@allentowndiocese.org.

allentowndiocese.org.



Ivankovits

►Continued from page 15

ously.

As a result, when the Grand Jury re-

port was released I was already well rooted in my faith. The scandal definitely blindsided me.

Knowing so many other young adult Catholics and faithful family members was such a blessing because I had a whole network of people who helped

me process the shock that came with the scandal. A lot of the conversations I had with family and other young adult Catholics helped me work through the anger and hurt I was feeling.

As a result, the whole experience left me wanting to dive deeper into my faith

instead of wanting to withdraw from the Church, so I thank God for the family and friends who helped me come to terms with the realities that we face in the Church. Iron sharpens iron, as Scripture says.

Young Adult Book Club Meetings July and August

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

The next meeting will be Saturday, July 20 at 3 p.m. at Quadrant Book Mart and Coffee House, Easton. The group will discuss Dorothy Day's article "All the Way to Heaven is Heaven."

The August meeting will be Friday, Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. at Moravian Book Shop, Bethlehem. Participants will discuss the classic "Confessions" by St. Augustine, a Doctor of the Church.

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



Confirming Faithful Families Rallies

"Confirming Faithful Families Rallies," hosted by the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry in conjunction with a team of dynamic speakers and musicians, are held at various locations throughout the Diocese and are intended for seventh- and eighth-grade students preparing for Confirmation.

Students will experience powerful talks, the opportunity to spend time with the Lord in Eucharistic adoration, music and activities. The event is from 1 to 5 p.m., with registration beginning at 12:30

p.m.

Upcoming dates are:

Sept. 7 – Berks Catholic High School, Reading.

Sept. 14 – Marian High School, Tamqua.

Nov. 16 – Allentown Central Catholic High School (registration full).

Feb. 22, 2020 – Notre Dame High School, Easton.

Registration and other details are available at www.allentowndiocese.org/off.

Third Annual 'Anchored' Youth Retreat

The third annual 'Anchored in Peace' retreat will be Sunday, Oct. 6 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Stone Lake Inn, 407 Greenview Drive, Saylorsburg.

This retreat is designed for teens in grades 6 through 12.

Join us for a relaxing day of faith and fellowship, including Eucharistic adoration, opportunities for confession, talks by Father Mark Searles and other activities.

Lunch will be included and there is no cost to attend.

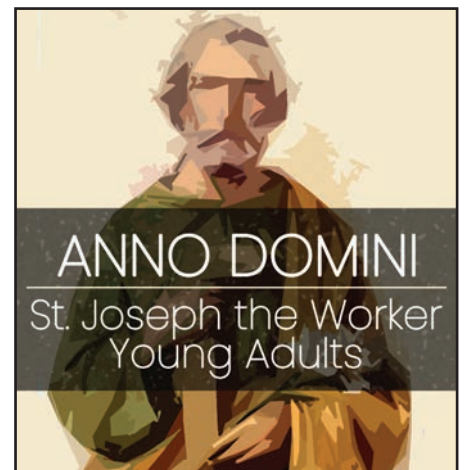
To register, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/anchored.



'Anno Domani' at St. Joseph, Orefield

Join the young adults from St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Orefield as they celebrate the saints and their feast days. Young adults from all parishes are invited.

Young adults are asked to email Morgan at rectory@stjw.org to join the email list to stay updated on events and are welcome to attend meetings.



St. Jane Young Adults

The Catholic Young Adults group hosted by St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish, Easton typically meets the last Sunday of each month, for a mix of social, spiritual and service activities.

Upcoming dates are:

July 28, 7 p.m. – Adoration in St. Jane Church; BBQ to follow at parish.

Aug. 15, 7 p.m. – Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; pizza and snacks to follow at parish.

Juventutem Lehigh Valley

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

The group has committed to spending an hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament every first Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart, Bath.

The Sacrament of Penance is available beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information, visit Facebook "Juventutem Lehigh Valley" or website www.juventutemlehighvalley.org.



'Logos and Lagers' in Berks County

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

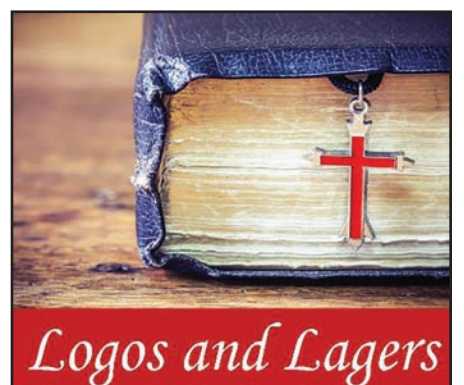
The group will meet the first Thursday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. to discuss the Mass readings for the upcoming weekend, followed by food and fellowship at a local establishment.

Upcoming dates are:

Aug. 1 – St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Sinking Spring.

Sept. 5 – St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Sinking Spring.

Follow the Facebook page to find out where "Logos and Lagers" will be taking place each month: "Logos and Lagers: A Catholic Bible Study for Young Adults



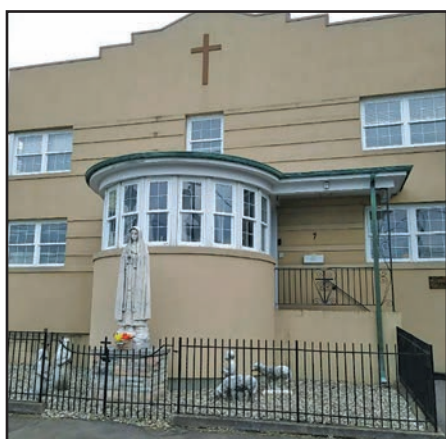
in Berks County." All young adults welcome.

