

# Concrete Action to Prevent Abuse and Keep Children Safe

*On one-year anniversary of Grand Jury Report, Diocese looks back at progress made, and looks ahead as it rebuilds trust*

It has been one year since the release of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report on clergy sexual abuse, and during that time, the Diocese of Allentown has taken additional concrete steps – on top of the robust program it already has in place – to prevent abuse and to keep children safe.

The Diocese uses vigilance, education and prevention, coupled with swift and decisive action in the event of an accusation, to address abuse. “Our first priority is to keep children safe,” said Bishop Alfred Schlert.

The grand jury acknowledged in its report that much had changed for the better in the Catholic Church in the previous 15 years. Over the past 12 months the Diocese built on that record of action by implementing what it learned from the report and from the resulting public discourse about the abuse issue. The Diocese:

**Published names of accused priests.** Priests with a credible allegation of abuse are listed on the Diocese website, including some who were not mentioned in the Grand Jury Report. All priests on the list have been removed from ministry.

**Created a new leadership position to improve prevention and safety.** Ms. Pamela Russo, an experienced executive and licensed social worker, was named Secretary for Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services. She has overall responsibility for abuse prevention and



Bishop Schlert responds to questions at the Healing Our Church wrap-up meeting at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. (File photo)

child safety programs.

**Provided millions of dollars for victim compensation.** Under the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program, victims of clergy sexual abuse are applying to an independent arbitrator for compensation as one aspect of their healing. The program is overseen by an independent board not affiliated with the Diocese that is chaired by a retired federal judge, and the program is administered by Washington, D.C.-based Attorney Kenneth Feinberg and his colleague, Camille Biros.

**Improved transparency and accountability.** Bishop Schlert held meetings with parishioners, answered questions publicly in many forums and pledged publicly to hold himself accountable long before the nation’s bishops voted on formal personal accountability measures.

**Enhanced its partnership with law enforcement.** Bishop Schlert convened a meeting with District Attorneys of all five counties of the Diocese in November 2018 to pledge continued cooperation and partnership, and to discuss the shared goal of eliminating abuse wherever it may occur in society. In 2002, the Diocese was the first in Pennsylvania to meet with its District Attorneys and turn over personnel records of credibly accused priests.

**Involved lay men and women.** Bishop Schlert has appointed lay people to key posts in the leadership and operation of the Diocese, in advisory roles, and in the oversight of the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program for victims.

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## Report on Religion Restrictions Gives United States Bad Marks in Some Key Areas

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – The Pew Research Center’s annual report on restrictions on religion worldwide showed the United States had the worst scores in the Americas in three of the eight categories Pew surveyed.

The U.S. scores in five of the eight categories examined by Pew were worse than they were in 2007, the first year Pew started researching the subject.

On a scale where 0 is best and 10 is worst, the U.S. score on individual and social group hostilities soared from 3.3 in 2007 to 8.4 in 2017 – the most recent year studied – which qualified as the highest in the region.

Also ranked as worst in the Americas were the U.S. scores on limits on religious activity, which jumped in the decade from 1.9 to 6.7, and hostilities by organized groups, which rose from 2.8 to 5.8.

While not qualifying as a regional worst, the U.S. score on hostilities related to religious norms, which had been 0.0 in 2007, ran up to 4.0 by 2017.

“We’ve seen a gradual increase in the U.S. social hostility score overall,” said Pew research associate Samirah Majumdar, the primary researcher for the report. “And in 2017 there was a particular increase.”



People in New York City carry the U.S. flag in this 2017 file photo. (CNS photo/Eduardo Munoz, Reuters)

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## Because We Are Catholic

### Helping Women Build New Lives After Prison

By PAUL WIRTH  
Diocesan Communications Staff

Being released from prison can be like reaching a fork in the road: one path leads to old ways and new crimes, but the other direction can mean a new life as a productive member of society.

There is a place in Reading for those who choose the second path. It's a transitional house for women who want to put their crimes and prison experience behind them – where they can put the pieces of their life back together, learn new life skills and work to claim their place as a law-abiding member of the community.

"These women are our sisters, aunts, mothers, neighbors and fellow parishioners," says Robin Ball, founder and executive director of Clare of Assisi House, which provides a safe and sober living environment for up to 12 women.

Without a good transition program, she said, there is a danger that some people will relapse and end up back in jail.

The facility accepts women of all faiths and backgrounds. They live in the house for a year in an atmosphere of encouragement, learning, spiritual support and love.

Clare of Assisi House was established in a former convent, through the sheer force of will of Ball, Sister Eileen Doherty and others. It is affiliated with the Diocese of Allentown, and receives some funding from the Bishop's Annual Appeal, but is funded mostly by other donations and grants.

Ball and Doherty do not receive salaries for their work at the facility. "We are here because this is where God wants us to minister," Doherty said.



Sister Eileen, left, and Robin Ball.

Putting the Pieces of Life Back Together!



*"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](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/bishop-blog).

## 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.

Live courses cost \$30 per course; online courses \$35. Register at [www.allentowndiocese.org/icf](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/icf).

#### 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.

#### ICF 101 – Christian Anthropology

What does it mean to be human? This course will examine who God is as the One who seeks to share himself with his creation. A brief survey of salvation history will be traced to Jesus Christ, the Redeemer who saves humanity, and teaches us what it means to be a human person.

Presented online by Heather Maigur Monday, Aug. 26 to Sunday, Sept. 22.

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





## Action

►►Continued from page 1

**Offered a healing program in parishes.** “Healing Our Church” was a series of small-group discussions, led by fellow parishioners, intended to encourage reflection and conversation about the clergy sexual abuse. They were planned in response to requests from the faithful for such a forum.

In addition to new actions taken in the past 12 months, the Diocese has continued many of its long-standing policies and procedures that are reducing instances of abuse and keeping children safe:

**Zero-Tolerance.** In the event of an accusation, Bishop Schlert immediately removes the priest from ministry, law enforcement is immediately notified, and the Diocese acts with transparency in cooperation with law enforcement.

**Care for victims.** The Diocese provides compassionate care for victims of abuse. Ms. Wendy Krisak, Victim Assistance Coordinator, meets with victims to listen and to assist in developing a plan for healing. Counseling for victims is paid for by the Diocese. Bishop Schlert has met with many victims of abuse, and offered pastoral and spiritual support.

**Screening for aspiring priests.** Screening for men entering the seminary has been greatly enhanced over the past 15 years, including the use of two psychological tests: one before acceptance to the seminary and one during seminary studies.

**Support for good and faithful priests.** The Diocese offers a variety of spiritual and fraternal support programs for priests as they work to serve the people in

their parishes throughout the Diocese.

**Background checks, training and education.** Each year, every child in diocesan schools and parish religious education programs receives age-appropriate training in recognizing and preventing abuse. All clergy, employees and volunteers are required to have background checks and specialized training in recognizing the signs of abuse, and in reporting it immediately as required by law.

“While this past year was painful, it had moments of great strength and hope for the future,” said Bishop Schlert. “I am very grateful to victim-survivors and to our dedicated laity, clergy, and religious order sisters and brothers, who have through their honest dialogue and constructive suggestions assisted me in my responsibilities to heal and fortify our Roman Catholic Family of Faith.”

## Bishop Barron: Now is the Time to Stay and Fight

By PAUL WIRTH  
Diocesan Communications Staff

In his new book, one of America’s best-known Bishops has a message for Catholics who are thinking about leaving the Church because of the clergy sexual abuse scandal: Now is not the time to leave, but to stay and fight, on behalf of yourselves, and on behalf of those who have suffered abuse.

“Letter to a Suffering Church,” by Bishop Robert Barron, came out in mid-July. Barron is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, the host of the PBS documentary “Catholicism” and an Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles.

Bishop Barron looks at the abuse crisis through the lenses of Scripture and Church history. He points out that the Church has weathered scandals in the past, that the spiritual treasures of the Church remain and that there is a clear path forward for those who recommit themselves to holiness.

The 105-page book is divided into five chapters: The Devil’s Masterpiece, Light from Scripture, We Have Been Here Before, Why Should We Stay? and The Way Forward. It also includes a Conclusion and a Prayer for a Suffering Church.

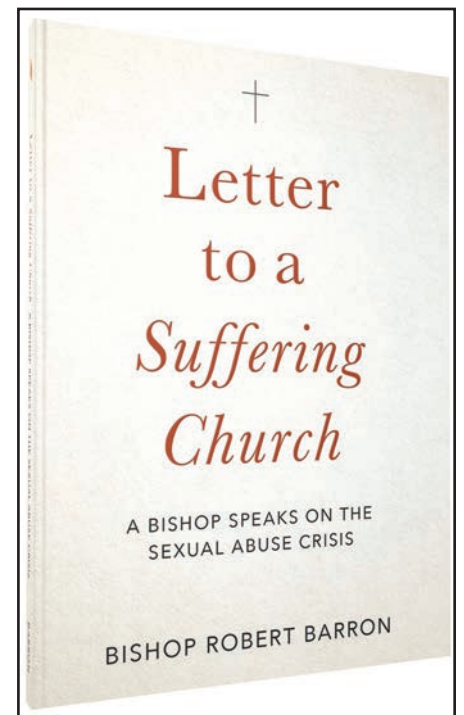
In his discussion about the Devil, Bishop Barron says he is not absolving humans of responsibility for their actions, but notes that the Devil cannot succeed in his suggestions, temptations and seductions unless he finds humans willing to cooperate.

