

## Checking in with 3 New Priests, Now 4 Months on the Job

By PAUL WIRTH  
Diocesan Communications Staff

The path to become a priest is a long one, filled with years of seminary training and personal discernment. Much has been written about that journey, leading up to the joyous day a new priest is ordained by Bishop Alfred Schlert in front of his brother priests, proud family members and hundreds of well-wishers.

But what happens next? What is it like to make the transition from years of preparation for the priesthood to actually living it, every day, in a new parish assignment?

To find out, The A.D. Times paid a visit to the three newest priests of the Diocese of Allentown – Fathers Giuseppe Esposito, Zachary Wehr and John Maria – to check in with them after their first four months on the job. They were ordained June 1.

As with any new position, they said, being a new priest comes with a little trepidation, and with the need for some on-the-job training. And there have been a few pleasant surprises.

### Father Giuseppe Esposito

*First assignment: Assistant pastor, St. Anne, Bethlehem*

Sitting in his modest office, Father Esposito joked that he sometimes thought becoming a priest would mean a "complete transformation, in which God's grace would come flooding in and I would no longer be who I was before."

That didn't happen. "It turns out I'm still me," he laughed, which seems to be fine with the people of his new parish, who have gone out of their way to make him feel welcome. "I really feel like this is part of my family now."

"Being a priest in a new place requires an adjustment, a learning curve. I'm learning by doing, and I can tell you, God is giving me some divine help."

In addition to his duties at St. Anne, Father Esposito also is assigned to celebrate Masses at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, and that's where he ran across a pleasant surprise.

"It's absolutely inspiring to see how many college students attend Sunday Masses. It's obvious that they really want to be there," he said.

At a time when the Catholic Church is struggling to attract young adults, and when many people have fallen away from the faith, the Lehigh University Masses offer a beacon of hope.

"I think the key is to establish a rapport first," said Father Esposito. After you have that relationship, he said, it's easier to talk about the benefits of a life-long personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

### Father Zachary Wehr

*First Assignment: Assistant pastor, St. Catharine of Siena, Reading.*

Sixth-graders have a lot of questions about their faith,

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Father Giuseppe Esposito discusses an upcoming event with secretary Ethel Seibert at St. Anne, Bethlehem. (Photos by Paul Wirth)

## Diocese Provides Update on Property Sales and Transfers

The Diocese of Allentown has been selling unused property to help provide funding for the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program, which provides victims of clergy sexual abuse with compensation as one aspect of their healing.

The Diocese set aside millions of dollars to fund the program, and will provide a full accounting of the number of victims who received compensation and the total amount paid to victims when the program wraps up its operations and when the Independent Oversight Committee issues its final report.

The Diocese funded the program with cash on hand, with land sales and by borrowing. Future lands sales will be used to pay off the loans. The Diocese is not using parish or school assets, or current or future collections at Mass, to fund the program.

### Recent Property Sales

Here is a list of pending and recently completed property sales.

- Exeter Township, Berks County: 120 acres on Route 562, purchased by St. Catharine of Siena Parish for \$941,094.
- Hanover Township, Northampton County: 9.9 acres adjacent to a township park, purchased by

the township for \$252,395.

- Calypso Avenue, Bethlehem: A condo that had served as residence for rector of Holy Family Villa, sold for \$180,415.
- Former Tribunal building, 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Allentown, sold for \$214,447.
- Under agreement: Flint Hill Road, Upper Saucon Township, Lehigh County: 114 acres of vacant land, under agreement to sell to Tuskes Homes.
- For sale: A 53-acre tract of land near the intersection of Krocks Road and Route 222, Allentown.

### Actions to Strengthen the Pension Plans

Over the past eight years, the Diocese also has sold some property, transferred some property into its pension plans, and taken other steps to strengthen the priest and lay employee pension plans. Both plans are underfunded.

In 2011 the Diocese reduced some employee pension benefits by putting a new formula into effect for future benefits. In 2014 the Diocese began increasing its cash contribution to the employee plan by one quarter of one percent each year.

Then, in 2015, the Diocese contributed the bulk of the proceeds from the sale of a Krocks Road, Allentown property to the pension plans. From this sale, the Diocese contributed \$7.565 million of the proceeds to strengthen the lay employee pension plan, and \$2.435 million of the proceeds to strengthen the pension plan for priests.

This ongoing effort to strengthen the plans continued in 2016, when former Bishop John Barres directed the contribution of the Diocese's Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Allentown office building to the lay employee pension plan. That contribution was completed by Bishop Alfred Schlert in December 2017.

Bishop Schlert contributed his house as part of the same effort to strengthen the plans. He signed over ownership of his house to the priest pension plan in March 2018. Bishop Schlert had been advocating for the contribution of the Bishop's house to the priest pension plan already while he was Vicar General, before he became Bishop.

He felt that contributing the house to the plan was appropriate because the priests pooled their own mon-

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## Pope Asks Us to Pray Rosary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Told that some people think Pope Francis isn't exactly a fan of the rosary, Jesuit Father Federic Fornos practically shouted, "What?"

"Pope Francis says the rosary is the prayer of his heart. He prays it every day," said the international director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, formerly known as the Apostleship of Prayer.

Father Fornos was at the Vatican press office Oct.

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## Because We Are Catholic

### Special Learning Center Serves Up Love with Help from Local Chef

By PAUL WIRTH  
Diocesan Communications Staff

The folks at the John Paul II Center for Special Learning in Shillington seem to bring out the best in everyone, including a local chef who returns time and again to ladle out heaping servings of love.

"Our students and adults are very excited when Chef Tim Twiford visits," said Melissah Jablonski, director of advancement.

"They all want to work with him and have their picture taken. He's pretty much a celebrity around here."

Twiford takes time out from his duties as executive chef of Redner's Markets to visit the special learning center several times a year. He and Redner's also donate special dinners for the center's staff to sell at auction for fundraising events.

Recently the center sponsored an "Iron Chef" competition for its volunteer appreciation lunch. Twiford and John Paul II teacher Rene Berkhammer competed, and the center's students helped prepare the meal.

The John Paul II Center serves children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a nurturing and safe environment. Its mission is an expression of the Catholic Church's teaching on the sanctity of human life.



Chef Tim Twiford with his helpers, from left, Angel, Jameson and Justin. (Photo by Paul Wirth)

*"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).*

## For 17th Straight Year Auditors Find Diocese in Compliance with Child Protection Charter

For the 17th time since the inception of national diocesan audits 17 years ago, the Diocese of Allentown has been found "in compliance" with the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People, adopted by the Bishops of the United States in 2002.

For this audit, the Diocese submitted data to StoneBridge Business Partners, a Rochester, N.Y. firm contracted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to conduct compliance audits of the nation's 195 dioceses. The Allentown Diocese provided all the requested information,

which the auditors confirmed.

Among the data the Diocese reported to the auditors: 17,330 students currently enrolled in Catholic schools in the Diocese or in parish religious education programs have received Safe Environment training, as have 285 priests, deacons and candidates for ordination.

More than 1,000 teachers in diocesan schools, more than 2,300 employees of the Diocese or its parishes across five counties and almost 6,500 volunteers at schools, parishes and diocesan facilities, also received that training. Except for the

students, all of those people have also undergone background checks.

Diocese of Allentown Bishop Alfred Schlert was pleased with the results. "That independent auditors have once again found the Diocese of Allentown in compliance with the Church's rigorous standards demonstrates the Diocese's priority in protecting children," he said.

"I am grateful to the clergy, religious, and lay adults who work each day to make our parishes, schools, institutions, and programs a safe environment in which to experience the love of Christ."

## Priest Removed from Ministry During Investigation

### Abuse Allegation Made Through Victim Compensation Fund

Father Robert Potts, pastor of St. Ursula Church, Fountain Hill (Bethlehem), has been removed from ministry pending investigation of an allegation that he sexually abused a minor in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The allegation was made recently to the administrators of the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program, who then notified the Diocese. The Diocese had no prior knowledge of the allegation until being notified by program administrators. The program was established by the Diocese to provide compensation to abuse victims as one part of their healing.

On the day he was notified of the allegation, Bishop Alfred Schlert immediately removed Father Potts from ministry and immediately directed that law enforcement be notified.