Frackville Catholic Young Adults

The Frackville Catholic Young Adults is a group for young adults ages 18 to 35 who would like to be involved in Catholic faith enrichment and fellowship.

The group focuses on social and religious activities, and typically meets the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph Parish Youth Center.

Join the Facebook group "SJWP Young Adults" to find out where the meetings and events will be taking place. All young adults are welcome.



Calendar

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

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

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

Thursday, July 11 – Sunday, July 14

"A Weekend of Eucharistic Reparation," Our Lady of Fatima, Washington, N.J., rosary, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, 908-689-1700 ext. 224 or www.bluearmy.com.

Saturday, July 13

Flea Market, St. Mary, Hamburg, 7:30 a.m.-noon, 610-562-7657, stmaryhamburg@aol.com.

Monday, July 15

Vacation Bible School, SS. Peter and Paul, Lehigh, 8:45 a.m.-noon daily, through Friday, July 19, <https://vbspro.events/p/events/sspeter-paul-lehigh>.

Garage Sale Drop Off, Notre Dame of Bethlehem, church hall basement, 6-8 p.m., no clothing, linens, stuffed animals, cribs, VHS tapes, electronics, through Thursday, July 18, 610-837-9702.

Wednesday, July 17

Serra Club of Allentown, St. Thomas More, Allentown, rosary in chapel 6:45 p.m., Mass 7 p.m. followed by speaker Father Bernard Ezaki, light refreshments.

July-August (as scheduled locally)

Collection for Mission Co-Op.

Monday, Aug. 5

Golf Classic, Mercy School for Special Learning, Allentown, Brookside Country Club, Macungie, www.mercygolfclassic2019.com, 610-797-8242.

Tuesdays, Aug. 13; Sept. 10

Hoagie Sale, Knights of Columbus Council 618, 201 W. Cherry St., Shenandoah, noon-4 p.m., \$5, 570-462-1430 or 570-590-1188.

Saturday, July 20

Garage Sale, Notre Dame of Bethlehem, church hall basement, Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday 8-11 a.m., also Sunday, July 21, 610-837-9702.

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.stfranciscr.org.

Friday, July 12 – Sunday, July 14

"At the Foot of the Cross: God's Infinite Mer-

cy," Women of Grace founder Johnnette Williams, Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, sbrinkmann@womenofgrace.com, 215-983-9701.

"Weekend Directed Retreat," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, www.jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats_bylength.

Saturday, July 13

"Dare to Prepare for True Friendship," Young Women of Grace, ages 13+, Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, sbrinkmann@womenofgrace.com, 215-983-9701.

Sunday, July 14 – Friday, July 19

"Icon Writing Retreat," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 610-258-3053, ext. 10, www.stfranciscr.org.

Monday, July 15 – Sunday, July 21

"Five-Day Directed Retreat," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, www.jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats_bylength.

Friday, July 26 – Sunday, Aug. 3

"Eight-Day Directed Retreat," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, www.jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats_bylength.

Friday, Aug. 9 – Sunday, Aug. 11

"A Franciscan Pilgrimage with St. Francis and St. Clare," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 610-258-3053, ext. 10, www.stfranciscr.org.

Friday, Aug. 9 – Saturday, Aug. 17

"Eight-Day Directed Retreat," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, www.jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats_bylength.

Saturday, Aug. 10 – Saturday, Aug. 17

"A Future Full of Hope: A Jesuit Retreat on Midlife and Beyond (Jesuits Only)," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, www.jesuitcenter.org/JesuitPreached2019Retreat.

Friday, Sept. 27 – Sunday, Sept. 29

"Second Annual Weekend Retreat for Men in Recovery," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, www.jesuitcenter.org/2019-12step.

Friday, Nov. 8 – Sunday, Nov. 10

"Spiritual Push," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 610-258-3053, ext. 10, www.stfranciscr.org.

Festivals/Bazaars

Sunday, July 14

Picnic, Holy Trinity, Whitehall, at Egypt Memorial Park, 12:30-8 p.m., outdoor mass 11:30 a.m.

Friday, July 19 – Saturday, July 20

Mid-Summer Festival, St. John the Baptist, Pottsville, 5-9:30 p.m.

Friday, July 19 – Sunday, July 21

Festival, St. Joseph, Summit Hill; Friday 6:30-10 p.m.; Saturday 5-10 p.m., Mass 4 p.m.; Sunday 5-10 p.m., St. Gabriel procession 3:30 p.m., fireworks after 10 p.m.

Saturday, July 20 – Sunday, July 21

Summer Parrot Daze, Berks County Parrot Head Club, to benefit Mary's Shelter, Reading, Chapel Hill Golf Course; Saturday 1-9 p.m., tickets \$25; Sunday noon-5 p.m., tickets \$15.

Thursday, July 25 – Sunday, July 28

Festival, Holy Family, Nazareth, Thursday 5-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 5-11 p.m., Sunday 4-10 p.m., 610-759-0870.

Friday, Aug. 2 – Sunday, Aug. 4

Parish Festival, St. Joseph, Frackville, at St. Ann's picnic grove, rear of St. Ann Church, 49 N. Line St., Friday 3-10 p.m., Saturday noon-11 p.m., Sunday noon-5 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 3

Annual Summer Festival and Chicken Barbecue, St. Benedict, Mohnton, at St. Benedict Picnic Grove, Route 10 and Chestnut Hill Road, Plowville, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., dinner noon-7 p.m., no BYOB or BYOF.