Among the results of the Devil’s “diabolical masterpiece,” he writes, are devastating costs for the Church, in terms of dollars spent on caring for and compensating victims, and in personal terms, since every act of abuse by a priest ripples through families, parishes and communities.

Another cost is religious apathy. In the early 1970s, about 5 percent of Americans said they had no religion. Today, that number is 25 percent, Bishop Barron writes, and is 40 percent among those



Bishop Robert Barron and his new book “Letter to a Suffering Church.”



under age 30. Startlingly, 50 percent of Catholic youth say they have no religion.

In the chapter on Scripture, Bishop Barron points out that the Bible makes clear that sex should not be “wrangled out of the context of love” and used to manipulate or dominate. He cites several Old Testament passages, including the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and looks at New Testament readings, including Jesus’ messages about acceptance, protection and love of children, as evidence of God’s plan for human sexuality.

In We Have Been Here Before, Bishop Barron recalls dark chapters in the history of the Church, including incidents of corruption and immorality, as well as sinfulness at all levels of the Church. These reminders, he writes, are intended to place the current crisis in historical context. “We have been here before,” he says, “and we have survived.”

Addressing why we should stay, Bishop Barron recalls the pivotal story in the Gospel of John when a majority of Jesus’ followers abandon Him and He turns to his apostles and asks if they, too,

will leave. Peter replies, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

The context is different today, Bishop Barron writes, but the principle is the same. We stay for the treasures of the Church, such as the fact that the Church speaks of God, and the fact that it is the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ. Other treasures of the Church include the Holy Spirit, the Sacraments and the Saints.

“We are not Catholics because our leaders are flawless,” Bishop Barron writes, “but because we find the claims of Catholicism both compelling and beautiful.”

The path forward, Bishop Barron writes, starts with institutional reform. Much has been done on this front, he says, starting with the Dallas Charter in 2002 that brought about the Zero-Tolerance Policy requiring removal from ministry in the event of an accusation, mandatory reporting to law enforcement, background checks, mandatory training, involvement of a lay review board and regular audits. These reforms, Bishop

Barron points out, have resulted in significant progress in preventing incidents of abuse.

Bishop Barron says spiritual reform also is needed, both among priests and bishops, and among lay men and women. “If we want holier priests,” he writes, “we all have to become holier ourselves.” Because new priests come from the baptized community at large, he writes, “a better and stronger laity shapes a better and stronger (and less clericalist) priesthood.”

Anyone can get a personal copy of the book for free by visiting [www.suffering-churchbook.com](http://www.suffering-churchbook.com). You will be asked to pay for shipping and handling. Additional copies for parishes or other groups are available at \$1 each, with free shipping.

## Compliance by the Numbers

### Summary of Child Safety and Compliance Activities in the Past Year

The Diocese of Allentown uses a combination of vigilance, education and prevention, coupled with swift and decisive action in the event of an accusation, to accomplish its first priority, which is keeping children safe.

Each year, an independent auditor assesses the effectiveness of diocesan programs and compliance with the requirements of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the so-called Dallas Charter of 2002.

In every year since the audit began, the auditors have found the Diocese in full compliance.

Currently, the Diocese is in the process of gathering its youth protection compliance data for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. Here is a preliminary look at the numbers:

**Safe Environment Training,** which explains how to recognize and prevent abuse, was provided to 16,980 students enrolled in Catholic schools or parish religious education programs. In addition, all priests, deacons and candidates for ordination; all teachers in diocesan schools; all employees of the Diocese or its parishes; and approxi-

mately 7,000 volunteers at schools, parishes and diocesan facilities are up-to-date on all training requirements.

**Criminal background checks** are required for all priests, deacons, seminarians, and employees, and all volunteers who have contact with children. The background checks are redone periodically on a rotating schedule. In the 12-month period, 1,049 new background checks were performed.

**Spending on all youth protection programs,** which includes education and compliance activities, was \$183,000 during the just-ended fiscal year.

**Allegations against members of the clergy:** In the event of an allegation, Bishop Schlert removes the priest from ministry, notifies law enforcement immediately, and acts with transparency in cooperation with law enforcement. During the 12-month period, there were no members of clergy removed from ministry because of an allegation of a sexual abuse of a minor.



‘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.allentowndiocese.org/womens-conference](http://www.allentowndiocese.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

Conferencia Diocesana de Mujeres – ¡Apresúrate, Regístrate Ahora!

La Diócesis de Allentown está organizando su tercera conferencia anual para mujeres el sábado, 5 de octubre de 2019, en la Universidad DeSales, de 9 a.m. a 4:15 p.m. comenzando con la Santa Misa celebrada por el Obispo Alfred Schlert.

El costo es de \$40/adultos, \$10/estudiantes de secundaria, \$15 estudiantes universitarias y religiosas.

El tema es “Mujeres: Elegidas para un propósito” contará con presentaciones de la Hna. Sophia Marie Peralta, S.C.C. y Martha Fernández-Sardina. El día incluirá un desayuno continental, almuerzo, Confesión, Adoración y Expositores.

Para obtener más información y para registrarse, visite [www.allentowndiocese.org/womens-conference](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/womens-conference). Para preguntas, llame al 610-289-8900 x 2025 o envíe un correo electrónico a [oha@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:oha@allentowndiocese.org) ¡Te esperamos!

**Mujeres Elegidas**  
*para un Propósito*

*“USTEDES NO ME ELIGIERON A MÍ,  
HE SIDO YO QUIEN LES ELIGIÓ A USTEDES”*  
*Juan 15:16*

**Presentadoras Principales:**  
Hna. Sophia Marie Peralta, S.C.C.  
Martha Fernández-Sardina  
con el Reverendísimo Alfred A. Schlert (Celebrante de la Misa)

Conferencia de Mujeres de la Diócesis de Allentown  
**Sábado, 5 de octubre de 2019**  
Universidad DeSales • 2755 Station Avenue • Center Valley, PA

Married Couples Invited to 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.



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](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass), on the form on this page, or request a form by email at [mflf@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:mflf@allentowndiocese.org).

**REGISTER BEFORE SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 AT:**  
[www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass](http://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](mailto:mflf@allentowndiocese.org)

 /Office of Marriage and Natural Family Planning, Allentown Diocese

Natural Family Planning, 2121 Madison Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18017. The registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 9. For questions, call 610-289-8900 ext. 2021.

Top 10 Reasons to Switch to an Online Subscription of The A.D. Times

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# Theology on Tap Unlocks Power of Gospel with 'Five Keys'

By TARA CONNOLLY  
Staff writer

"If God's will for me is super abounding joy – why don't I feel it? Why am I still struggling under feelings of sadness, depression and anxiety," asked Meghan Cokeley, director of Office for the New Evangelization, Archdiocese of Philadelphia July 15, opening the casual discussion at Theology on Tap (TOT.)

Cokeley led the discussion, "Five Keys to Freedom," with 15 young adults at Hops at the Paddock, Allentown.

According to Cokeley, the five keys to unlock the power of the Gospel and experience freedom are: repentance and faith, forgiveness, renunciation, authority, and the Father's blessing.

"We are set free when we no longer believe the lies we have internalized and when we take a stand against the means used by the devil to bind us," she said.

Highlighting "repentance and faith," Cokeley said when Jesus began his public ministry his first message was "repent and believe the Good News."

"Jesus needs this from us. We have to face our sins squarely, honestly, own it and express sorrow for it. Freedom is only possible when there is confession in your life," she stressed.

Regarding "forgiveness," Cokeley told the young adults that the act of forgiveness sets their hearts on fire and frees them from the tactics of the devil.

"Forgiveness is realizing someone's debt in order to receive Christ's payment for the debt," she said.

"We forgive to let go of a tiny debt to free up our hearts to receive a massive repayment from Jesus. Jesus Christ on the



Meghan Cokeley, director of Office for the New Evangelization, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, leads Theology on Tap at Hops at the Paddock, Allentown. (Photos by John Simitz)

cross repaid every debt," said Cokeley.

Forgiveness also sets the other person free, she said, because it involves sacrificing their own will.

"You are winning grace for that person and you get way more than you lost," said Cokeley.

The third key, renunciation, involves surrendering the areas in life where a person has given consent for the enemy.

"The devil will take consent though ignorance, foolishness or sin. Where in your life are there open doors to the enemy to come in and take your joy? Lies, curses or vows? Name them and renounce them," she said.

This key is critical, said Cokeley, who identified "doors" that need to be closed

like: lies we believe about ourselves, God and others; negative things people say to others; negative words we say to ourselves; and false vows we make, like "I'll never forgive myself" or "I'll never trust a woman again."

The key of "authority," according to Cokeley, is the power to tell the evil one to get lost.