The removal of Father Potts from min-

istry at this time is not a determination of guilt, but rather a precautionary measure until the appropriate investigations are completed.

The abuse allegedly occurred when Father Potts, now 82, was pastor of the former St. George Parish, Shenandoah. He was ordained in March 1964.

As part of its cooperation with law enforcement, the Diocese sought the guidance of the Schuylkill County District Attorney's office regarding the appropriate timing of a public announcement.

Parishioners of St. Ursula were informed of the allegation at all Masses this weekend.

Assignment History of Father Potts: Immaculate Conception, Jim Thorpe 1964-65; St. Joseph, Easton 1965-66; St. Vincent de Paul, Minersville 1966-67;

St. Ann, Lansford 1967-69; Notre Dame, Bethlehem 1969-70; St. Vincent de Paul, Minersville 1970-78; St. Bernard, Easton 1978-79; Sacred Heart, New Philadelphia 1979-85; St. George, Shenandoah 1985-2004; added to assignment, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Shenandoah 1986-2004; added to assignment, St. Stephen, Shenandoah 2001-04; St. Mary, Ringtown and St. Joseph, Shepton 2004-06; St. Ursula, Fountain Hill 2006-present.

Anyone who knows of incidents of abuse, in the Church or elsewhere, should report it to the State Child Line at 1-800-932-0313 or to local law enforcement. To speak directly to the Diocese of Allentown's Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call her direct line: 1-800-791-9209.

**How to report abuse:** If you know of incidents of abuse in the Church or elsewhere, please report it to the State Child Line at 1-800-932-0313 or to local law enforcement. To speak to the Diocese of Allentown's Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call her direct line: 1-800-791-9209. The Diocese treats victims of clergy abuse and their families with compassion and dignity. For more information visit [allentowndiocese.org/youthprotection](http://allentowndiocese.org/youthprotection).

**Cómo denunciar un abuso:** Si conoce algún incidente de abuso en la Iglesia o en otro lugar, por favor repórtelo llamando a la línea de *State Child* al 1-800-932-0313 o a la policía local. Para hablar con el coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis de Allentown, llame a su línea directa: 1-800-791-9209. La Diócesis trata a las víctimas del abuso del clero y a sus familias con compasión y dignidad. Para obtener más información, visite la página web: [allentowndiocese.org/youthprotection](http://allentowndiocese.org/youthprotection).



# Women Connect with Mary's Resolve and Perseverance at 'Women: Chosen for a Purpose'

By TARA CONNOLLY  
Staff writer

"Do you know the interior path Mary had to take with God? What was going on her heart? We know her 'fiat' but we don't realize that it wasn't a one-time act. God is doing that with us, too," said Dr. Edward Sri, theologian and author, to 560 women at the third Diocese of Allentown Women's Conference.

Sri, well-known Catholic speaker who appears regularly on EWTN, was one of the keynote speakers at the sold-out conference, "Women: Chosen for a Purpose," Oct. 5 at DeSales University, Center Valley.

Sri was joined by Sarah Christmyer, a Catholic author and speaker, and co-developer and founding editor of The Great Adventure Catholic Bible study program.

The conference began with Mass celebrated by the Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert. In his homily, the Bishop discussed the theme of being chosen not only in our earthly callings, but in the context of eternity.

"We are ultimately chosen for eternal life," he said. "Christ gives us all that is needed, and here at the altar is where we find the strength to live our purpose. Each of us is chosen to be nourished by the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ."

Sri presented the morning keynote, which focused on the idea that we are all chosen for greatness.

"We were not made for the comforts of this world, but to be transformed in Christ," he said. "God called Mary out of her comfort to do something bigger than her plan. This is how God works in the lives of all the saints."

In Sri's afternoon address, "Walking with Mary: A Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross," he said Mary wasn't troubled by the angel Gabriel appearing to her at the Annunciation.

"She was in fear when he said 'hail, full of grace.' Mary is the greatest of all the saints and sometimes we forget that she is human. She experienced moments of darkness, suffering and often didn't understand what was happening. And she still walked by faith – not sight," he said.

All along, Sri said, Mary kept an open heart, talked to God and refused to be controlled by fear.

"We all experience fear when God calls us. That's natural. But what do you do? Do you trust his plan and not your



Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert, center, celebrates Mass to open the third Diocese of Allentown Women's Conference Oct. 5. (Photo by John Simitz)

own?" he asked.

Sri also advised the women to look to Mary when they encounter suffering or problems at home, the work place and with family.

Sri delivered a powerful message that God loves us as we are.

"God knows we aren't perfect, but he is willing to meet us where we are – as long as we are coming to him as imitators of Jesus," said Sri.

Several of the women in attendance shared their thoughts on Sri's message.

"Dr. Sri was incredible. His talks were energizing and inspiring," said Cecelia Bussell, from Most Blessed Sacrament, Bally.

"Dr. Sri was one of the best speakers I have ever heard," added Nancy Hendrickson from St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall. "I have only attended a few of these types of conferences in the past few years, and this was the best I have ever attended."

During Christmyer's afternoon talk, "Not Perfect, But Chosen," she stressed that God has chosen each of the women – whether they are up to it or not.

She cited Sarah, the long infertile wife of Abraham who never faltered in trusting God as the perfect human example.

"Sarah was the first person after Eve who was chosen. God wanted her to be the mother of his people, but she couldn't have kids. Did you feel like God chose you to do something impossible?" said Christmyer.

"God doesn't make mistakes. Maybe your weakness is the point. Not one of us is a perfect parent, disciple, friend or sister," she said.

Sarah went on to have a child, Isaac, when she was 90 years old.

"The long time Sarah had to wait for a child almost seems like a cruel joke. Only God knows what he is doing in us. He calls us to patiently wait and trust in him. Through Sarah we can learn how to give hope to ourselves," said Christmyer.

"Both speakers were excellent and I learned so much from them," shared Angela Livengood of Assumption BVM, Northampton. "They connected the dots in Bible stories and offered ways to grow closer to Christ and share faith in daily life. I loved their instruction."

Tina Zambo, parishioner of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, said the conference was a great reminder that God created every woman with a purpose.

"Our purpose may be a mother, single or religious person, and each purpose is

worthwhile and important in the eyes of God. We may struggle at times, but we are to strive to fulfill our purpose knowing that God gave it to us knowing our capabilities and our weaknesses. Sometimes struggles are intended to strengthen us," said Zambo.

"It was amazing to be in a room filled with diocesan women there to strengthen their faith. The speakers both delivered messages that, while meant for everyone, seemed like they were intended just for me."

"It brings us together to do this as a parish," said Roseanne Bedway Ladue, who was part of a group of over 20 women who attended from St. Ambrose Parish, Schuylkill Haven. Their group coordinated red outfits so they could find one another in the crowd. "It's a wonderful day with women from all around the Diocese."

Presentadoras en Español: Martha Fernández-Sardina es una oradora y escritora internacional bilingüe, predicadora y maestra, cuya misión es preparar el camino del Señor. La Hermana Sophia Marie Peralta, S.C.C. es miembro de las Hermanas de la Caridad Cristiana, Hijas de la Bienaventurada Virgen María de la Inmaculada Concepción.



Martha Fernández-Sardina, Spanish presenter, right, chats with Pamela Patino. (Photo by John Simitz)



Some of the 20 women attending from St. Ambrose Parish, Schuylkill Haven gather for a photo. They coordinated red outfits so they could find one another in the crowd. (Photo courtesy of Alexa Smith)

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



## Priests

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judging from the number of hands popping up in Father Zachary Wehr's Monday afternoon religion class at St. Catharine of Siena School, Reading.

Before he decided to enter the seminary, Father Wehr was studying to become a teacher. It turns out, he said, that being a priest requires a lot of teaching, too – in the classroom, from the pulpit and in everyday life.

"Priests serve as teachers by their words, and also by their actions," he said. "People watch and notice what a priest does wherever he is."

His first few months as a priest have been humbling and rewarding, Father Wehr said, and he is extremely thankful for the warm welcome he has received.

"Sometimes I ask the school students what they think my number one job is," he said, and you never know what they are going to answer, including unlocking the church for Mass.