Sunday, Aug. 4

Picnic and Homecoming, St. Peter, Coplay, noon-10 p.m., Polka Mass 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 29

"Monocacy Farm Food Festival," hosted by School Sisters of St. Francis, Bethlehem, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., suggested donation \$5, \$10 family, rain or shine, 610-657-6000.

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., 610-987-8851.

Thursdays

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

Saturday, July 13

Bingo Buffet, Parish Activities Group, Incarnation of Our Lord, Bethlehem, 4 p.m. Mass, doors open 5 p.m., \$20, \$25 at door, 610-866-3391 or 610-866-3345.

Sundays, 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@allentowndiocese.org by Thursday of the week

before publication. Please notify The A.D. Times when seats are filled for a trip so it can be removed from the repeating list.

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

Newly announced

Thursday, July 18

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, Golden Agers to Hollywood Casino, \$30, 610-266-2874.

Previously announced

Saturday, July 13

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

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.

Friday, July 26 – Sunday, July 28

Bus to "Defending the Faith Conference," Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, <http://steubenvilleconferences.com/adult/dfc/>, 610-468-9506 or b@swist.us.

Tuesday, Aug. 13

Holy Family, Nazareth, Golden Agers to Skyline Cruise of Atlantic City, New Jersey, \$90, 610-759-0576.

Wednesday, Aug. 14

St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, bus to Atlantic City, New Jersey, \$60, 610-392-2957, suemuel-ler45@gmail.com.

Saturday, Aug. 17

St. Thomas More, Allentown to Indians at the Yankees, \$105 or \$125, 484-951-0440.

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, suemuel-ler45@gmail.com, 610-392-2957.

Monday, Sept. 16 – Thursday, Sept. 19

St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Niagara Falls and the Erie Canal, \$579, suemuel-ler45@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.

Saturday, Sept. 28

St. Thomas More, Allentown to Broadway, "Moulin Rouge" \$210, "The Temptations Ain't Too Proud" \$114, "Frozen" \$115, "To Kill a Mockingbird" \$175, 484-951-0440.

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Recap of Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Efforts in Spring Session

The state budget agreement June 28 marked the end of the spring session in Harrisburg. Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) was active on a number of bills during the session.

• **Down Syndrome Protection Act** – House Bill 321, sponsored by Rep. Klunk (R-York), would ban abortions solely for a possible Down syndrome diagnosis. The PCC staff stood with lawmakers and advocates when it was introduced. We flooded the halls of the Capitol the day of the committee vote, talking with members and passing out roses as a symbol of support for life. We lobbied representatives the day the issue was discussed on the House floor and filled many seats in the gallery for the vote. The bill has been passed on to the Senate. We will follow it.

• **Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC)** – The program gives tax breaks for donations to scholarship funds that help needy private school students. It has greatly benefitted Catholic schools and students. Speaker Turzai proposed a \$100 million increase. PCC sent out several Voter Voice advocacy petitions for support, and many of you responded. The original bill was vetoed by Gov. Wolf, who was a stumbling block on more than just this issue. Thanks to Turzai and other supportive lawmakers, the final budget included \$25 million for EITC and \$5 million more for its sister program, Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC).

• **Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN)** – Despite a major effort by PCC and sympathetic legislators, Wolf was able to block our efforts to get a religious exemption so Catholic adoption agencies could continue their work. The Wolf Administration put in requirements that, in effect, took away much of the power those agencies had in selecting parents. Turzai took the lead trying to get an exemption so our agencies could continue without compromising Catholic beliefs. The governor refused to grant the exemption despite representatives and senators intervening. This dealt a serious blow to our adoption and foster care efforts, which had been generally put on hold. We will continue to look for a solution.

• **PIAA Championship bill** – PCC worked closely with Rep. Aaron Bernstine (R-Beaver, Butler, Lawrence) to craft a bill to create separate championships for public and private schools, with the winners coming together for a state title game. We had become concerned that several public schools in the western part of the state would break away from PIAA to form their own conferences and shut out Catholic schools. PCC Executive Director Eric Failing appeared with Bernstine and leaders of the public schools at the Capitol in June to announce a compromise bill. The Catholic schools would be guaranteed inclusion in regular season and district play with public schools, get proportional representation on PIAA at district and state levels, and see relaxation of transfer rules. The issue sits in the House Education Committee.

• **Buyer Beware Act** – Two major allies of PCC – Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York) and Rep. Seth Grove (R-York) – introduced companion bills to increase penalties for human traffickers and those who patronize them. PCC was there as they unveiled legislation at the Capitol

and testified at two legislative town hall meetings. We continue to support the bill.

• **Perinatal Hospice Bill** – The bill sponsored by Rep. Kathy Rapp (R-Crawford, Forest, Warren) would require that information be given to a woman on the option of perinatal hospice care after her unborn child is diagnosed with a life-limiting condition. PCC supported the measure and sat in on committee hearings as Democrats put up stiff opposition and tried to link the bill to abortion. It passed the House anyway and is now in the Senate.

• **Marriage Bill** – Companion bills were introduced by Rep. Jesse Topper and Sen. John Sabatina to establish 18 as the minimum age for marriage. PCC has been a staunch supporter of the measure, seen as a way to help combat human trafficking. Topper found out that many children were being forced into prearranged marriages that were permitted because of parental consent. Topper's bill passed the House and Sabatina's passed the Senate Judiciary Committee.