"We must not dialogue with the devil, but rather renounce him in the name of Jesus."

After persons have been able to empty their hearts of baggage, Cokeley said, they can receive the key of the "Father's blessing" and the freedom that Jesus desires for them.

"In baptism, we were grafted into the family of God, and the words of the Father to Jesus at His baptism become words for us: "You are my beloved son/daughter," she said.

A great place to go to receive the Father's Blessing is Holy Scripture," said Cokeley.

She closed her talk with informa-

tion about Unbound Ministry, a ministry of prayer and healing that helps people respond to Christ's desire to free them from hurts of the past and false notions that hold them back from growing in life, relationships and faith.

"We all carry wounds. We all need this healing in our lives," said Cokeley.

For more information about Unbound Ministry or to receive healing prayers through the ministry, call 215-320-8065 or [phillyevang@archphila.org](mailto:phillyevang@archphila.org). The ministry is based on the book "Unbound: A Practical Guide to Deliverance" by Neil Lozano. The monthly Theology on Tap 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.

For more information, visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/tot](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/tot) or email Alexa Smith at [asmith@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:asmith@allentowndiocese.org).



Cokeley, right, talks with Ben and Jenn Lewis from the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown after her discussion of the "Five Keys to Freedom."

## Theology on Tap to Discuss Powerful Conversion

"From Islam to Christ," the story of a powerful conversion experience, will be the topic of the next Theology on Tap Monday, Aug. 12 at 7 p.m. at Hops at the Paddock, 1945 W. Columbia St., Allentown.

Born and raised in Muslim Turkey, author and Catholic convert Derya Little wandered far and wide in search of her true home. After her parents' divorce, she rejected her family's Islamic faith and became an atheist. During her stormy adolescence, she tried to convince a Christian missionary that there is no God but

was converted to Christ instead.

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](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/tot) or email Alexa Smith at [asmith@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:asmith@allentowndiocese.org).

August 12, 2019

@ 7 PM

Hops at the Paddock

1945 W. Columbia Street  
Allentown, PA

FROM ISLAM TO CHRIST

Derya Little

Author & Catholic Convert, Diocese of Pittsburgh

Born and raised in Muslim Turkey, Derya Little wandered far and wide in search of her true home. After her parents' divorce, she rejected her family's Islamic faith and became an atheist. During her stormy adolescence, she tried to convince a Christian missionary that there is no God but was converted to Christ instead.



# VESPERS with the BISHOP

YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 18-35)  
ARE INVITED TO SOLEMN VESPERS WITH  
THE MOST REVEREND ALFRED A. SCHLERT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

## Vespers with Bishop Schlert Sept. 8

Young adults ages 18 to 35 are invited to a Solemn Vespers with Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, sponsored by the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry.

The event will take place Sunday, Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Shrine of St. Therese of Lisieux, 15 E. Garibaldi Ave., Nesquehoning.

A social will follow at 7:15 p.m. for an

opportunity to meet Bishop Schlert. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Event is free of charge.

Participants are asked to RSVP for catering at [www.allentowndiocese.org/vespers](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/vespers). However, walk-ins are welcome.

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



## Schuylkill Catholic Youth Ministry Summer Event

Schuylkill Catholic Youth Ministry will meet Saturday, Aug. 10 from 5 to 10 p.m. for "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](mailto:annie@allentowndiocese.org).



## 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.

The next meeting will be Aug. 15 at 7 p.m. – Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; pizza and snacks to follow at parish.



## 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/cff](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/cff).

## Young Adult Book Club Meeting in 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 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."



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"Steeple and Steel" reflects the lives of immigrants who settled in South Bethlehem to become steelworkers in the late 1800's through early 1900's. Leaving their homelands in search of a better life in America, their cultures and faiths enriched the town where they worked. These highly-acclaimed tours include the SBHS-guided tour of steelworker neighborhoods, churches, and cemeteries on Bethlehem's South Side. One church or cemetery is entered on each tour. A steelworker-guided tour of the Bethlehem Steel plant site follows.

## STEEPLES AND STEEL

Minibus tours presented by  
Steelworkers' Archives  
South Bethlehem Historical Society  
Northampton County DCED

**Aug 31, Sep 21, and Nov 2      9:30 AM and 1:00 PM**

**\$25 per person per tour includes goulash luncheon. Reservations required.**

Bus leaves from St. John's Windish Lutheran Church  
617 E. Fourth Street, Bethlehem, PA - Free parking

**Free open house / Open to public / At St. John's 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**  
Exhibits, church tour, baked goods (strudels, kiffles, nut and poppy seed rolls)



*Steeple and Steel, June 29, 2019*

*"The STEEPLES AND STEEL TOUR is a fantastic time filled with great food, fun facts, and the fascinating history of the great city of Bethlehem. 'Two thumbs up' as we say in Hollywood! Don't miss it."*

- Daniel Roebuck

Actor/Director/Lehigh Valley Native

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# Bishop Schlert Highlights 'Domestic Church' at Homeschool Mass

By TAMI QUIGLEY  
Staff writer

"I'm so grateful to be with you this morning with the home school community, in the joy of Easter and the beautiful month of May dedicated to the Blessed Mother," said Bishop Alfred Schlert, principal celebrant and homilist of the Homeschool Mass May 10 at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown.

Father Christopher Butera, Diocesan director of seminarian formation and administrator of Sacred Heart, Bath, concelebrated the morning liturgy. Father Keith Mathur, assistant in the Diocesan Curia and director of the Diocesan Office for Divine Worship, was episcopal master of ceremonies.

In his homily, Bishop Schlert said the homeschool community is a place where "the Catholic faith, arts and the sciences are passed on, and by your good example, hopefully we'll have more vocations to the priesthood and religious life."

"The homeschool community is nurturing the Catholic way, fulfilling the Church's mission of parents being the first educators."

"Think of the New Testament – the Old Testament too – but especially in the New Testament, how privileged a place the home is. It's the nucleus of society, the first building block of the Church," Bishop Schlert said, adding that the Second Vatican Council called the home the "domestic Church."

Bishop Schlert said when we think of the home and family we see in the New Testament, it's easy to think of the Holy Family, in which Jesus was lovingly reared by Mary and Joseph. But there are other examples too, such as the Annunciation, which occurred in Mary's home.



Above, families go to Communion during the Homeschool Mass celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert May 10 at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. (Photos by John Simitz)

Right, Emmett, 5, and Caesarina, 9, Van Durme, parishioners of Sacred Heart, Bath, chat with Bishop Schlert during the time of fellowship. Father Keith Mathur can be seen in the background.



"The very beginning of salvation, of God becoming man, began in a home where Mary lived out the beginning of her vocation as the mother of God," he said.

The Bishop said Mary then visited her sister Elizabeth in her home, "and John the Baptist leaps for joy in the womb. The home is a place of joy."

"And there's St. Paul's conversion in

today's Gospel," Bishop Schlert said. The conversion didn't happen in the home, but it was in the home he realized Jesus is the Messiah, the scales fell off his eyes and where he was told Jesus is the savior."

The home, Bishop Schlert said, is a place of healing, and noted St. Peter's mother-in-law was healed in the home. It's also a place of forgiveness, as the

home is where Jesus ate with Zacchaeus after he fell from the tree, and St. Matthew the tax collector changed his life after eating with Jesus.

"The home is a place of miracles," Bishop Schlert said, noting the Last Supper – where Jesus gave us the Holy Eucharist – was held in a home. And it was in a home that the Holy Spirit descended on Mary and the apostles.

"The home is a place to encounter God, receive answers to prayers, sometimes suffer and say yes to God's will. It's a place of healing among families," the Bishop said.

"You are a vibrant part of the Diocese and Church, not just in academics but the transmission of faith."

"I encourage you in your good work, and give thanks to God for this jewel, this gem in our Diocese."

The Bishop announced his intention to assign a priest as chaplain to the homeschool community "to interact with families and provide spiritual experiences." This priest will also act as St. John Vianney Ministry of the Confessional, going throughout the Diocese offering confessions at times when they are not typically offered.

"I really feel our homeschool community needs the presence of a priest, and hopefully he will be a good resource for you."

Bishop Schlert later appointed Father William Seifert to St. John Vianney Confessional Ministry, chaplain of the Diocesan Homeschool Community and chaplain, Deaf Apostolate, with residence at Holy Family Villa, Bethlehem, effective June 18.

Bishop Schlert said he sees the homeschool community "as a way to evangelize, pass on the faith."

Kevin Damitz and his wife Susie organized the Mass with Mary Wert, parishioner of St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring.

Kolbe Eidle, brother of seminarian Keaton Eidle, coordinated the hymns, played the organ and was cantor. Elisabeth Laskowski and her family, parishioners of St. Catharine of Siena, Reading, presented the offertory gifts.

A time of fellowship ensued in the Parish Activity Center. Just over 100 people attended the Mass and reception.

More photos on the diocesan website [www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org) under "Latest News" on the homepage.



Left, Bernadette Spear, parishioner of the Cathedral, serves as lector.