"I tell them, 'My number one job is to help everyone get to heaven.'"

### Father John Maria

*First Assignment: Assistant pastor, St. Thomas More, Allentown*

On one recent Sunday, Father Maria celebrated four sacraments in four hours: the Eucharist, Baptism, Confession and Anointing of the Sick.

"I was with people in all the stages of life over the course of a few hours," he said. It was a reminder of the great joy, and the great responsibility, of being a priest.



Father Zachary Wehr teaches a religion class at St. Catharine of Siena School, Reading.

"I knew there would be days like that in theory," he said, "but to experience it in real life was absolutely amazing."

While a large parish like St. Thomas

More can be a bit overwhelming for a new priest, he said, he was pleasantly surprised at the large number of people volunteering with liturgy, school and other

parish activities.

"There are a lot of Catholics here who are really committed, and fully invested in parish life," he said.



Father John Maria chats with Jon and Martina Peace, directors of youth ministry at St. Thomas More, Allentown, after a weekday morning Mass.

## Property

►►Continued from page 1

ey to provide the house for Bishop McShea when he became the first Bishop of the Diocese at its formation in 1961.

Bishop Schlert was aware at the time of these transactions that the property transfers were public records, and would be open to public scrutiny. He went through with them because he is determined to ensure the long-term viability of the pension funds.

The contribution of these two buildings strengthens the pension plans in two ways, by adding the asset value to the plans, and by providing ongoing income for the plans from monthly lease payments made by the Diocese.

The contribution of these buildings to the pension plans required consultations with the lay and clergy members of Diocesan Pension Board, the College of Consultors and the Diocesan Finance Council.

### Additional Questions and Answers about Land Sales

An Allentown newspaper published articles recently that might raise some questions in the minds of parishioners about the topic of land sales and funding of the victims' compensation program. Here are some questions, along with answers from the Diocese.

#### Does the Diocese of Allentown have \$323 million in Lehigh Valley real estate?

No. The vast majority of the properties tallied by the paper are not owned by the Diocese. The articles incorrectly include the value of property owned by individual Catholic parish communities – parishes like St. Thomas More in Allentown, St. Joseph the Worker in Orefield, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena in Allentown and St. Jane Frances de Chantal in Easton, among others.

The Diocese does not own those properties. The individual parishes do.

The newspaper published a list it calls "Highest-



value Allentown Diocese Parcels." In fact, only one of the parcels on that list, 52.81 acres along Route 222 in Allentown, is actually owned by the Diocese and able to be sold to raise cash. That parcel is already for sale, along with another large piece of vacant land, and the proceeds from the sales already are designated to the victims' compensation fund.

What's more, in the event any property owned by an individual parish were to be sold, Church law requires that the proceeds would go to the parish, not the Diocese. Likewise, in the case of merged parishes with many vacant properties, the proceeds of any of those property sales would remain with the surviving

parish.

There are many properties in our Diocese currently being used to benefit Catholics and non-Catholics alike. They are not owned by the Diocese, but rather, by these other individual entities. Day-in and day-out, they provide important services to hundreds of thousands of people in five counties. It would be irresponsible and detrimental to the Church's mission to consider these properties as available to be sold.

#### Did the Diocese of Allentown deliberately create a complex system of property ownership to hide assets?

No. It's certainly true that if you research property ownership records throughout the Diocese, you will see property titles in many different names, including parishes, parish pastors, some former Bishops, Bishop Schlert (in trust for parishes) and even some former officials of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, from which the Diocese of Allentown was created in 1961. But that is simply a leftover of the way properties have been titled over the years, dating back decades to the Diocese's formation.

#### Did the Diocese move other properties into trusts to make them potentially off-limits to creditors?

No. Besides the two properties transferred to shore up the pension plans, the article cites three other transactions. Two were property purchases made by St. Thomas More Parish in Allentown, which the parish chose to hold in a trust. The Diocese was not involved in those purchases.

The third transaction cited was the purchase, by St. Catharine of Siena Parish in Exeter Township, of vacant land owned by the Diocese. The parish bought the land for parish purposes, and paid the Diocese \$941,094. That money will be used for the victims' compensation fund.

**Note to readers: Information on this topic was provided to our e-mail list last week. If you would like to receive informational emails from the Diocese of Allentown, please email [communications@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:communications@allentowndiocese.org).**



# Faithful Take a 'Biblical Walk Through the Mass'

By TAMI QUIGLEY  
Staff Writer

"Our prayers, rituals and symbols all have roots in our great tradition and Scripture" said Dr. Edward Sri, presenting "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass: Understanding What We Say and Do in the Liturgy" Oct. 4 at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown.

Do you ever wish you could get more out of Mass? Those attending discovered how all the prayers, symbols and rituals in the liturgy can come alive for us once we understand their biblical roots.

Sri is a theologian, author and Catholic speaker who appears regularly on EWTN. He was also featured speaker the next day at the Diocesan Women's Conference.

The event was a partnership between the Diocesan Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization and the Office for Divine Worship. Rick Dooley, assistant director of the Diocesan Office of Adult Formation, introduced Sri to clergy and laity gathered.

Sri said the first prayer of the Mass, the Sign of the Cross, is itself a prayer. "It's a very powerful prayer traced back to Scripture, to call on the name of the Lord and invite his presence."

He added the ritual of tracing the cross over our bodies goes back to the early Christians, who did it to invoke God's presence and invite him into their lives.

"The Mass shouldn't be only on Sunday – bring the liturgy into our daily lives," Sri said. For example, make the Sign of the Cross anytime, such as when facing a temptation or problem.

Sri said "The Lord be with you and with your spirit" is spoken over and over in the Old Testament when God called people such as Moses, Joshua and Gideon to do something daunting. Mary too heard these words when visited by the angel Gabriel.

"This means we are called to go on a sacred mission – get ready to hear his word and receive him in the Eucharist,"



Dr. Edward Sri presents "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass: Understanding What We Say and Do in the Liturgy" Oct. 4 at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. Bishop Alfred Schlert is among those listening in the front row. (Photos by John Simitz)

Sri said. "The introductory rites prepare us to encounter Christ."

Focusing on "Lord have mercy," Sri said we're trusting ourselves to God's loving mercy and we can be forgiven. "Then we sing his praises in the Gloria, the climax of the introductory rites. The angels are the inspiration of the Gloria, when they welcomed Christ in the Christmas story. We welcome that same Son of God as we are about to encounter him in the bread and wine."

"God's word still touches our hearts today," Sri said while discussing the Liturgy of the Word. "Unlike other Christian denominations when sometimes the pastor picks the readings – which is wonderful – I'm glad we have a three-year lectionary cycle. For daily Mass it's a two-year lectionary cycle."

Why do we recite the creed every week? "The key is 'I believe.' Biblically, belief isn't just about believing something in your mind," Sri said. "It's a personal entrusting of myself to Jesus, the

one whom we say we believe."

During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, when the priest says "Lift up your hearts" he is summoning us to give God our best."

Discussing "This is my body," Sri said it's sad most Catholics don't believe in the real presence in the Eucharist. "It still looks like bread and wine, but we believe it's been changed to the body and blood of Jesus."

"Imagine being in the Upper Room when Jesus says, 'this is my body, this is my blood,'" Sri said. Noting the Last Supper took place on Passover, Sri said both are a memorial, a past event that is biblically made present.

Sri said with the words "Do this in remembrance of me," Jesus is commanding us to make this present for future generations."

Sri said "Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb" is taken from Revelation 19.

"The priest is alluding to the fact it's a marriage feast, like God is the groom and Israel the bride," Sri said. "Even when Israel turns her back, God wants to woo her back."

Monsignor Francis Schoenauer, pastor of the cathedral and one of the approximately 20 priests concelebrating the Mass, reflected on the importance of Mass after the event.

"Mass is a commonly used word that refers to the celebration of the Eucharist. And the Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life.' All the other sacraments are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it," Monsignor Schoenauer said, quoting the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

"For in the Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself. By the Eucharistic celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life when God will be all in all," said Monsignor Schoenauer, referring to the catechism.

"The Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith. St. Irenaeus wrote 'Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking.'"