• **Heartbeat Bill** – Rep. Stephanie Borowicz (R-Centre, Clinton) is sponsoring a bill that would prohibit abortions once a heartbeat is detected in the unborn baby. PCC has talked with Borowicz about her planned introduction of the bill and worked to help acquire co-sponsors. We will continue to work on co-sponsors.

• **OCTC and Private School Security Grants** – It allows Catholic schools to apply for security grants. There is a list of items they can choose from, like building enhancements, to keep intruders out or paying for a school psychologist to help students. PCC supported this.

• **Career Licensing Bill** – Companion bills were introduced by Sen. John DiSanto (R-Dauphin, Perry) and Rep. Sheryl Delozier (R-Cumberland) to permit people convicted of crimes to get certain occupational licenses if their conviction was unrelated. PCC supported this as a way to give people a second chance at life and stay out of prison.

• **Land Bank Bill** – A tool to help strengthen cities and towns by enabling them to systematically remove problem properties from an endless cycle of vacancy, abandonment and tax foreclosure, and return them to productive use by housing the homeless. PCC supported the measure, which passed the House Urban Affairs Committee and is awaiting final House passage.

• **Sheltered Workshops** – PCC spoke with Department of Human Services Secretary Teresa Miller, as well as leadership in the House and Senate, to stress the need to continue full funding for these critical programs where many of our disabled brothers and sisters work.

• **Religious Garb Bill** – Would remove a prohibition forbidding teachers from wearing a crucifix or another representation of their faith while teaching. We are the only state in the nation that hasn't repealed such a law.

PCC is based in Harrisburg and is the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Dioceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up-to-date with Catholic news and issues at www.pacatholic.org, www.facebook.com/pacatholic and www.twitter.com/pacatholic.

Clare of Assisi House a Beacon of Hope for Women after Prison

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

Clare of Assisi House, Reading is a beacon of hope and caring as the only transitional residential facility in Berks County for women just released from incarceration. It was established to give women solutions to the challenging obstacles of rebuilding their lives – as the tagline on its website states, “Putting the Pieces of Life Back Together – Serving the Needs of Women Upon Release from Prison.”

The house was founded in 2014 by Robin Ball, who later recruited Franciscan Sisters Eileen Doherty, associate director; and the late Kathleen McMullin, project director, who died last year. These early founders are all parishioners of St. Benedict, Mohnton.

Ball, executive director and founder, chose the name because, like St. Francis, St. Clare’s mission was to serve the poor. St. Francis and St. Clare were a reflection of Christ. Since this house was to be for women, it seemed only natural to name it after a woman who was so dedicated to helping others.

“I had a strong inner knowing,” said Ball, who had been mentoring a woman through Berks County Prison’s One on One program when she had the idea.

“I am deeply grateful for the work of



Enjoying lunch May 2 at Clare of Assisi House, Reading are, from left, Franciscan Sister Eileen Doherty, Bishop Alfred Schlert and Jesuit Father Thomas Kuller. (Photos courtesy of Pamela Mills)

Clare of Assisi House and edified by the work of the staff and volunteers who offer a safe and caring transition to women

who are transitioning from the corrections system to meaningful employment in the community,” said Bishop Alfred Schlert, who visited the facility May 2 for a tour, luncheon and to meet staff and residents.

“It is yet another example of the good work that is done every day in the name of Christ, and that is so essential in our society.”

Also visiting that day were Father Thomas Bortz, pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring; Jesuit Father Thomas Kuller of the Jesuit Center, Wernersville, a member of the house’s board of directors; and Paul Acampora, secretary of the Diocesan Secretariat for Stewardship and Development.

The women have a morning meditation each day. Each woman is assigned a morning and they choose a spiritual reading to share and discuss.

“We provide the women with a list of churches in the area for all denominations,” said Pamela Mills, administrative assistant. “We have several faith-based groups that come in from time to time for fellowship with the women or conduct a Bible study.”

“For the Catholics, ladies from the Legion of Mary from St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring come in once a month to meet with the women. They also have access to the sisters that are associated with Clare House. The women have participated in church services at St. Catharine of Siena, Reading and St. Benedict.”

Mills explained the house did not start receiving residents until 2017: “It took three years to secure a property, prepare it, and find the staffing and volunteers needed.”

Located at 325 N. 12th St., Reading, Clare House is the former Mary’s Shelter. It was leased from St. Catharine of Siena, “but in June 2018 we purchased the building from the Diocese. The purchase included the building we were occupying – the old convent – the old St. Mary’s School and playground,” Mills said.

Ball and Mills said the mission of the 12-bed house is to provide transitional residential services and life skills training for nonviolent women with a history of domestic violence, substance abuse and/

or prostitution, who are coming out of prison and are in need of a safe and sober living environment that will encourage and support each resident in her attempt toward self-sufficiency and independent living.

Clare House’s main goal is to reduce recidivism, assisting the resident to find gainful employment that positively contributes to the economy because now she is a taxpaying member of the community, reduce crime and increase safety in the community.

Each resident is given a private bedroom, hygiene products and clothing from Clare’s Closet.

The women receive skills training, workforce development, resume writing assistance, financial and budgeting training, case management services, nurturing parenting classes, addiction support including 12-step meeting, and other skills training to assist them as they work on “putting the pieces of their life back together.”

“The Clare of Assisi House is such an amazing place. It is an opportunity to be in a stable, beautiful and supportive environment,” said resident Autumn Yeager.