Above, Bishop Schlert, center, and Father Christopher Butera, right, gather with altar servers before the Mass, from left, Theodore Spear, Liam Damitz, Gerard Behe, Jack Wert, Joseph Toelsch and Blaise Eidle.



## Big \$\$\$ Cash Raffle

### Berks Catholic High School's Extravaganza 2019

will be drawing one prize this year—  
(There are 10,000 reasons to buy one of these tickets)  
Tickets: \$100 Drawing: October 4, 2019  
Send your check payable to: Berks Catholic Extravaganza.  
Include your name, address, and phone number.  
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## 21 Teams Compete at Diocesan CYO Track and Field Meet



Left, Robert Ulsh, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, clears the bar as he competes in the high jump during the Diocesan CYO Track and Field meet May 18 at Notre Dame High School, Easton. (Photo by Ed Koskey)



Right, sixth-grade boys begin the 800 meters race.



Above, sixth-grade girls run in the 800 meters race during the diocesan meet.

Right, Vinnie Slepetz, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown, competes in the long jump.



Above, Claire Martocci from Holy Family, Nazareth takes her stance before throwing the discus.

Left, Justin Abramo, Holy Family, Nazareth, prepares to throw the javelin.

More photos on the diocesan website  
[www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org)  
 under "Latest News"

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Saturday - The Headliners



## The Spirituality of Vacation

The Spirituality of Vacation – that's vacation with an "A," not vocation. (My brother just had some good thoughts on vocations in the last issue.)

I'd like to reflect on vacation since it is probably on the minds of many people at this time of the year. What do I mean by a "Spirituality of Vacation"? Simply this: how does it fit into our Christian life of Faith?

How do rest and relaxation and fun and enjoying ourselves fit into our Life of Faith? Does our Faith have anything to say about those things? Let's start with Jesus in the Gospels. Specifically, look at the passage in the Gospel of Mark 6:30-32.

Jesus had sent the apostles out as missionaries and they have just come back. "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while" Jesus says to them.

They need a break, a vacation – especially since they were so busy with so many people that they could hardly eat. So, they go off in the boat by themselves. Jesus and the apostles go for a get-away. We all need that once in a while. In fact, we read in Genesis that after creating, God himself took a break: "He rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken" (Gen 2, 2).

God did so to bless the rest of the Sabbath. We humans need a day of rest and a time of resting. We are not robots. We are not designed to just keep running. We need to rest and refresh ourselves. Then we can come

back and work with renewed energy.

I remember reading in the autobiography of automobile executive Lee Iacocca that he always thought that someone who worked for him was not really doing a good job if they couldn't find time to take a vacation. Our human nature needs a time of rest.

However, being able to work harder is not the only reason, or even the most important reason, to rest.

God did not create us to simply "produce." We are not worker bees. We don't exist simply to do a job. God did not create us just to "do" but also to "be" – to be peaceful, joyful and thankful. That is what a vacation should give us time for. That is the most important reason for relaxation.

Naturally, there is no vacation from God. Vacation is not a time off from Sunday worship or prayer. Relaxing, though, helps us appreciate what God has done for us.

We can take the time to appreciate God's creation in nature. We can take the time to listen to the sound of waves on the beach or breathe in the fresh smell of a mountain forest or relax and watch the sun set. Our appreciation should lead us to gratitude, to thanking the Lord for the wonders of his creation.

Vacation helps us appreciate one another, too. We can relate to our family and friends by enjoying each other's company. We have the opportunity to have fun together,

By Monsignor William Baker,  
pastor of All Saints Parish,  
McAdoo.



and this brings us closer. This appreciation of the people God has put in our life should also lead to thanksgiving for them as gifts of God.

Our weekly day of rest, Sunday, can be looked at in the same way. Why did God command a day of rest? So we would have the time to worship him, surely. But also because he created us to enjoy ourselves and relax once in a while. The Sunday rest makes it possible to spend time with our family and friends, appreciate his creation and enjoy life.

Christian spirituality tells us that God wants to be part of our entire life. A Spirituality of Vacation tells us God even wants to be part of the fun parts of life. Rest and relaxation are good for us. God wants us not only to work, but to relax and enjoy life. And that spurs us on to gratitude to God.

Vacation is a time when Jesus invites us, as he invited his apostles "Come away by yourselves and rest awhile."

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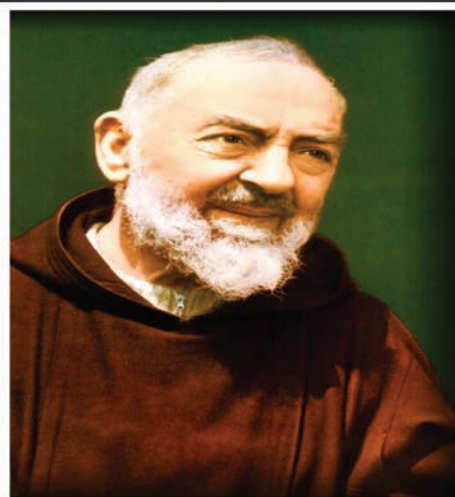
*Sunday, August 18, 2019*  
*St. Ignatius Loyola Church*  
*2810 St. Albans Drive, Reading, PA*

*Mass at 3 p.m.*

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# Calendar

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

## Saturday, Aug. 3

Garage Sale, Queenship of Mary, Northampton, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., entrance from back of church off Stewart Street, 610-262-2227.

## Sunday, Aug. 4

Evening of Prayer for our Priests, St. John the Baptist, Pottsville, 7-8 p.m., rosary and litany prayer for intercession of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests, 570-622-5470.

## Monday, Aug. 5

Golf Classic, Mercy School for Special Learning, Allentown, Brookside Country Club, Macungie, [www.mercygolfclassic2019.com](http://www.mercygolfclassic2019.com), 610-797-8242.

## Saturday, Aug. 10

Juventutem, young adult group, volunteer day at Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Farm, Harveys Lake, 9 a.m.-noon, lunch provided, [www.juventutemhighvalley.org](http://www.juventutemhighvalley.org).

## Monday, Aug. 12

"From Islam to Christ," Theology on Tap series for young adults age 21 to 35, discussion led by author and Catholic convert Deryla Little, Hops at the Paddock, 1945 W. Columbia St., Allentown, 7 p.m., free, food and beverage can be ordered from menu, [asmith@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:asmith@allentowndiocese.org).

## 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.

## Sunday, Aug. 25

"A Call to Prayer" Marian Pilgrimage, with five bishops including Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, Assumption BVM Ukrainian, Centralia, rosary and Marian hymns 11 a.m., Mass at noon, living rosary 2:30 p.m., candlelight procession 5 p.m., confession 11 a.m.-3 p.m., food available, 570-339-0650.

## Friday, Aug. 30

Class of 1979 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion, Marian High School, Tamaqua, football game 7 p.m., reunion tent 6 p.m., ; also Saturday, open house 3:30 p.m., Mass 4:30 p.m., reunion dinner 7:30 p.m. at Basile's Restaurant, 401 Claremont Ave., Hometown; [lmazen@bridgewateradv.com](mailto:lmazen@bridgewateradv.com) or [lfurey@partnersinmission.com](mailto:lfurey@partnersinmission.com).

## Sunday, Sept. 8

Solemn Vespers, for young adults ages 18 to 35, with Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, sponsored by Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry, at Shrine of St. Therese of Lisieux, 15 E. Garibaldi Ave., Nesquehoning, 6:30 p.m., social 7:15 p.m., free, RSVP for catering at [www.allentowndiocese.org/vespers](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/vespers), but walk-ins welcome, 610-289-8900 ext. 2021, [asmith@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:asmith@allentowndiocese.org).

## Sunday, Sept. 15

Diocesan Anniversary Mass, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena,

Allentown, 3 p.m., married couples celebrating 1-5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 60+ years, [www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass), [mflf@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:mflf@allentowndiocese.org), registration deadline Monday, Sept. 9.

## Friday, Sept. 20

Padre Pio Healing Mass, Our Lady Help of Christians, Allentown, 7 p.m., Father Clifton Bishop, celebrant, 610-432-9384.

## Saturday, Sept. 21

Nun Run 5K and Walk, Sacred Heart Villa, Reading, register on-line [CWhitmoyer@mscreading.org](mailto:CWhitmoyer@mscreading.org), 610-929-2802.

## 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, [stfranciscenr@gmail.com](mailto:stfranciscenr@gmail.com), [www.stfranciscenr.org](http://www.stfranciscenr.org).

### Friday, Aug. 9 – Sunday, Aug. 11

"A Franciscan Pilgrimage with St. Francis and St. Clare," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 610-258-3053, ext. 10, [www.stfranciscenr.org](http://www.stfranciscenr.org).

### Friday, Aug. 9 – Saturday, Aug. 17

"Eight-Day Directed Retreat," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, [www.jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats](http://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](http://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](http://www.jesuitcenter.org/2019-12step).

### Friday, Nov. 8 – Sunday, Nov. 10

"Spiritual Push," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 610-258-3053, ext. 10, [www.stfranciscenr.org](http://www.stfranciscenr.org).