"We are all called to continue to grow in love for Jesus and to share the Gospel," said Dooley. If we are to do either of these, we need to continue to enrich our understanding of the faith – essentially who Jesus is as he expresses himself through the Church.

"Continuing to learn about the faith is not something we do to gain more knowledge, but something we do to grow closer to a person, that is the person of Jesus Christ."

More photos on the diocesan website

[www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org)

under "Latest News" on the homepage.

## HOPING AGAINST HOPE

A Morning of Reflection  
with Fr. Eric Gruber,  
Fr. Patrick Lamb &  
Fr. David Anthony

### Men's Morning of Reflection on 'Living the Gospel'

The Diocesan Commission for Men is offering a men's morning of reflection on Saturday, Oct. 19 at Queenship of Mary in Northampton.

Presentations by Father Eric Gruber, Father Patrick Lamb and Father David Anthony will begin at 9:15 a.m. on the

theme "Hoping Against Hope: Living the Gospel Where it is Unwelcome."

An optional Holy Mass will be offered at 8 a.m., followed by refreshments.

To register for this free offering, visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/cfm-spirituality](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/cfm-spirituality).



### Learn the Catholic Truth about Angels, Demons, Ghosts, Exorcisms and Hauntings

An evangelical talk on the Catholic practice of exorcism will be offered Saturday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at Holy Guardian Angels, Reading.

Dave VanVickle will discuss "The Catholic Truth about Angels, Demons, Ghosts, Exorcisms and Hauntings" from his study and experience assisting priests in their ministries of exorcism and deliverance.

He will explain the sharp contrast in philosophy from the current "paranormal craze" and what the Catholic Church teaches about this topic. You will be highly engaged during this dynamic presentation on the world of evil and the un-

fathomable power of the mercy of God flowing through his priests.

There will be time for questions after the talk.

VanVickle is director of evangelization for two large parishes in Wexford, Pa. and co-host of the popular Ascension Press podcast "Every Knee Shall Bow." A popular speaker and retreat leader, he focuses on proclaiming the universal call to holiness, authentic Catholic spirituality, spiritual warfare and deliverance.

For more information, contact Rick Dooley, assistant director, Office of Adult Formation at [rdooley@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:rdooley@allentowndiocese.org) or 610-289-8900 ext. 2027



## Diocese of Allentown's Poverty Relief Fund Grants

Guidelines and applications for the Diocese of Allentown's Poverty Relief Fund Grants are now available at [www.allentowndiocese.org/poverty-relief](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/poverty-relief).

Diocesan Poverty Relief grants, which are funded by a special annual second collection, support a wide range of local projects and services that alleviate and address poverty in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill counties.

"During 2019, contributions to the Poverty Relief Fund collection made it possible to distribute nearly \$120,000 to programs and agencies across our Diocese," said Bishop Alfred Schlert.

"I am deeply grateful that so many kind and generous parishioners in the Diocese of Allentown support our efforts to care for the neediest among us."

This year's Poverty Relief Fund collection will take place during the weekend of Nov. 16-17.

Projects and organizations, including St. Vincent de Paul Societies, which involve active participation from Diocesan parishes, schools and other ministries, are strongly encouraged to apply. Application deadline is Friday, Nov. 15.

For more information, visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/poverty-relief](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/poverty-relief) or contact Paul Acampora at [pacampora@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:pacampora@allentowndiocese.org) or 610-871-5200 ext. 2210.



**Colecta de Fondos  
Diocesanos para  
Combatar la Pobreza  
16 y 17 de Noviembre**

Su generosidad ayuda a los más necesitados  
en toda la diócesis de Allentown

## 'Come and See' Weekend for Young Men 15 and Older Oct. 25-27

Young men of the Diocese of Allentown ages 15-plus, including young adults, are invited to a "Come and See Weekend" Friday, Oct. 25 through Sunday, Oct. 27 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia.

This is a great opportunity to check out seminary life and learn more about discerning the vocation God desires for you.

The weekend will include Mass and Liturgy of the Hours with the seminary community, Vespers and Eucharistic Holy Hour with the Diocese of Allentown seminarians, sightseeing in Philadelphia and visit to churches or shrines, dinner with the Allentown seminarians, tour of the seminary campus, time for private prayer and reflection, and recreation time to play basketball or other activities.

Room and meals will be provided on this retreat, including a stop for cheesesteaks.

Deadline to register is Friday, Oct. 18.

To register, call the Office for Vocations Promotion at 610-437-0755 or visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/come-and-see-weekend](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/come-and-see-weekend).



**COME & SEE**

## 'Standing Firm in Our Faith' | 'Firme en Nuestra Fé'

Register today to see Dr. Ralph Martin, Father Jim Greenfield, Gus Lloyd and Sam Guzman at "Standing Firm in Our Faith," the eighth annual Allentown Diocese Men's Conference, Saturday, Nov. 23 at DeSales University, Center Valley.

In addition to a Vigil Mass, there will be opportunities for adoration and confession.

Presentations in Spanish will be given by Dr. Ricardo Luzondo and Deacon Isidro Gonzalez.

Register by Nov. 13 at [www.allentowndiocese.org/mens-conference](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/mens-conference).

Questions can be directed to mensconference@allentowndiocese.org or 610-289-8900 ext. 2021.



Regístrese hoy y sea parte de la Octava Conferencia Anual para Hombres de la Diócesis de Allentown el sábado 23 de noviembre de este año en la Universidad De Sales.

Estarán con nosotros el Dr. Ricardo Luzondo, conferenciante internacional y el diácono Isidro González.

Además de una misa de vigilia, habrá oportunidades para la adoración del Santísimo y confesión.

Regístrese antes del 13 de noviembre en [www.allentowndiocese.org/mens-conference](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/mens-conference).

Para más información pueden dirigirse a mensconference@allentowndiocese.org o llamando al 610-289-8900 ext. 2025.

## Institute for Catechesis and Formation Course

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).



### ICF 104 – The Sacraments

The Sacraments are intimate, personal encounters between God and his people. This course will present an overview of these signs of God's love for us, by which he makes a personal connection with us and conveys grace – his very life within us.

Presented online by Heather Maigur, Monday, Oct. 28 to Sunday, Nov. 24.

### 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 by Peggy Place, Saturdays, Nov. 9 and 16, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Mary, Kutztown.

### Berks County Traditional Latin Mass Community

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church  
250 South 12th St.  
Reading, PA 19602

Mass  
Every 2nd Sunday @ 12:30pm

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Social after mass

Facebook: Berks County  
Traditional Latin Mass Community

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## Spotlight on Members of the Commission for Young Adults

# Christina Tran, Parishioner of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall

By TARA CONNOLLY  
Staff writer

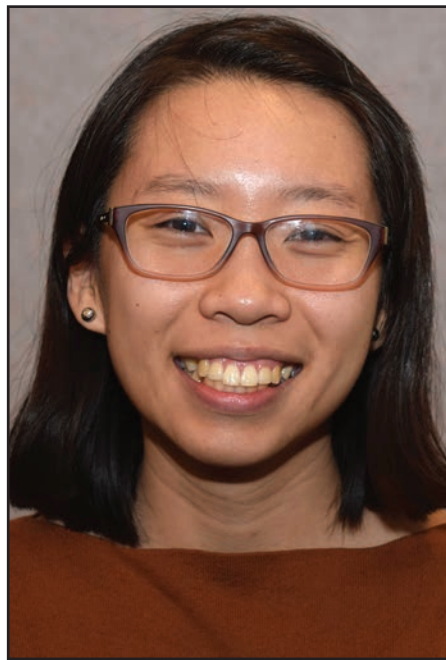
### Biographical background

Christian Tran, 23, parishioner of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall. Graduated from DeSales University, Center Valley with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics. Employed as a clinical analyst for St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem.

### How were you raised in the faith?

I was born to a strong Vietnamese Catholic family. Growing up, my parents and grandparents have always placed great importance in living the faith. My grandmother's motto was "If you have God, you have all."

I received a Catholic education at St. Elizabeth Regional School and have been highly involved with the Vietnamese Catholic community and the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement from a young age. My parents were constantly



seeking out faith-based events and retreat opportunities for me to attend. They raised me and my siblings in faith by example, helping out in the community and deepening their own faith.