“The staff is so supportive, and they all encourage us to be the best that we can be while they try to help us integrate back into society. This house brings people together. It isn’t biased on race, religion or background. We all consider ourselves a family. We call ourselves the Clare House Sisters. We are here creating bonds that will help us better ourselves, support each other and will last a lifetime.”

“I am very grateful for the Clare of Assisi House for a beautiful, safe and clean place to live,” said resident Lisa Painter.

“After so much heartache, devastation and loss through many bad choices and childhood wounds, my life headed down a very dark and lonely road that I am blessed to even be alive

“So to have a place to continue to heal and to thrive on the journey that started once I truly surrendered during my incarceration in

Lehigh County and continued into Muncy State Prison is so important. I didn’t have anyone or place to go, and Clare of Assisi House took a chance on me and gave me the start and safety I needed to have on the outside.

“And I have taken that and ran with it full force into recovery and mental health, building a firm foundation on Jesus and sobriety. There is no way that I could have done any of this without a safe place to live. I thank God every day for his grace and mercy, and for the Clare House for giving me a chance at life.”

In the first two years of operations, the house has served 15 women. The average stay is three months to a year. All the women are/were employed or furthering their education. All the employed residents, supervised by staff and a financial representative, created a budget toward paying back debt, pay their current bills and manage their money in a more constructive manner. Two of 15 graduated from the program. The remaining women are still working toward this goal.

Clare House uses community resources in the form of grants, including funding from the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, the Poverty Relief Grant, annual fundraising, and volunteer efforts and donations.

“We are always in need of funding for operations and volunteers,” Ball and Mills said.

Please see HOPE page 21 ►►



Having fun participating in the Great American Cleanup are, from left, case manager Ashley Blake, Lisa Painter, Caitlin Kasperowicz, Catina Mejia, Sara Dehaven, Autumn Yerger and Mary LaPrad.



Celebrating Christmas with staff and residents are: Robin Ball, back left; Franciscan Sister Kathleen McMullin (now deceased), front left; and Franciscan Sister Eileen Doherty, front right.



Parishioners Serving God and Country

Three men from Sacred Heart Parish, Palmerton attended a military dining-in for the Allentown Chapter, Honorary First Defenders. From left are CWO Edward Girard, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret); Sgt. Shane Tubbs, Pa. Army National Guard; and George Duell Jr., Army Reserve Ambassador for Pennsylvania. Girard is the deacon at Sacred Heart and director of religious education. Duell is coordinator of the RCIA program, a Eucharistic minister and greeter at Sacred Heart. Tubbs is one of the newest Catholics in the Diocese, welcomed to the faith at this year's Easter Vigil upon completion of the RCIA program. Both Girard and Duell are members of the Knights of Columbus (4th Degree). Through their active and veteran service they continue to serve God and country.

Hope

►►Continued from page 20

Clare House's website lists volunteer opportunities and in-kind donations needed. There is an open position on the board for a CPA.

The house has a committed fundraising committee that dedicates numerous hours to making the house's events a success.

An upcoming fundraising event, "Autumn in Italy" with Chef Brennan, is slated for Thursday, Sept. 12 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Panevino Restaurant, 25 N.

Second St., Reading.

The annual Holiday Brunch will be Sunday, Dec. 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the McGlinn Conference and Spirituality Center, 460 Bernardine St., Reading.

Clare House is a place of building trust, new skills, sister-to-sister relationships and courage of the journey. It could not have a better name. As Clare prays, "God loves you with a tender love."

For more information, or to volunteer or donate, contact Robin Ball, 484-869-5483, robin.ball@clareofassisihouse.com; or visit www.clareofassisihouse.org and www.facebook.com/clareassisi-house.

St. Patrick Teens 'Walk with Jesus'



Lorica, the teen group at St. Patrick Parish, Pottsville, hosted a family educational program every Friday in Lent for five weeks. In "Walk with Jesus" the teens took the attendees through Holy Week: Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Sacrifice of Good Friday and the Empty Tomb. Participants then received an explanation from Monsignor Edward O'Connor, pastor, on the significance of each event, and enjoyed a simple supper followed by Stations of the Cross. Pictured are the group members at the empty tomb.



The Last Supper. Jesus is portrayed by Mark Tray.



July 25, 26, 27, 28

Thursday 5 - 9 pm * Friday 5 - 11 pm
Saturday 5 - 11 pm * Sunday 4 - 10 pm

Games * Rides * Bingo * Music * Dancing

"ETHNIC FOOD & RIDE PREVIEW"
THURSDAY NIGHT
FROM 5 - 9 PM

Rides open at special price of \$2 per ride - Thursday only!
Special Ethnic Foods,
Wine & German Beer
(No Games or Bingo this night only)

SATURDAY IS "RIDE NIGHT"
(Ride from 6 - 10 pm for \$15)



GREAT FESTIVAL FOOD!

Clams * Rib-Eye Steak Sandwiches *
Homemade Pierogies * Funnel Cake *
Fried Dough * Turkey BBQ * Pizza *
Waffles & Ice Cream & more!

LIVE BANDS EVERY NIGHT!