## Festivals/Bazaars

### 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.

### Thursday, Aug 8 – Saturday, Aug 10

Festival, St. Rocco, Martins Creek, 6-10 p.m.

### Sunday, Aug. 11

Summer Food Fest, St. Matthew the Evangelist, Minersville, noon-4 p.m., eat in or carry out, parish center, 120 Oak St., 570-544-5485 or 570-544-2211.

## Sunday, Aug. 18

Summer Feast of Sto. Nino, multicultural celebration, St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring, Mass 3 p.m., potluck social in school hall, 610-670-1429, [www.facebook.com/sinulogberks](http://www.facebook.com/sinulogberks).

## 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.

### 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.

### Saturday, Aug. 17 – Sunday, Aug. 18

Basket Auction, St. Michael the Archangel, Minersville; browse and bid Saturday 3-7 p.m.; auction Sunday 2 p.m., doors open 11 a.m.; 570-544-4407.

## Trips

### Newly announced

### Wednesday, Aug. 21

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

### Saturdays Aug. 31; Sept. 21; Nov. 2

Steelworkers' Archives, Bethlehem, minibus tour, "Steeple and Steel," 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., \$25, 610-861-0600.

### Wednesday Sept. 18 – Friday, Sept. 20

St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring, Seniors to Hudson River Valley, New York, \$200, 610-670-2328.

### Tuesday, Sept. 24

St. John the Baptist, Allentown to 9/11 Memorial Museum, New York City, \$50, 484-951-5041.

### Monday, Oct. 14

St. Thomas More, Allentown, Women's Guild to Miraculous Med-al Shrine and Marian Art Museum, Philadelphia, \$34, 484-707-7531.

### Tuesday, Oct. 22

St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring, Seniors to "Gems of Cumberland Valley," \$95, 610-670-2328.

### Wednesday, Dec. 4

St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Christmas Show, Rainbows Dinner Theater, Lancaster, \$90, 610-392-2957, [suemuel45@gmail.com](mailto:suemuel45@gmail.com).

### Tuesday, Dec. 10

St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring, Seniors to "The 3 Stooges," Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, Hampton, New Jersey, \$97, 610-670-2328.

### Wednesday, April 1, 2020

St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to "Esther," Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, \$115, 610-392-2957, [suemuel45@gmail.com](mailto:suemuel45@gmail.com).



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# Sinceridad

Por PAULINO TEJADA

La sinceridad es una de las características, que identifican a un seguidor de Jesús el maestro; toda persona que se hace discípulo de Jesucristo actúa y vive con transparencia ante Dios y frente a toda la comunidad. La sinceridad se deriva de la verdad, Jesús es la verdad para los que buscan ser felices en ésta vida y en la vida eterna.

Jesús nos muestra a través de la lectura de las sagradas escrituras, que Él no tolera la hipocresía. En más de un pasaje de los evangelios vemos como Jesús no tenía inconveniente en sentarse a compartir con personas que en su tiempo eran consideradas pecadoras.

Prostitutas, recaudadores de impuestos, adúlteros, ladrones, leprosos, y muchos otros eran considerados impuros, algunos de los que se acercaban a Jesús invocando su misericordia y su amor infinito. Jesús nunca los rechazó pues al reconocerse pecadores también reconocían que necesitaban de aquel que era el único capaz de redimirlos de sus pecados y hacer de ellos criaturas nuevas.

Si tú te consideras que no eres digno del amor de Jesús, quizás es porque estas cargando con el pecado en tu vida, Jesús vino por personas como tú y yo que necesitamos de su gracia para lograr la conversión.

Jesús dijo esta parábola a unos que se tenían por justos y despreciaban a los demás: "Dos hombres subieron al templo a orar; uno fariseo, otro publicano. El



fariseo, de pie, oraba en su interior de esta manera: '¡Oh Dios! Te doy gracias porque no soy como los demás hombres, rapaces, injustos, adúlteros, ni tampoco como este publicano. Ayuno dos veces por semana, doy el diezmo de todas mis ganancias.'

"En cambio el publicano, manteniéndose a distancia, no se atrevía ni a alzar los ojos al cielo, sino que se golpeaba el pecho, diciendo: '¡Oh Dios! ¡Ten compasión de mí, que soy pecador!'. Les digo que éste bajó a su casa justificado y aquél no. Porque todo el que se ensalce, será humillado; y el que se humille, será ensalzado" (Lucas 18, 10-14).

La gracia de Jesús trabaja en tu corazón cuando te encuentras en el proceso de la conversión, y has permitido que el amor de Jesús haya llenado tu vida, a tal punto que ya no eres tú que vive, sino es Cristo que vive en ti. Así, ha sido el caso de muchos santos de nuestra Iglesia, como es el caso de San Pablo, entre otros.

Si te reconoces pecador y débil para luchar con tu pecado y por ende necesitas del amor redentor de Jesús en tu vida. En cualquiera de estos dos extremos Dios puede obrar en ti, por un lado llenándote de su gracia y dándote fortaleza para vivir una vida que le agrade; y por otro

transformando tu corazón quebrantado y haciéndote criatura nueva.

A Jesús no le agradaban las personas ambiguas o tibias, representados en aquella época por los fariseos y levitas, a los cuales en más de una ocasión confrontó a unos de ellos llamándolos "hipócritas" y "sepulcros blanqueados." Ambos términos hacían alusión a aquellos que por fuera pretendían estar con Dios, pero por dentro, su corazón estaba muy alejado del amor misericordioso del Padre. Es por eso que nos dicen las sagradas Escrituras: "Así, puesto que eres tibio, y no frío ni caliente, te vomitaré de mi boca" (Apocalipsis 3,16).

Dios desea que emprenda una conversión interior, no solo de apariencia. Así lo expresó Jesús: "Guárdense de las buenas acciones hechas a la vista de todos, a fin de que todos las aprecien. Pues en ese caso, no les quedaría premio alguno que esperar de su Padre que está en el cielo" (Mt 6, 1).

Tengamos pues un santo temor de ofender a Dios, aún con nuestros pensamientos y obras y así nos daremos cuentas que hemos comenzados a experimentar una verdadera conversión interior.

Reconocemos en nuestras comuni-

dades y círculo social, personas que dicen estar llenos de la gracia de Dios, pero solo por fuera, pues sus corazones y forma de actuar distan mucho de la conversión en Cristo Jesús. Jesús quiere que tu corazón sea transformado primero, para así poder hablar, llevando su amor a otros; pues es un amor que has experimentado personalmente y no un amor que has leído o del que otra persona te ha hablado.

Por eso decía Jesús: "¿Cómo es que miras la paja que hay en el ojo de tu hermano, y no reparas en la viga que hay en tu ojo? ¿O cómo vas a decir a tu hermano: 'Deja que te saque la paja del ojo', teniendo la viga en el tuyo? Hipócrita, saca primero la viga de tu ojo, y entonces podrás ver para sacar la paja del ojo de tu hermano" (Mateo 7, 3-5).

Entendamos pues, que los primeros necesitados del amor de Jesús somos nosotros, viviendo con sinceridad una transformación y conversión espiritual que se renueva constantemente en la persona de Jesús, y así fortalecidos con su amor y su vida nueva seamos capaces de dar testimonio de Jesús a aquellos que viven en pecado, no rechazándolos, ni dejándonos influenciar por sus debilidades, sino más bien, compartiendo con ellos lo que Cristo Jesús ha hecho en nuestras vidas y que si ellos se lo permiten, Él también lo hará en sus vidas.

A pesar de que Jesús detesta la hipocresía, el ama grandemente al pecador, al punto de que vino a dar su vida para que a través de su sacrificio conciliador, todos tengamos acceso a la vida eterna. Es gratis, recíbela en el nombre de Jesús. Gloria a Dios.

## Recommended to Your Prayers by Pope Francis

### Apostleship of Prayer Intention for September

Universal: That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.

The monthly intentions are also available on video, with a reflection, or download the app at [www.apostleshipofprayer.org](http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org).

## Sunday Scripture

Sunday, Aug. 4

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading  
Responsorial Psalm  
Second Reading  
Gospel

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23  
Psalms 90:3-6, 12-14, 17  
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11  
Luke 12:13-21

Sunday, Aug. 11

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading  
Responsorial Psalm  
Second Reading  
Gospel

Wisdom 18:6-9  
Psalms 33:1, 12, 18-22  
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19  
Luke 12:32-48

Sunday, Aug. 18

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading  
Responsorial Psalm  
Second Reading  
Gospel

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10  
Psalms 40:2-4, 18  
Hebrews 12:1-4  
Luke 12:49-53

## 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.



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O llamando al **610-289-8900 ext. 2025**





## New Book Edited by Ron Shegda

# 'Conversations with Joe' Celebrates Friendships and Living with Christ

By TAMI QUIGLEY  
Staff Writer

Celebrate friendships and be a good friend – that's the message of "Conversations with Joe: Practical Wisdom for Every Day," the new book edited by Ron Shegda.

Shegda, parishioner of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown, focuses the book on conversations with Joe Gossé, a dear friend of Shegda's and parishioner in the Diocese of Allentown who died Sept. 26, 2000.