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

I wanted to support any effort to bring others closer to God, especially my peers during this time when many young adults are disconnected from the Church.

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

An issue I would like to see addressed is how to share the rich and beautiful Catholic tradition in a way that invites all young adults to grow deeper in faith. I think simply starting the conversation is the difficult first step.

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

Young adults are very important to the

future, and also presently, as we need to be the clear, radical voice in a world that is growing ever louder in the midst of growing technology that brings constant connectivity.

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

I find that there has been a loss of community among young adults. I believe the Church can reach out by encouraging opportunities that develop and cultivate relationships.

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

I remain steadfast in the faith because I know that the Church stands by the reality and truth of Christ, who came down to be with us.

## Young Adult Book Club Plans for Fall

"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.

We'd love to see you at an Inklings book club meeting this fall. Save these dates.

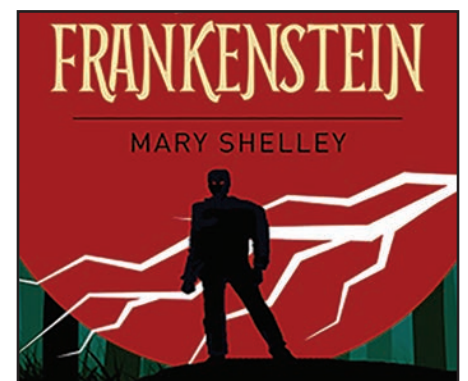
**Thursday, Oct. 31** at 7 p.m. at Hamilton Crossings Whole Foods Cafe, Allentown – A Halloween book club discussion of the classic gothic novel "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley.

**Friday, Nov. 22** at 7 p.m. at the Promenade Shops Barnes and Noble – How harmless are little white lies? This month we're discussing the short story "Was It Heaven? Or Hell?" by Mark Twain.

Follow the group on Facebook and Instagram @lehighvalleyinklins.

Get text message reminders about upcoming meetings. Sign up by texting @lvinklins to the number 81010 or use this link: remind.com/join/lvinklins.

Contact: lehighvalleyinklins@gmail.com.



## 4 Reasons to Buy Life Insurance

► You don't want to gamble with your family's financial future. As great as you might feel today, everything can change in an instant. Ask yourself this question, "Would my loved ones suffer financially if I died tomorrow?" If the answer is "yes," you need life insurance. It's that simple.

► The longer you wait, the more expensive it will be. Premiums rise as you get older. The longer you wait, the greater the chance you may encounter an illness or

accident that could severely limit or even eliminate the possibility of buying life insurance.

► If you put it off, you may never get to it. Face it, we all procrastinate. Especially when it comes to dealing with uncomfortable subjects like your death or declining health. It's best to confront these topics now, while you still can. Life is uncertain. Tomorrow may be too late.

► It's never been more affordable. We offer a number of products, and one is sure to fit your needs and budget.

### Don't let these 5 excuses stop you from getting the life insurance you need

#### Excuses. Think about this...

##### It's too expensive.

Not having adequate coverage could be more costly to your family.

##### I haven't gotten around to it.

There are no guarantees in life, so don't procrastinate.

##### I prefer to put my money elsewhere.

Might work if you're sure you're going to live a nice long life.

##### I worry about making the wrong decision.

A qualified insurance professional can answer all your questions and guide you through the buying process.

##### The coverage I have through my employer is sufficient.

Typically, employers provide a modest amount of coverage, and you can't take it with you if you leave your job.

- Rates "lock-in" at the age you enroll – never go up again!
- Proceeds paid directly to your beneficiary.
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- Policy cannot be canceled because of changes in health
- Choose from Whole Life, Single, 3-Pay, 5-Pay, 10-Pay, 15-Pay, 20-Pay or 20 Year Endowment
- Payment options include monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual
- Payments can be automatically deducted from your checking/savings account

#### Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union

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or toll-free 888-834-6614  
or e-mail us at [lpescu@lpescu.org](mailto:lpescu@lpescu.org)

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[SacredHeartSeniorLiving.com](http://SacredHeartSeniorLiving.com)



## 'Called to Witness to His Love'

Having just begun my 15<sup>th</sup> year in seminary service, I now have the awesome privilege to return once again to Rome, "under the shadow of Peter," to serve as director of formation for our college seminarians doing their studies abroad while residing at the Pontifical Irish College.

In so many ways this brings me back to my own beginnings as a seminarian "in the steps" of my first Bishop Joseph McShea of happy memory.

It is truly a "natural grace" to walk on "sacred ground" that had been traversed by so many martyrs, saints and doctors of the Church – joyful Catholic leaders called to witness to God's love.

What better place to be with young men who chose to answer God's call to give witness to God's

love and prepare them to be his missionary disciples than there "sub umbra Petri," under the shadow of Peter.

Recently I read a cover title in "The Word Among Us" series that caught my eye: "Use me, how to become aware, alert and available to the Lord" – a first important step to answering God's call to witness to his love. It brought to mind a special gift we have for daily prayer, our rosary.

How precious that prayer was for two giant saints of our own day – St. John Paul II and St. Teresa of Calcutta. Both were so often seen with a rosary in hand, their daily companion.

Pope John Paul said this prayer is so simple and yet so profound. Mother Teresa would say, "Just

run to Mary." They realized that there is no easier way to be available to the Lord than to walk in the company of Mary. Who better than our Mother can help us witness to God's love?

Priestly formation is all about Jesus calling and sending joyful disciples out on mission. He gave his first disciples clear marching orders. They were to prepare people to encounter the Lord. It was more about the witness they would give than the words they would speak.

He sent them two by two so that their own caring and sharing would give witness to charity before they even spoke of it. They were to

By Monsignor Aloysius Callaghan, rector and vice president emeritus, St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity of the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.



go out with the gentleness and innocence of a lamb, and their first greeting to all would be of peace.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis suggests three elements for effective missionary witness: to encounter, to accompany, to discern.

First you must encounter Jesus through personal, silent prayer and by listening to the Lord speak to your heart – and he will, heart to heart.

Then any encounter you have with a brother or sister on their journey will be a moment to touch them with God's presence and to listen to them as they speak. This allows the Spirit to accompany them through you to a greater encounter with the Lord.

It is the beginning of real discernment for them. This is how you are a missionary witness. You become an agent of God's power to heal and reconcile. You bring God's kingdom very near to his people.

Your mission is in your loving witness. Actions speak louder than words.

Priestly service is all about availability, to become aware, alert and available to the Lord and his people.

As I begin this new adventure with young men on their journey to the altar, walking on sacred ground, the rosary and that title "Use me..." ring in my mind as a first giant step in forming missionary disciples.

In this month of October, a month of the Holy Rosary, I ask you to join with me in praying the rosary for more laborers for the harvest who will form joyful Catholic leaders for our Church. Our Lady of Confidence, Pray for Us.



"In this month of October, a month of the Holy Rosary, I ask you to join with me in praying the rosary for more laborers for the harvest, who will form joyful Catholic leaders for our Church." (File photo)



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— MINISTERIO HISPANO —

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**HORA: 8AM – 4PM**

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Desde Colombia Conferencista Principal:

**REV. JUAN CARLOS TOBÓN ECHEVERRY,**  
Supervisor General de la Comunidad Inmaculada Concepción  
ARQUIDIOCESIS DE VILLAVICENCIO, COLOMBIA

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**DIOSANTA REYES, MAMFT** Terapeuta Familiar  
Ministerio de Música: **RAFAEL & YANIRI DÍAZ**



Se requiere inscripción previa  
**Inscripciones cierran el 15 de octubre**  
**NO SE PERMITE INSCRIPCIONES EL DÍA DEL EVENTO**  
Para más información, inscripciones y pagos,  
visite nuestra página web: [www.allentowndiocese.org/oha](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/oha)  
O llamando al **610-289-8900 ext. 2025**



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Directions to Holy Trinity: Take MacArthur Rd (145 N) to light at Rt 329. Take left at Rt 329 to the next light. Holy Trinity is on the left.