Thursday: Mark Prestifilippo
Friday: Fresch
Saturday: The Kickbacks
Sunday: Joe Krobath (4 - 7pm)
& Jealous Monks (7 - 10 pm)

For Your Convenience ~
FREE SHUTTLE from Nazareth
Boro Park On Saturday
3:30pm - 12:30am

LOCATED AT THE END OF W. CENTER STREET IN NAZARETH

Bingo license #19-3921

Small games of chance license #19-00144

Holy Trinity Church Picnic Whitehall, PA

Sunday, July 14, 2019 at Egypt Memorial Park



OUTDOOR MASS
AT 11:30AM

Food & Games 12:30PM to 8PM
Rain or Shine

Haluski Halupkies Pierogies Funnel Cakes
Belgian Waffles French Fries Bleenies
Turkey Bar-B-Que Sausage Kielbasa
Soda and Beer Adult and Children's Games



Free Parking and Admission
Everyone is Invited!

Music and Dancing
Josef Krobath
12:30 to 3:30 PM
&
Jump Start
4:30 to 7:30 PM

BINGO



Picnic Raffle

Msgr. Daniel Yenushosky, Pastor

Small Games of Chance License # 0129R19

Bingo License # 3021 0063-19



St. Benedict

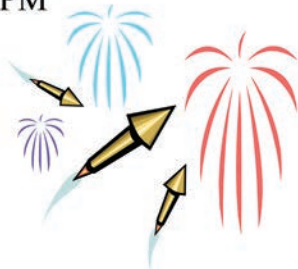
63rd Annual Summer Festival & Chicken Barbecue

Featuring Our Famous
Barbecued Chicken Dinners

Saturday, August 3, 2019

- Dinners Served 12 Noon to 7 PM only \$12.00!
- Festival From 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM
- Auction ~ Crafters ~ White Elephant Flea Market
- Games ~ Food ~ Refreshments ~ Raffle ~ Bingo
- Miller-Keystone Blood Mobile 1:00 – 5:00 PM
- Appearances by Wacky Patti and Elmo
- Live Music By "SkidMarks" at 6:00 PM
- **FIREWORKS AT DUSK**

NO BYOB or BYOF
St. Benedict Picnic Grove
Route 10 and Chestnut Hill Road, Plowville
5 Miles North of Morgantown
9 Miles South of Reading



St. John the Baptist Parish Family MID-SUMMER FESTIVAL

**FRIDAY, JULY 19 & SATURDAY, JULY 20
2019**

**5 to 9:30 p.m.
9th St. & Schuylkill Ave., Pottsville**

POT LUCK STAND
THEME BASKETS
GAMES OF CHANCE
GAMES FOR CHILDREN
GAMES FOR TEENS
Family Games



Pugh Family Bean Soup



"Splash the Clown"
Balloon Making
Face Painting

MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
DAVE DERBES / DAVE SMITH

SHADED SEATING UNDER THE TENT

Come join the fun — something for everyone!

Small Games of Chance Permit #8436

ST. JOSEPH the WORKER PARISH FESTIVAL

Location: St. Ann's Picnic Grove
(REAR OF ST. ANN'S CHURCH)

49 North Line Street, Frackville, PA 17931

Friday, August 2, 2019—3:00 to 10:00 p.m.
(kitchen closes at 9:00 p.m.)

Saturday, August 3, 2019 – 12 noon to 11:00 p.m.
(kitchen closes at 9:30 p.m.)

Sunday, August 4, 2019 – 12 noon to 5:00 p.m.
(kitchen closes at 4:00 p.m.)

ENJOY HOMEMADE ETHNIC FOODS

Pierogies – Bleenies – Haluski – Halupkies – Bandukies
Kielbasi(w/sauerkraut) – Kilbo Nuggets – Bean Soup – Hamburgers
Hot Dogs – Drinks – Baked Goods – and more!



"Live Music Daily"

Friday, August 2 – "Broken Spell" 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 3 – "Another Side" 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 4 – "Tom Davis" 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Themed Basket Auction announced Sunday, August 4 at 2:30 p.m.

Raffle Drawing (Sunday, August 4) announced 4:30 p.m.

License #8213

Saint Peter R.C. Church

5TH & COPLAY STREET • COPLAY, PA

65th Annual

PICNIC & HOMECOMING

SUNDAY

AUGUST 4, 2019

(RAIN OR SHINE)

12 NOON TO 10 P.M.

ON OUR BEAUTIFUL PARISH GROUNDS

Our Famous Pierogies

Steak and Sausage sandwiches
Ham and turkey BBQ • hotdogs
Halushki • Clam Chowder
Pizza • French Fries • Funnel Cake
Ice Cream • Refreshments
Homemade Baked Goods

Bingo - Air Conditioned

(license #10073-18)

Games of Chance

(license #0116R-18)

Basket Raffle
Money Raffle
(tickets available)

Great
Smoothies
from Island
Expressions

Kid Games
Tractor Car Ride
Moon Bounce
Fish Pond and
more

POLKA MASS 10:30 AM

E. Schanta

Entertainment for your
dancing and listening pleasure

Emil Schanta Band
1 to 5 pm

Flirtin' with the Mob
5:30 to 9:30 pm

END YOUR SUMMER ON A HIGH NOTE! JOIN US!

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS – EVERYONE WELCOME

SMALL GAMES OF CHANCE LIC #0141R19 BINGO LIC #0068-19



Two Diocesan Graduates Appointed to Military Service Academies

By PAUL WIRTH
Diocesan Communications Staff

Two students in the Diocese of Allentown's Class of 2019 have received appointments to military service academies. Both are graduates of Notre Dame High School, Easton.