The chapters in "Conversations with Joe" are organized by days of the week. Gossé possessed Gospel-rich ways of living each part of the day.

This book journeys with Gossé through moments of his "ordinary" days, with opportunity for learning and emulation. It's actually written by all sorts of people who knew Gossé.

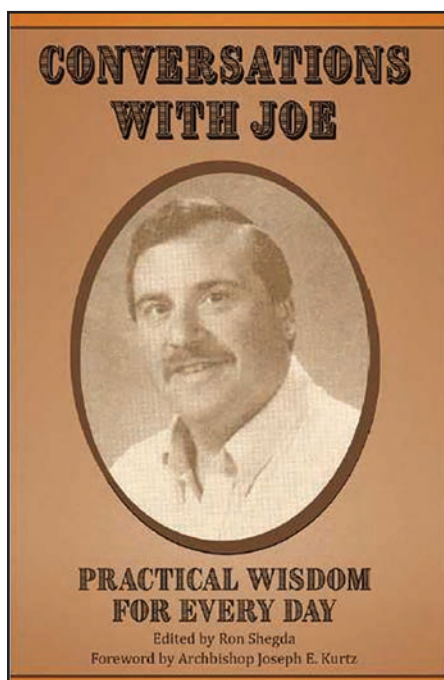
"Joe Gossé ... was a committed Catholic in every way. He had a depth of spirit and a strong desire to be the presence of Christ," said Bishop Alfred Schlert in the book.

"A simple phrase by Joe once changed my life for the better and forever. There may very well be something in this book that will change yours," Rita Pursel, retired spiritual director at St. Francis Friary, Easton, said in the book.

"I was most struck by his understanding of suffering. Joe's Job-like reflections on human suffering during our many conversations were replete with inspiration for untold souls," Gerald Stover, lay ecumenist from Bethlehem, said in the book.

Shegda shared of Gossé in the book, "When I would take him to dialysis or visit him during his numerous times in the hospital, he filled my mind and heart with the most wonderful thoughts. Like Mary, the mother of God, he pondered so many mysteries of Christ and humanity in his brilliant soul. Even in passing, Joe remains a light to many."

Gossé's parents, Joe Sr. and Peggy



The new book "Conversations with Joe: Practical Wisdom for Every Day," edited by Ron Shegda. (Photo courtesy of Ron Shegda)

Gossé, were parishioners of St. Joseph, Limeport when Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, now of Louisville, Kentucky, arrived there in summer 1971 as a newly ordained deacon.

The couple had four children: Joe Jr., Jim, Peggy and Tom.

Recalling that summer, Archbishop Kurtz wrote in the foreword, "Possibly the first parishioner I met was Joe Gossé Sr. He was serving the parish as a catechist, and his warm, soft voice was just the welcome I needed to begin public ministry in the Church." The prelate's life was entwined with the Gossé family for the next 30 years.

As Archbishop Kurtz was later director of the former Diocesan Social Action

Bureau, Joe Gossé Jr. was there to help in its mission of reaching out to the poor and vulnerable.

"Joe was there and brought enthusiasm, a love of Jesus and his Church, a natural knack for supporting others, and – yes – wisdom," Archbishop Kurtz wrote.

"When the Jesuits asked Joe to leave the community short of ordination after 10-plus years of formation because of his debilitating health, he met Mary Clare Benckini, a mother of three young children," Shegda said.

They married on the Memorial of St. Clare and were parishioners of St. Paul, Allentown when Shegda met them in 1990.

Shegda first met Gossé when Shegda asked him to become involved with the Diocesan Social and Economic Justice Speaker's Bureau. Their friendship thrived until Gossé died "at 57 years young," as Shegda wrote. "Joe knew how to make friend, be a friend and lead that friend more intimately to Christ."

"When Joe spoke, he did so with a real simplicity. His words came from deep within himself, from his heart. His conversations were like that deep well bubbling up from the desert. He had things to say that resulted from his intimate union with God, with Christ," said the late Monsignor Alfred Ott, who was pastor of the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown when Gossé was a parishioner.

"Listening is the greatest display of love," said Bishop Ronald Gainer of Harrisburg, another former priest of the Allentown Diocese, in the book. "Joe taught this. First we must listen to God."

Gossé's daughter Roxine Susan Simms wrote of how her father loved to sing, especially songs of Elvis Presley. She recalled when she was very young she heard Gossé singing Elvis' "Hound Dog."

"Joe sang his heart out to that song. He just loved singing Elvis songs. I would be

sitting and smile and giggle every time he sang," wrote Simms.

"During Joe's final moments on earth, I cried and sang gently in his hear 'Return to Sender' by Elvis Presley. I hoped that hearing this song would bring some comfort to him as God took him to heaven."

**The chapters are organized by days of the week. Gossé possessed numerous Gospel-rich ways of living each part of the day.**

Among others who contributed to the book are: Monsignor John Grabish, pastor of St. Joseph and St. Paul, Reading; Father John Gibbons, pastor of Sacred Heart of

Jesus and Immaculate Conception BVM, Allentown; the late Father Larry Hess of the Allentown Diocese; Jesuit Father Joe Lacey, who attended St. Joseph's Preparatory School, Philadelphia with Gossé in the 1960s; Monsignor Thomas Orsulak, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle, Reading; Deacon William Urbine of Notre Dame of Bethlehem; and Diane Vara, parishioner of St. Paul, who coordinates the Lehigh County Prison Ministry.

Shegda's master thesis, "The Regenerative Economy," was published by the former Rodale Press, Emmaus. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and Tufts University, Medford and Somerville, Massachusetts. Shegda's articles and editorials have appeared in numerous religious and secular publications over the years.

"Conversations with Joe" is available from [www.leoninepublishers.com/book-store/conversations-with-joe.html](http://www.leoninepublishers.com/book-store/conversations-with-joe.html), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) and other bookstores.

## Death

### Religious Sister

**Sister Mary Ellen O'Connell**, 81, a member of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Mid-Atlantic, died July 14 at McAuley Convent in Merion. She was formerly known as Sister Marie William.

In the Diocese of Allentown she served as principal at St. Paul School, Allentown 1969-77.

She also served in the Archdiocese of

Philadelphia and the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia. In recent years she shared her computer skills with children and adults both in a school setting and at Mercy Neighborhood Ministries in Philadelphia, and assisted adults preparing for their GED.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 23 at Convent of Mercy, Merion, with private burial.



## St. Rocco Women Create Quilt

The women of St. Rocco, Martins Creek have created a quilt to be raffled off at the parish festival Thursday, Aug. 8 through Saturday, Aug. 10. From left are: Jane Wismer, who donated the quilt top; Carol Smith, chairwoman; Marie Tarsi; and Ester McInnery. For more information, call Karen Brewer at 484-894-5661.

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## Knights of Columbus Extend Helping Hands to Kolbe Academy

Knights of Columbus of District 63 completed their first district-wide project, to lend a hand to the new Kolbe Academy in Bethlehem, the first Catholic high school in the nation for students battling addiction and participating in recovery from substance and alcohol abuse.

Dennis Sullivan, district deputy, and John Cullen, grand knight of Council 14082 met with Kolbe Principal John Petruzzelli in February of this year and extended an offer to help Kolbe Academy become a reality.

"Before you know it," said Sullivan, "all grand knights from the district – which includes 4050 of Northampton, 14082 of Martins Creek, 345 of Easton, 3862 of Bangor and 4282 of Nazareth – agreed and proposed to paint all classrooms at Kolbe."

Seven classrooms were painted by 22 knights, who worked days and evenings July 15-19. Colors chosen were white and purple – the color of recovery.

"Despite the heat and long hours, our knights succeeded in doing what we do best – 'helping hands' for those in need,"



said Sullivan.

"What could be more important than

helping God's greatest gift – our children – get a fresh start in life?"

District 63 Knights arrive to paint Kolbe Academy, from left: Bernie Lodge of Council 14082; John Walker of 4050; John Cullen, district warden and grand knight of 14082; Father Bernard Ezaki, Kolbe chaplain; Dennis Sullivan, district deputy; Paul Ackerman of 4282; Kyle Flaherty of 4050 and John Halko of 4050.

Painters not shown in the photo include: Mike Hunsicker, grand knight of Council 345; Jim Rose, deputy grand knight of 3862; David Allocca, Greg Buza, Bryan Holtzmacher, David Rine, Don McilMurray and Bo Tesche, all of 14082, Bill Fonzone, grand knight of 4050; Pat Klement, Matt Perdick, Fran McGouldrick, Tom Ganser and Mike Homishak, all of 4050; and Adrian Sauers of 4282.

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

## Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Looking at Issue of School Nurses

In the coming weeks and months the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) will be working on the issue of increasing nurse coverage at our schools. We expect to see legislation introduced to try to make that happen.

Catholic schools have always had to do more with less. Tax dollars make a big difference – you know, the property taxes us Catholic school parents have to pay for a school our kids don't go to. But I digress.

Anyway, one of the areas our schools are doing "with less" is in the area of nursing. Did you know that most Catholic schools have to make do with part-time nurses? Some are really, really part time.