**Saturday October 26**

**10 AM to 7 PM**

**Sunday October 27**

**8 AM to 1 PM**

**Drawing begins promptly at 2 PM**

Great homemade food and baked goods on sale!

Tickets: 25 for \$5.00, on sale at door.

You do not have to be present to win.

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## One-Woman Performance on St. Catharine Oct. 20

“St. Catharine of Siena: A Woman for Our Times,” a one-woman performance inspiring women of all ages, will be presented Sunday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Walson Center of the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, 1825 W. Turner St., Allentown.

Adrian Dominican Sister Nancy Murray will perform as St. Catharine of Siena.

Admission is free. Donations will benefit the Bishop Thompson Scholarship Fund for St. John Vianney Regional School, Allentown.



## FIRST FRIDAY

### Adoration, Holy Hour & Sacred Heart Devotion



Please join us on the First Friday of every month for prayer and reflection.

Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6., Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar. 6, Apr. 3, and May 1



## Next First Friday for Vocations Nov. 1

Everyone is invited to join the Diocese of Allentown Office for Vocations Promotion for First Friday Adoration, Holy Hour and Sacred Heart Devotion, every First Friday through May.

Upcoming First Friday events will be Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, March 6, April 3 and May 1, 7 to 8 p.m. at Holy Ghost Church, 417 Carlton Ave., Bethlehem.

Young adults, families and faithful of all ages are welcome to these monthly events for prayer and reflection.

“I believe that the young people and families in our Diocese are hungry for more time with the Lord in the Most

Blessed Sacrament. And several commentators and leaders in our Church have spoken that where the Lord’s presence is honored, revered and adored in Eucharistic adoration, the whole Church is lifted up and strengthened,” said Father Mark Searles, director of the Office for Vocations Promotion, at the first event, Sept. 6.

“We also will pray for more laborers in the vineyard – especially to the priesthood – and for our own vocation in life.”

For more information, contact Father Searles, [msearles@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:msearles@allentowndiocese.org), 610-437-0755, or visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/vocations](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/vocations).



## Bath Parish, Knights Run Baby Bottle Campaign

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bath and Knights of Columbus Council 14464 recently held a Baby Bottle Campaign in support of the Cay Galgon Life House in Bethlehem. Parishioners donated \$4,026.84 in change and check donations in baby bottles. Presenting the check are council members Richard Brand and John Flynn to Christine Duddy, director of operations.

## Grief Support at St. Theresa, Hellertown

“We the Living,” a weekly grief support group, will be sponsored by St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Hellertown in October and November.

Each session will include prayer, information and sharing. These sessions offer education support and emotional and spiritual healing. Groups are confidential,

free, nondenominational, open to all.

Sessions will be Wednesdays, Oct. 23 and 30, and Nov. 6, 13, 20 and 27, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the St. Theresa Convent Meeting Room, 255 Wilson Ave., Hellertown.

For more information and to register, call the parish office at 610-838-7045.



## Annual Stand Up for Life Essay Contest Begins

The annual Diocese of Allentown Stand Up for Life Essay Contest is under way.

The voluntary contest open to all students in grades 7-12 in public and private schools in the Diocese, as well as home-schooled students at those grade levels.

This year’s theme is “Christ our Hope: In Every Season of Life.”

Deadline for essay submissions is Monday, Dec. 2.

Four winners will be chosen in each deanery – a first- and second-place winner in each division.

From the deanery winners, the top four essays will be chosen, and the winners will be awarded the following prizes: grades 7-8, first prize \$100, second prize \$50; grades 9-12, first prize \$200, second prize \$100.

Winners will be announced at the “Christ our Hope” banquet Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020 at noon in the parish hall of St. Francis of Assisi, 1046 W. Cedar St., Allentown. The buffet lunch costs \$10 per person.

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



# Participating in Our Own Dying Process

Because suffering almost always imposes itself on us during life, and especially at the end of life, it can be helpful to reflect on the need to accept some personal suffering as we die, even as we recognize the importance of palliative steps and other comfort measures.

In the last week of life, more than 90 percent of patients require medical management of symptoms such as pain, nausea, delirium, spasmodic contractions of muscles, vomiting, hallucinations or generalized agitation.

Many of these symptoms can be addressed with medication, and serious pain can often be managed with powerful opioids like morphine or fentanyl. These remarkable drugs, however, call for discernment in their use because at higher dosages, they can limit mental clarity and induce an extended semi-dreamland state as death approaches.

The U.S. Catholic bishops offer an important observation about participating in our own dying process in their "Ethical and Religious Directives."

"Since a person has the right to prepare for his or her death while fully conscious," it says, "he or she should not be deprived of consciousness without a compelling reason."

In some cases, the harsh symptoms associated with dying may prove refractory to treatments, prompting physicians to consider, during a patient's final stretch of days, the possibility of a globalized form of sedation known as "palliative sedation." This approach, which relies on the monitored use of sedatives, barbiturates, neuroleptics, benzodiazepines or

other anesthetic medications, entirely deprives the patient of consciousness as he or she enters into a deep comatose state until death.

One concern is that the reception of the sacraments – whether confession, the anointing of the sick or the Eucharist/Viaticum – becomes problematic for an unconscious person.

This purposeful and complete shutting down of consciousness also raises broader ethical and spiritual concerns about categorically precluding participation in one's death, as well as the last days of life.

While for some dying patients, severe pain can almost entirely preclude their ability to think, once the intensity of their pain has been moderated, the possibility of reflection returns, as the mind no longer focuses on mere survival. Medications can thus be helpful to dying patients by keeping the harmful effects of pain within narrower limits.

The decision, however, definitively to shut down, through palliative sedation, that very faculty by which we exercise the conscious "parenting of our actions" surely requires the gravest of motives.

St. John Paul II once remarked that the meaning of suffering has been revealed to man in the cross of Jesus Christ.

The Church has indeed ascribed a certain primacy to the way he endured and sanctified the sorrowful and painful events surrounding his crucifixion, even before his preaching and teaching, or his healing and forgiving. Through those final sufferings, Jesus brought about the redemption of humanity and the entirety

## Making Sense Out of Bioethics

Fr. Tad Pacholczyk



"*Making Sense Out of Bioethics*" is a column by Father Dr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk that will be running monthly in *The A.D. Times*. He earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org).

of creation.

Paradoxically, his redemptive activity upon the gibbet of the Cross was pre-eminent an inward, internalized movement of his will. Since he could not so much as budge a limb, his chief action and motion upon the Cross was the surrender of his innermost being, embracing and assenting fully to God the Father's designs.

His example reminds us how the movement from external activity to the acceptance of God's will, from outward action in the world to inward activity of the soul, is one the most important movements during our life's journey.

When Christians speak of "the value of redemptive suffering," they are hinting at how, even in the midst of great personal suffering, human activity can be reoriented from that corporal, outward-looking glance to an inward, spiritually directed transcendence.

The inward movement of our being in our final days and hours can involve a kind of transformation or conversion, sometimes quite dramatic, as in the case

of the good thief. It can involve a contemplative internalization of the mysteries of human existence, a stripping away of everything, and a period of "rending naked" the soul.

That's why it is so important for us not to be entirely deprived of our consciousness except for the most extreme reasons – to be prepared to learn how to endure some pain so that we can more fully cooperate with the redemptive meaning of suffering.

Our concluding time on earth may thus serve an important role in our own eschatological fulfillment. Our last days and hours can also powerfully affect the course of that fulfillment in others around us, as occurred in the lives of various bystanders on that historic day on Calvary. When we find ourselves nailed to our hospital bed, it can become an important personal moment for us to engage the possibility of a spiritual transformation opening before us, as we pass through the pains of childbirth to the joy of new life (Jn 16:21).



## Sodality Names Woman of the Year

The Sacred Heart Sodality of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Easton presented its Woman of the Year award to Joseph (Josie) Merlo at its annual luncheon June 7. Presenting the award are Father Luigi Palmieri, left, and Father Stanley Moczydlowski, pastor.

## Allentown Diocese Catholic Schools

There are 40 schools in the Diocese of Allentown and there is always something fun and informative going on. Be sure to visit the schools' Facebook page and check out the Events tab to stay current on open house events, fun family events and more: <https://www.facebook.com/AllentownDioceseSchools/>.