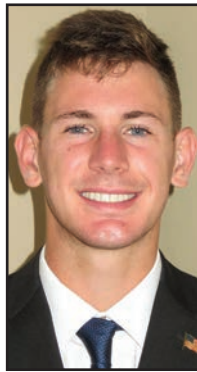
Nominated by Congressman Matt Cartwright, you might say John Koons is entering the "family business." His father, his brother and his cousin, Anne Koons-Maynard (Allentown Central Catholic 2008), all have attended the Air Force Academy. His hope is to become an Air Force pilot.

He is the nephew of Monsignor Thomas Koons, pastor of Assumption BVM, Northampton.

Koons credits his alma mater with providing the tools he believes he will need to be successful: strong academics, athletic experience, leadership opportunities, self-confidence "and a really strong base for my Catholic faith that I will rely on going forward."



Koons



Gormley

Benjamin Gormley will pursue a degree in mechanical or chemical engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy and hopes to become either a navy surface warfare officer or a U.S. Marine Corps officer. He was

nominated by U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey.

Gormley is grateful to the faculty and staff of Notre Dame for helping him "build a solid moral background," as well as for the challenging academics and athletics opportunities. He was the class valedictorian.

He also credits his Catholic faith. "I can go into the service knowing that at the end of the day, God has a plan for me. He will look out for my best interests as I serve my country," he said.

Annual Diocesan Anniversary Mass

Sunday, September 15, 2019 at 3 PM
Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena
1825 W. Turner St., Allentown
Celebrant: The Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
This Mass will fulfill your Sunday obligation

Married couples celebrating 1-5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 60+ years and their families are invited to the Mass and the social following.

REGISTER BEFORE SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 AT:
www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS, COMPLETE THIS FORM

PRINT YOUR NAMES CLEARLY (AS YOU WOULD LIKE FOR THEM TO APPEAR IN THE PROGRAM)

Address, City, State, Zip Code

Email address Telephone

Number of Years Married (those celebrating 25, 50 and 60+ years will receive a certificate):

How many family members will attend the social following the Mass?

What parish do you belong to? (Church Name & City)

Please indicate if you use a wheelchair, walker or are hearing impaired:

MAIL FORM TO: Office of Marriage & Natural Family Planning
Attn: Anniversary Mass
2121 Madison Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18017-4642

Questions? Call 610-289-8900, ext. 2021 or email mflf@allentowndiocese.org

/Office of Marriage and Natural Family Planning, Allentown Diocese

Switch to an Online Subscription of The A.D. Times

To transfer your print subscription of The A.D. Times to instead receive an email notification with a link to each new issue posted on the diocesan website, send the following information to adtimes@allentowndiocese.org or fill out the submission form on the diocesan website, <http://www.allentowndiocese.org/ad-times>.

Email address
Name
Address
Parish
Daytime phone number
Subscriber number (on line immediately above your name printed in the lower left corner of this issue)

Married Couples Invited to Diocesan Anniversary Mass

The Annual Diocesan Anniversary Mass Celebration will be Sunday, Sept. 15 at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, 1875 W. Turner St., Allentown.

We cordially invite couples celebrating 1-5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 or 60-plus years of marriage to this special event.

Please register online at www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass, on the form on this page, or request a form by email at mflf@allentowndiocese.org.

The form must be completed and returned to the Office of Marriage and Natural Family Planning, 2121 Madison Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18017. The registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 9. For questions, call 610-289-8900 ext. 2021.

Seminarian Receives Ministry of Acolyte



Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, second from left, celebrated Mass May 4 in St. Martin's Chapel at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia for the Institution of the Ministry of Acolyte. Second Theology seminarians and candidates for permanent diaconate were installed, including Diocese of Allentown seminarian Philip Maas, third from left. Also pictured are Bishop Timothy Senior, rector of the seminary, left, and Father Christopher Butera, director of seminary formation for Diocese of Allentown.



Bishop Schlert with Father Butera, front left, and the Allentown Diocese seminarians.

With Miracle Confirmed, Plans for Sheen Beatification Can Begin

PEORIA, ILL. (CNS) — With “overwhelming joy,” Bishop Daniel Jenky of Peoria announced July 6 that Pope Francis had approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

“Now that the miracle has been confirmed by Pope Francis, the Diocese of Peoria can formally begin planning for the beatification of Archbishop Sheen, which will take place in Peoria,” according to a news release issued by the Diocese of Peoria.

The pope authorized the Congregation for Saints’ Causes to promulgate the decree at an audience July 5. In addition to affirming the miracle for Archbishop Sheen, Pope Francis recognized the heroic virtues of one woman and six men, and enrolled Blessed Bartholomew of the Martyrs in the catalog of saints, which is equivalent to canonization.

The miracle concerns the healing of James Fulton Engstrom of Washington, Illinois, who was considered stillborn when he was delivered during a planned home birth Sept. 16, 2010. His parents, Bonnie and Travis Engstrom, immediately invoked the prayers of Archbishop Sheen and would encourage others to seek his intercession after the baby was taken to OSF HealthCare St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria for emergency treatment.

Just as doctors were preparing to declare that he was dead, James Fulton’s tiny heart started to beat at a normal rate for a healthy newborn. He had been with-



James Fulton Engstrom is held by his parents, Travis and Bonnie Engstrom, Sept. 7, 2011 at the Spalding Pastoral Center in Peoria, Illinois, as a tribunal began investigating the boy’s miraculous healing through the intercession of Archbishop Fulton Sheen. With them are Andrea Ambrosi, postulator of Archbishop Sheen’s sainthood cause, and Peoria Bishop Daniel Jenky. (CNS photo/Jennifer Willems, The Catholic Post)

out a pulse for 61 minutes.