I talked to one local school administrator who basically said she is the school nurse. She also does about three or four other jobs, including the one she was actually hired for: assistant principal. She told me that a real honest-to-goodness nurse does come to the school – about once a week or so to check on records.

It's OK. The kids are being taken care of. A nurse is on call and all staff members are trained in first aid. And they do call 9-1-1 when the situation merits. But it could be better. There could be a nurse there more often.

I talked to another school that has at least one insulin-dependent child. They have a nurse that comes to the school just to give the shot. And then the nurse leaves.

What makes this frustrating is that Pennsylvania law (School Code-14-1402 Health Services) requires school districts to provide nursing services to *all school-age students* regardless of the school they attend. The PA Department of Health spells out the law on its website:

Section 23.51 "A child in private, parochial and public schools shall be

provided with school nurse services in the school which the child attends;" and Section 23.52 "The school nurse services shall be provided through the public school system and the administration of this service shall be the responsibility of the public school administrator in consultation, as needed, with the private or parochial school administrator.

"School nurse services are considered to be one of the mandated services (same as examinations and screens) and include the same nursing functions as those provided to students in public school buildings, such as assessment of student health care needs, development of appropriate plans of care, medication administration, first aid and emergency care, etc. Neither the law nor regulation distinguish differences in the level of service to public vs. non-public schools."

Yes, in this case our tax dollars are actually meant to help our kids.

Once again, this is not an indictment of the care the schools provide. But if state law requires funding to be directed their way for better care....

So why is this not happening?

Sean McAleer, education director for PCC, says public schools are citing financial concerns for not providing nurses. He's not buying it.

"This argument doesn't make sense for two reasons," said McAleer.

"First, school districts are reimbursed for providing nursing services (roughly \$28 per student) whether they provide the services or not.

"Second, a school district can provide an LPN or even a medical professional to meet the school's needs. They do not have to give private schools a registered school nurse, which would substantially cut the costs of providing nursing services."

PCC would like school districts to

follow the law and provide the nursing services the law entitles Catholic school students to receive. This is a major safety concern for students. Once again, we will be introducing a bill in the fall that will update the school code to address the issue.

"In the end we need to come up with a mechanism by law that prevents this from happening in the future," said McAleer.

"I am not asking for a full-time nurse,

*By Al Gnozal, director of communications of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up-to-date with Catholic news and issues at [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org), [www.facebook.com/pacatholic](https://www.facebook.com/pacatholic) and [www.twitter.com/pacatholic](https://twitter.com/pacatholic).*

I am only asking for a nurse to meet the needs of the students in the private school. I do not believe this is an unreasonable request for parents that pay the school district taxes each year."



**Good Shepherd Catholic School**  
1300 Newport Avenue  
Northampton, PA 18067

### Principal Position Opening

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

Successful candidates must meet the following criteria:

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

Those interested in the position should submit their letter of interest, resume, background clearances, and appropriate certifications, along with personal and professional references, and a letter of recommendation from your Pastor, to

[resumes@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:resumes@allentowndiocese.org)

**Application deadline is August 9, 2019. No phone calls, please.**

EOE M/F/D/V

## Upcoming Issues of The A.D. Times

Publication Date	Advertising Deadline	News Deadline
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



## Bishop Schlert Among Bishops to Celebrate Mass for Centralia Pilgrimage

Five bishops will lead pilgrims in prayer at Assumption BVM Ukrainian Catholic Church in Centralia during the Fourth Annual Call to Prayer Marian Pilgrimage Sunday, Aug. 25.

Prayers of the Third Hour and traditional Marian Hymns will be sung by the choir of the Holy Family Ukrainian National Shrine, Washington D.C. beginning at 11 a.m.

Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at noon by: Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak, Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia; Bishop Paul Chomnycky, O.S.B.M., Stamford Eparchy; Bishop of Harrisburg Ronald Gainer; Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert; and Auxiliary Bishop John Bura, Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

Metropolitan Gudziak will be homilist. Father Deacon Paul Spotts will serve as deacon.

Responses to the Divine Liturgy will be congregational singing led by Dennis Hardock; cantors from local parishes; members of St. Nicholas Choir, Minersville; and the shrine choir.

After Divine Liturgy, a procession will be held from the church with the Icon of Our Lady of Pochaiv, where it will be placed in the outside chapel for veneration.

At 2 p.m. a discussion, "Out of Many, One," on the various churches, from east and west, that comprise the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church will be led by Archpriest John Fields.

Priests will be available for confession from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. throughout the church grounds.

Living Rosary will be prayed at 2:30 p.m. before the historic and jeweled 18<sup>th</sup>

century copy of the icon.

At 3:30 p.m. the Akafist Prayer to the Dormition (Assumption) of the Most Holy Mother of God before the Holy Shroud of the Dormition will be sung.

At 4:30 p.m., religious items will be blessed in the outdoor Pochaiv Chapel.

At 5 p.m. all will gather at the chapel for a candlelight procession with the icon to the church for the celebration of a Moleben to the Mother of God, followed by prayers for healing and anointing with holy oils.

Pilgrims will have an opportunity to venerate the Icon of Our Lady of Pochaiv, the Icon of Our Lady of Persecuted Christians (blessed by Pope Francis) and the Holy Shroud of the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God throughout the day.

During his historic visit in November 2015, Major-Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Father and Head of the worldwide Ukrainian Catholic Church, marveled at the continuing presence of the church in Centralia. He also noted how this coal region parish fostered four priestly vocations and three sisters to the religious life.

Patriarch Sviatoslav felt a sense of true holiness which pervades the entire church property. His desire is for all people of faith to come and experience this holiness, sanctity and serenity as pilgrims to this holy place on the mountain.

From the visit of Patriarch Sviatoslav and with the encouragement of Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, the place was designated a holy site of pilgrimage.

While the town of Centralia was de-



stroyed by an underground mine fire, which resulted in the relocation of almost all the residents and demolition of all but a few buildings, the church still serves a thriving parish family.

Food and beverages will be for sale throughout the day. Handicap parking

will be provided on the church grounds. Off-site parking and shuttle van service will be provided from the center of town. The church is on North Paxton Street, 2 Blocks North of Route 42.

For more information, call the rectory at 570-339-0650.

## Middle States Names Lisa Marie McCauley as Next President

The Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CES) announced recently that it has named Dr. Lisa Marie McCauley as its next president.

McCauley, of Northampton, began the role July 1, succeeding Dr. Henry Cram, who retired June 30. She is also a 1978 graduate of the former Holy Name High School, Reading.

"Dr. McCauley's experience and expertise, along with her passion for education, make her ideally suited to lead the organization as it moves forward under a newly adopted strategic plan and continues its mission of assisting schools worldwide in achieving excellence," said Dr. Louis DeAngelo, chair of MSA-CES and of the search committee.

"Among an incredibly competitive talent pool, Dr. McCauley stood out for her deep knowledge of Middle States, her strong leadership abilities, and her vision for ensuring the ongoing success of the organization and our member schools for years to come."

McCauley previously served as chief operating officer for the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and

as senior vice president of finance for Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Prior to joining Middle States in 2012, McCauley served as CFO for several private and public colleges. She earned her doctorate in educational leadership from Widener University in Chester, and holds an MBA in accounting and finance from the University of Scranton.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the next president of MSA-CES and ensure it remains the worldwide leader in accreditation and school improvement," said McCauley.

"I look forward to working with the staff and volunteers to provide schools and school systems with the quality and value that have long been associated with Middle States accreditation."

Based in Philadelphia, the Middle States Association is the worldwide leader in accreditation and school improvement. For over 125 years, Middle States has been helping school leaders establish and reach their goals, develop strategic plans, promote staff development and advance student achievement.

For more information, visit [www.msacess.org](http://www.msacess.org).



New Middle States President Dr. Lisa Marie McCauley, at a commission meeting in May, talks with John Coble, a teacher at St. Francis Academy, Bally, who was recently appointed commissioner. Both are 1978 graduates of the former Holy Name High School, Reading, now merged with the former Reading Central Catholic High School as Berks Catholic High School. Berks Catholic and St. Francis are both Diocese of Allentown schools and accredited by Middle States.

## Deaths

### Religious Sisters

**Sister William Clare Platt**, 91, died July 25 in Assisi House, Aston. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 71 years.

She served 11 years in the Diocese of Allentown, teaching at St. Francis School in Allentown, St. Bartholomew School in

Brockton, St. Francis Home in Orwigsburg and St. John the Baptist School in Whitehall. She was also principal of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Minersville. She also served in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Diocese of Harrisburg, Rhode Island and New Jersey.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 30 at Assisi House, with burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery, Aston.

**Sister Barbara Ann Lucas**, formerly Sister Eleanor Marie, 81, died July 26 in Assisi House on July 26. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 58 years. She was formerly known as Sister Eleanor Marie.

She ministered for eight years in the Diocese of Allentown, teaching at St. Mary School and St. Lawrence School,

both in Catasauqua, and St. Francis Orphanage in Orwigsburg.