### HOLY GHOST CHURCH



#### FALL FAIR/TRICKY TRAY/GARAGE SALE

**Saturday, October 26, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Sunday, October 27, 9 a.m. to noon**

Parish Social Hall and Garage, 417 Carlton Avenue, Bethlehem

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# Holy Family's New Parish Center Blessed and Dedicated to 'Vibrant Parish'

By TARA CONNOLLY  
Staff writer

After nearly two decades of meetings, demolition, planning and raising funds, Holy Family Parish, Nazareth officially dedicated its new parish center Sept. 29.

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert celebrated Mass and presided at the dedication with more than 500 members of the vibrant parish.

Concelebrants were Father Joseph Tobias, pastor and Father Kiaieta Joseph Kanimeia, assistant pastor.

Ed Perusse, member of the Building Committee, said the long journey toward completing the 19,000-square-foot center had its ups and downs – but the support of parishioners always prevailed.

"It was a long process. We did many studies. Nothing was done in haste. It's definitely something our parish is proud of," said Perusse.

One of the most difficult decisions, according to Perusse, was to demolish the



The new Holy Family Parish Center. (Photos by John Simitz)

old church and the convent to clear the way for the new parish center.

"Many families have fond memories

of having their children baptized, receiving the sacraments, and weddings and funerals of loved ones there," he said.

The center, made possible through the parish's capital campaign "A New Day Begins," is handicap-accessible and features a glass-enclosed atrium with access to an elevator. The lobby includes a stained glass window of the Holy Family and a coffee bar for small gatherings.

A 244-seat banquet hall is on the first floor with an industrial full-service kitchen for functions such as funeral luncheons. The first floor will also include a parish meeting room, a coat room and restrooms.

The second floor features a cafeteria to serve the parish school students, a warm-

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert blesses the atrium inside the new parish center.

ing kitchen and several meeting rooms to be used by more than 25 parish organizations.

Jayne Sullivan, parishioner who volunteered as the capital campaign's communication chairman, said the parish center will help welcome new parishioners and bring parishioners closer together for social functions, the parish gala and other events.

"We are a very social parish and we like to enjoy each other. We are welcoming to everyone," she said.

In his homily, Bishop Schlert called the center a "great milestone" in the parish's history that was a result of the vibrancy of the parish and the tenacity of Father Tobias.

"As a community of faith, you are participating in the work of Christ by bringing salvation to the world," he told the parishioners.

He also referred to a church he saw with the name "The Church of What's Happening Now" and said the Catholic Church is about "what's happening now."

"We are 'what's happening now' because each of us uses our gifts to the service of others and to service of the Church," said Bishop Schlert.

"The Church needs every one of us to live up to our baptismal responsibility and to share our gifts. Thank you for sharing your gifts and your talents. It's what makes Holy Family so vibrant," he said.

**More photos on the  
diocesan website**

[www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org)

**under "Latest News"  
on the homepage.**



## Four Local Sisters Make Temporary Vows

Four sisters with ties to the Diocese of Allentown were among 10 temporary professed sisters of the Sisters of Christian Charity who gathered in their chapel Aug. 14 at Mallinckrodt Convent, Mendham, New Jersey to celebrate their renewal of vows. Sister Maria del Rosario Castro, general superior of the congregation, received the vows of the sisters in the presence of the community.

From left are: front, Sister Mathilde de Lucy, music teacher, St. Francis Cathedral School, Metuchen, New Jersey; Sister Luiza Simon, director of faith formation, Holy Infancy Parish, Bethlehem; Sister Bridget Harakel, teacher, St. Francis Cathedral School, Metuchen; Sister Clara Kim, chaplain, St. Joseph's Healthcare and Rehab Center, Cedar Grove, New Jersey; Sister Maria del Rosario Castro, general superior; Sister Lucianna Le, teacher aide, All Saints Academy, Parsippany, New Jersey; back, Sister Josephine Wagner, from Allentown, studies at Kings College, Wilkes-Barre; Sister Regina Bathelon, teacher, St. Elizabeth School, Bernardville, New Jersey; Sister Marie Pia Arca, certified nursing assistant, motherhouse; Sister John Paul Thorley, from Allentown, teacher, Morris Catholic High School, Denville, New Jersey; Sister Mary Amata Reifsnnyder, from Bethlehem, serves at the DePaul Clinic of St. Joseph's University Medical Center, Paterson, New Jersey.



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# SOAR Awards Grants for Aging Sisters in Reading

Two religious orders of women in Reading were among the recipients of \$1.3 million in grants from Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR) to assist aging Catholic sisters, brothers and priests in religious orders.

The Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart received a grant to replace their damaged roof.

The Bernardine Franciscan Sisters received a grant to make facility repairs and technology upgrades.

The SOAR grants were distributed to 74 Catholic religious congregations of men and women in 17 states and the District of Columbia, benefiting 9,036 senior men and women religious. The grants totaled \$1,302,235.

SOAR grants assist religious communities in caring for their aging members. They are awarded for specific needs. These grants help ensure the safety and dignity of men and women religious. Because of this assistance, many more Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests will be able to continue to age in place and remain at home with their religious communities.

"It gives me great joy to report to our benefactors how their donations are mak-



ing a difference in the lives of our aging religious men and women," said SOAR president Sister Kathleen Lunsmann.

"Together with our benefactors,

SOAR hit our highest level of annual grant awards."

The majority of men and women religious lack adequate funding for retire-

ment. Most senior religious worked for little pay, and there were often no community provisions for retirement. Meanwhile, the cost of care continues to rise. According to the National Religious Retirement Office, the total cost of care in 2016 for women and men religious past age 70 exceeded \$1.2 billion.

SOAR was formed in 1986 by a group of concerned lay people to help ensure the financial stability of Catholic religious congregations in the care of their elderly and infirm members. In the past 30 years, SOAR has awarded 1,264 grants, totaling more than \$18 million, to congregations across the country.

The organization is separate from the annual retirement collection coordinated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information, visit [www.soar-usa.org](http://www.soar-usa.org).

## Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Invites Women to Halloween Tea

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) invites all good Irish Catholic women to its annual "Samhain" (Halloween) Welcoming Tea.

The event will be Sunday, Nov. 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Columbian Home, 1519 Greenleaf St., Allentown.

Featured will be a best witches hat contest, a Halloween trivia contest, pastry

treats and great company.

LAOH enjoys fellowship, charitable works and the promotion of Irish Catholic heritage. Membership is open to all Catholics of Irish descent, by birth or marriage.

For more information, contact Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk at [maurar1117@msn.com](mailto:maurar1117@msn.com) or 610-509-0444.



## Baby Bottle Campaign Total in Six Years – \$45,000

Knights of Columbus and parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish, Bethlehem recently completed a successful Baby Bottle Campaign to support the ministry of Cay Calgon Life House, Bethlehem. Their efforts this year collected \$3,557.68, bringing their grand total to help support local women and infants in need to \$45,790.38 over six years. Pictured are, from left, Financial Secretary Allan Baenziger, Cay Calgon Life House Director of Operations Christine Duddy, Grand Knight Bernard Mikulski and Deputy Grand Knight Kenneth Cikana.