Despite dire prognoses for his future, including that he would probably be blind and never walk, talk or be able to feed himself, the child has thrived. Now a healthy 8-year-old, he likes chicken nuggets, “Star Wars” and riding his bicycle.

“It is truly amazing how God continues to work miracles,” Bishop Jenky said in the statement. “I am so grateful that the Vatican acted so quickly after last week’s transfer of Sheen’s remains from New York to the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria.”

Archbishop Sheen had been placed in a crypt below the main altar of St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York after his death Dec. 9, 1979. After protracted legal proceedings, his remains were brought to Peoria June 27 at the request of his niece, Joan Sheen Cunningham, and now rest in a new marble tomb in the Peoria cathedral.

In a recent interview with The Catholic Post, Peoria’s diocesan newspaper, Bonnie Engstrom said God had allowed the miracle to happen for his honor and glory.

“I really don’t think it was given to us, for us,” she said. “I think it was given to the Church, for the Church.”

Sheen, an El Paso, Illinois native, was ordained Sept. 20, 1919 at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Peoria, and would go on to teach at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and lead the Society of the Propagation of the Faith. He is best remembered for his popular television show “Life Is Worth Living.”

He died in 1979 at age 84. His sainthood cause was officially opened in 2003. The Church declared his heroic virtues and he was given the title “Venerable” in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI.

In general, two miracles must be accepted by the Church as having occurred through the intercession of a prospective saint, one before beatification and the other before canonization.

News about the beatification and the life of Archbishop Sheen can be found at www.CelebrateSheen.com.

50 Years on, Moon Landing Still Generates Sense of Wonderment

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong gingerly stepped onto the surface of the moon July 20, 1969, Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno had no idea that someday he would become director of the Vatican Observatory.

Age 16 at the time, he had followed the space program since Alan Shepard’s 15-minute suborbital flight eight years earlier. But becoming a scientist was not foremost in the mind of the teenage Consolmagno as he watched the grainy black-and-white televised images of Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin going about their tasks on the surface of another world.

Still, the events unfolding that Sunday evening 50 years ago left an impact on Brother Consolmagno, an avid reader of science fiction who especially enjoyed stories of travel into space.

“That put the connection in my mind that the things we fantasize about can actually happen. So dreams carry with them an important sort of reality,” he told Catholic News Service as the golden anniversary of the first moon landing approached.

“In the long run, it made me recognize the importance of our aspirations, the importance of our dreams, but also it really ties into the Jesuit idea that I really hadn’t understood yet of looking for God in your deepest desires.”

Years later, Brother Consolmagno would pursue studies in astronomy and then enter religious life. Today he heads one of the most prestigious astronomical institutions in the world while living his vocation and continues to marvel at the possibility of traveling to other planets. He sees God’s handiwork in it all.

“I can feel God in any of that work,” he said. “To me, you feel God in the joy of the moment. That the universe is logical and the fact that there is also beauty and understanding, it is a source of joy.”

The accomplishments achieved

through scientific endeavors such as the moon landings can provide a glimpse into the way things work and what it means to be human, both key components of God’s creation, said Franciscan Sister Ilia Delio, professor of theology at Villanova University.

“It tells us about us and our capacity to invent, to discover that which has never been seen, that which has never been walked upon,” she said. “It tells us about the human person and the openness to this creation that God has given us the freedom to explore.”

Discovery also can serve — if humanity allows — to help people realize the universe is so much larger than the planet human beings currently inhabit, Sister Delio explained.

“It’s obviously very, very hard for us to get our heads around the fact that we are on a planet that’s moving through space, that space is filled with all sort of material life and perhaps intelligent life that we have yet to discover. But the landing on the moon shows we can discover new things when we thought never before this could be done,” she told CNS.

“That’s what these discoveries are pointing to: a humble stance in this incredibly vast cosmos.”

Astronaut Nicole Stott, 56, has had two opportunities to experience a small corner of that cosmos during a pair of space missions — the first in 2009 when she spent three months aboard the International Space Station and the second in 2011 on a 13-day space shuttle mission.

Among Stott’s most awe-inspiring moments was seeing the thin layer of Earth’s atmosphere as she circled the globe every 90 minutes. “That little thin blue line is like Earth’s spacesuit, and we need to protect it,” she told CNS from Florida.

Stott, who is Catholic, retired from flying as an astronaut in May 2015. She admitted that watching the first moon landing as a 6-year-old while eating a



Pope Paul VI views the moon through the viewfinder of the Schmidt telescope at the time of the first landing on the moon, July 20, 1969. This print was photographed on display at the Vatican observatory in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Sept. 28, 2018. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

grilled cheese sandwich didn’t necessarily inspire her career choice to become an engineer and eventually work for NASA.

It was while working at NASA that Stott and her husband reconnected with their Catholic faith. Today she sees no conflict between that faith and the pursuit of science to better understand God’s universe.

She said during her 27 years with NASA — 15 as an astronaut — she worked with astronauts and NASA employees who were inspired by their faith to explore space.

“The thing that was surprising to me in general was that there seems to be this perception that astronauts would be agnostic or atheist,” Stott said. “I was so

happy to find that it’s more the other way, that there are more people of faith associated with the (space) program. It was a pleasant surprise to find how deeply faithful they were.”

The first moon landing itself was not without its religious connections. In preparation for the historic Apollo 11 flight, messages from religious leaders were among the artifacts collected to be flown on the lunar lander, reported National Catholic News Service, the predecessor of CNS. They remain there to this day for posterity.