She also served in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Wheeling/Charleston, West Virginia.

Sister Barbara requested her body be donated for education and science. Memorial services will be held at a later date.



## Archbishop Kurtz Steps Down as Religious Liberty Chairman

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, formerly a priest of the Diocese of Allentown, has resigned as chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty as he undergoes extended treatment for bladder and prostate cancer.

Bishop Robert McManus of Worcester, Massachusetts was appointed July 23 to serve as acting chairman of the committee by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The appointment will continue until the bishops' fall general assembly in November when a permanent chairman will be elected.

"We are praying for Archbishop Kurtz, especially as he undergoes an intense treatment plan at Duke Cancer Institute over these next weeks and months," Cardinal DiNardo said in a statement.

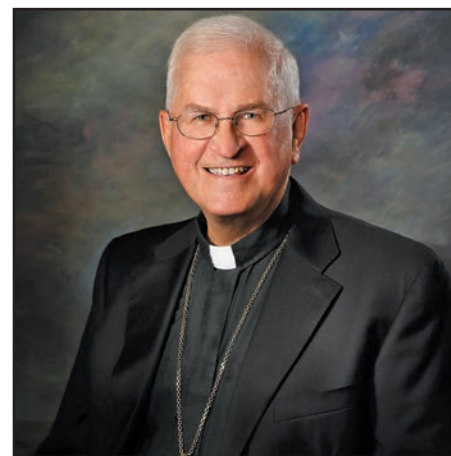
The committee is among the most recently organized by the USCCB and has assumed a high profile with its emphasis on promoting religious freedom globally and in the U.S. The bishops first established it as an Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty in 2011 to address growing concerns over the erosion of freedom of religion in America.

During their June general assembly in 2017, the bishops voted to establish a permanent Committee for Religious Lib-

erty. At their fall general assembly that year, they elected Archbishop Kurtz as its chairman. He succeeded Baltimore Archbishop William Lori, who had served as chairman of the committee since its creation. The Louisville prelate served as USCCB president 2013-16.

Archbishop Kurtz, 72, announced July 10 in an online post published by The Record, the Louisville archdiocesan newspaper, that he had been diagnosed with urothelial carcinoma and would remain in North Carolina during 12 weeks of immunotherapy and chemotherapy.

The type of bladder cancer the archbishop has is the most common.



## N.J. Bishop Says Suicide Law Shows 'Utter Failure' of Government, Society

METUCHEN, N.J. (CNS) – New Jersey's new law allowing assisted suicide, effective Aug. 1, points to an "utter failure" on the part of government and indeed all society, said Bishop James Checchio of Metuchen.

It is the failure "to care truly, authentically and humanely for the suffering and vulnerable in our midst, especially those living with an incurable disease as well as the frail elderly, the infirm and those liv-

ing with disabilities," he wrote in a July 29 letter to the 650,000 Catholics in his four-county diocese.

"Assisted suicide is a grievous affront to the dignity of human life and can never be morally justified," he said. The legal permission now granted to this practice does not change the moral law."

Bishop Checchio said that under the new law – called the Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act – the elderly

"could feel undue pressure to view this as an option to prevent being a burden to others and young people will begin to think that people can and should be disposable."

"Indeed," he added, "with this law there will be a further desensitization of the value of human life."

Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy, a Catholic, signed the assisted suicide bill into law April 12.

It passed the Assembly 41-33 and the Senate 21-16 March 25. As the measure awaited Murphy's signature, pro-life groups and other opponents urged state residents to contact the governor and ask him not to sign the bill into law.

In his statement the day of the signing, Murphy said that "allowing residents with terminal illnesses to make end-of-life choices for themselves is the right thing to do."

## Rhode Island Pastor Competes on 'Worst Cooks in America' TV Show

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (CNS) – Father Adam Young can think of a few failed recipes in the kitchen that might lead him to think he'd be a good contestant on the popular Food Network show "Worst Cooks in America."

The pastor of St. Paul Church in Cranston will soon be a featured contestant on this upcoming season, which is set to premiere Sunday, Aug. 4. Each season, 14 "recruits" with extremely poor cooking skills take part in a culinary boot camp led by celebrity chefs Bobby Flay and Anne Burrell, to earn a cash prize of \$25,000.

Earlier this year Father Young was watching the show with friends and they all agreed he would fit right in on the small screen. So they looked up how to apply and the very next day, Father Young received a response that they would love

to feature him on the show.

"I had to send a video application to show them my skills – or lack thereof. It was some awful chicken dish that I found in a cookbook. I had to carve up a chicken and it just didn't come out so good. I'm pretty sure that secured my spot," he said, laughing.

His bio on the show describes Father Young as "needing all the prayers he can get" in this competition and "He has been a priest for nine years, but God seems to abandon him in the kitchen."

Father Young admitted he was a little star-struck at first to learn to cook from some of America's best during the taping of the episodes of the show.

"I was so lucky while I was on the show to have culinary lessons from these world chefs. Their passion for food is very inspiring and it was a humbling experi-



Father Adam Young poses in an episode of "Worst Cooks in America" Season 17 on the Food Network. (CNS photo/courtesy The Food Network)

ence to work with two world-renowned chefs," he told Rhode Island Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Providence.

"I was grateful to meet the other contestants. We all got close and many were Catholic so I would offer Mass in the hotel. I got to have some nice spiritual conversations. Some of the other contestants had never met a Catholic priest before."

Although he couldn't reveal the final outcome of the show, Father Young said that if he were to win, he was planning on sharing the \$25,000 prize with his inner-city parish school of St. Paul.

## Restrictions

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The report noted, "The U.S. also ranked among the highest-scoring countries in this category in 2017, in part because of the 'Unite the Right' rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, where white supremacists were protesting the removal of a Confederate statue from a park. Protesters expressed anti-Semitic and racist sentiments, displaying swastika flags and chanting 'Jews will not replace us!'"

Majumdar told Catholic News Service the rally, during which a counterprotester was murdered, was "counted in our analysis for individual and social group harassment."

Worldwide, Pew ranked the United States at least ninth in the category of high levels of individual and social group harassment. The only countries rated at least as bad were the Central African Republic, Egypt, Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Iraq and Syria. The report said it listed nations in order of the severity of hostility in each category, but did not otherwise assign numbers or scores to them in the final report.

"Government favoritism (of religious

groups, one of the eight categories examined by Pew) has barely increased in the Middle East over the course of the study, partly because it started at such a high level that there was not much room for growth on the scale," the report said. In 2007, the region scored 9.0 out of a possible 10; in 2017, 9.2. "In the other four major geographic regions, meanwhile, there have been notable increases in the levels of government favoritism of religious groups."

Under the umbrella of general laws and policies, "in China, for example, only certain religious groups are allowed to register with the government and hold worship services. In order to do this, they must belong to one of five state-sponsored 'patriotic religious associations' – Buddhist, Taoist, Muslim, Catholic and Protestant. However, there were reports that the Chinese government arrested, tortured and physically abused members of both registered and unregistered religious groups," Pew said.

Europe's score on government limits on religious activity doubled over the decade, from 1.5 to 3.0.

"Some incidents of government harassment – which can include derogatory statements and intimidation by public officials – were in response to record

numbers of migrants entering Europe in 2015," the report said. "For example, in the Netherlands, opposition parliamentarian Geert Wilders campaigned against the 'Islamization of the West,' and in September 2015 led a protest against a 'tsunami of refugees from Islamic countries who threaten our women and our civilization.'"

Europe also had a fourfold increase in social hostilities related to religious norms, from 0.8 to 3.4, making it the second-worst region next to the Middle East. The Pew report singled out harassment against members of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

"In France, Jehovah's Witnesses faced violence when proselytizing door to door or engaging in other missionary activity. And in Russia, following a Supreme Court ban on Jehovah's Witnesses in 2017, several threats and attacks on the group were reported. The Russian Orthodox Church – which enjoys privileges from the government – supported the ban, saying it would combat the 'spread of cultist ideas, which have nothing in common with Christian religion.'"

The report noted that Bahrain had the biggest jump in government harassment of religious groups.

"Anti-government protests that began

in 2011 took on a sectarian dimension, with the Sunni government targeting mostly Shiite opposition protesters and religious leaders. The government increasingly targeted Shiite neighborhoods and detained Shiite protesters and clerics," it said.

"In 2016, the government carried out a security operation in a predominantly Shiite village where protesters were demonstrating in support of the country's most senior Shiite cleric, whose citizenship had been revoked. Authorities cut off access to the village, used live ammunition to clear the area, and killed five civilians, injured many others and arrested nearly 300 people."

Religious hostilities by organized groups rose over the decade. Pew cited Brazil's treatment of Jews, Muslims, and Afro-Brazilian believers, while recalling the "considerable uptick" in the Middle East "in the aftermath of the Arab Spring uprisings in late 2010 and 2011. The increase was particularly pronounced in Syria, where there was a rise in people being targeted due to their faith." The nation erupted into a multisided civil war between the government, Islamic State and rebel groups.

The one category that saw a decrease globally was Interreligious tension and violence, which dropped from 2.9 to 2.4.