## National Vocation Awareness Week Highlights Vocation as Gift from God

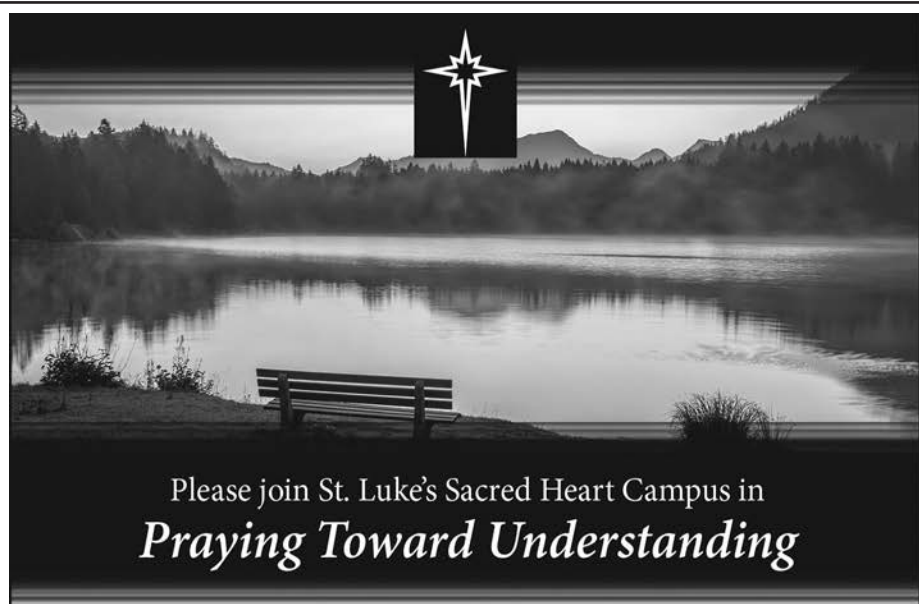
The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week Nov. 3-9. During this week, dioceses across the United States lead the effort in parishes and schools to uphold and encourage the fostering of vocations among the faithful and to pray for those discerning a call to marriage, ordained ministry or consecrated life.

In his message for the 2019 World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis reminded the faithful that unlike a secular career, a vocation is a gift born from God's own initiative:

The Lord's call is not an intrusion of God into our freedom; it is not a 'cage' or burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be a part of a great undertaking."

Observance of Vocation Awareness Week began in 1976 when the U.S. bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year for the celebration. In 1997 the celebration was moved to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and in 2014 the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations moved the observance of National Vocation Awareness Week to November to engage Catholic schools and colleges more effectively.

More resources for National Vocation Awareness Week, including homily aids, recommended reading and discernment tips, prayers of the faithful and bulletin-ready quotes are available online at <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/national-vocation-awareness-week.cfm>.



Please join St. Luke's Sacred Heart Campus in  
*Praying Toward Understanding*

**A time of Prayer for Mental Health & Recovery**

*Together let us lift our voices to our Lord and Pray for our patients, friends and family suffering from mental illness.*

**Thursday, October 29, 2019**

**1:00 pm Prayer Service**  
Chapel – 1st Floor

**1:30 pm Light Refreshments**  
Reception Room  
2nd Floor Conference Center

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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.*

**Friday, Oct. 18**

Mass for Feast of St. Luke, St. Luke’s Hospital Sacred Heart Campus, Allentown, 3:30 p.m., with cake in cafeteria starting 11:30 a.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 19**

Collection for Mission Sunday, also Sunday, Oct. 20.

**Sunday, Oct. 20**

Back to School Breakfast, St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring, school hall, by Knights of Columbus, 8 a.m.-noon, adults \$10, children 6-12 \$6, under 6 free.

Father Walter Ciszek Day, Shenandoah; Father Walter Ciszek Prayer League Center, 208 W. Cherry St., 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 4-5 p.m., showing taped interview of Father Ciszek; Divine Liturgy, St. Casimir, Shenandoah, 2 p.m., followed by social in church hall; 570-462-9892.

University of Scranton, open house for prospective students and families, 9 a.m., 1-888-Scranton, [www.scranton.edu/admissions](http://www.scranton.edu/admissions).

“Catherine of Siena: A Woman for our Times,” Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, Walson Center, 6 p.m., free, donations benefit St. John Vianney Regional School, Allentown.

**Wednesday, Oct. 23**

“Thriving Despite Loss,” health and wellness seminar, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 6:45-9 p.m., \$25, [stfranciscenter@gmail.com](mailto:stfranciscenter@gmail.com), [www.stfranciscctr.org](http://www.stfranciscctr.org), 610-867-8890.

Open House, Kolbe Academy, Christ-centered high school for students in recovery from substance addiction, 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, 5 p.m., 610-419-3333, [www.kolbe-academy.com](http://www.kolbe-academy.com).

**Wednesdays, Oct. 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27**

“We the Living,” weekly grief support group, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown, convent meeting room, 6:30-8 p.m., confidential, non-denominational, free, 610-838-7045.

**Saturday, Oct. 26 – Sunday, Oct. 27**

Soup and Bake Sale, St. Matthew the Evangelist, Minersville, Saturday 2-6:30 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-noon, serving \$4, quart \$8, preorder 570-617-1117, 570-544-2812, walk-ins welcome.

**Thursday, Oct. 29**

“Praying Toward Understanding,” St. Luke’s Sacred Heart Campus, Allentown, 1 p.m. prayer service, chapel, 1:30 p.m. light refreshments, second floor conference room, free.

**Saturday, Nov. 2**

Baked Ziti Dinner, Immaculate Conception BVM, Allentown, 5 p.m., chef Jaime Gallagher, advance \$7, at door \$8, 610-433-1937.

“Family: Sanctuary of Love/Familia: Santuario de Amor,” Hispanic ministry evangelizing mission conference/Ministerio Hispano mission evangelizadora conferencia, St. Mary, Hamburg, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., 610-289-8900, ext. 2025.

**Sunday, Nov. 3**

University of Scranton, open house for prospective students and families, 9 a.m., 1-888-Scranton, [www.scranton.edu/admissions](http://www.scranton.edu/admissions).

Annual Samhain-Halloween-Welcoming Tea, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Columbian Home, Allentown, 2-4 p.m., [maur1117@msn.com](mailto:maur1117@msn.com), 610-509-0444.

**Thursday, Nov. 7**

“Unplanned,” Reel to Reel movie series, DeSales University, Center Valley, Gambet auditorium, 7 p.m., sponsored by Pro-Life Club, free popcorn, open to public.

**Saturday, Nov. 9**

“A Night at the Oscars,” gala, Holy Family School, Nazareth, parish center, 6-10:30 p.m., \$100 per person, <https://sites.google.com/view/hfsannualgala/tickets>.

**Sunday, Nov. 10**

“Swing Time Dolls Concert,” Roxy Theatre, Northampton, Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assembly 3298, 1:30-3:30 p.m., \$10, 610-837-1702, benefits Knights’ military charities.

**Thursday, Nov. 14**

Wine and Cheese Bereavement Gathering, St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, parish center, 6:30 p.m., a time to talk and share with others our “new normal” and discuss how to handle the upcoming holidays, RSVP 610-395-2876.

“Young and Alive ... Expanding Our Awareness of Well-Being in Youth,” health and wellness seminar, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 6:45-9 p.m., free will offering, [stfranciscenter@gmail.com](mailto:stfranciscenter@gmail.com), 610-867-8890.

**Saturday, Nov. 16**

Poverty Relief Fund Collection, also Sunday, Nov. 17.

**Sunday, Nov. 17**

Stuffed Chicken Breast or Roast Beef Dinner, Divine Mercy Parish, Shenandoah, take-out only, place order by Sunday, Nov. 10, \$7.75, pick-up 11 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Stephen Hall, 570-462-1968.

## Bazaars/Festivals

**Saturday, Oct. 19**

Oktoberfest, Annunciation BVM (St. Mary’s), Catasauqua, parish center, 5-9 p.m., Mass 4 p.m., [kim.stmarys122@gmail.com](mailto:kim.stmarys122@gmail.com), 610-264-0332.

**Saturday, Oct. 19 – Sunday Oct. 20**

Fall Fest – Basket Raffle, St. Paul, Allentown, parish center, Saturday 10 a.m. -7 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m.-3 p.m., 610-797-9733.

**Saturday, Oct. 26 - Sunday, Oct. 27**

Fall Fair/Tricky Tray, Holy Ghost, Bethlehem, social hall and garage, Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-noon.

**Sunday, Oct. 27**

“Fall Fest Choose and Win,” St. Clare of Assisi, St. Clair; Saturday Oct. 19, 2-6 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 20, 9 a.m.-noon; Saturday, Oct. 26, 2-6 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 27, 9 a.m.-auction at 2 p.m.

**Saturday, Nov. 2**

Holiday Craft Fair and Bake Sale, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 610-867-8890, [stfranciscenter@gmail.com](mailto:stfranciscenter@gmail.com), [www.stfranciscctr.org](http://www.stfranciscctr.org).

Holiday Bazaar, St. Mary, Kutztown, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 610-683-6239.

**Saturday, Nov. 2 – Sunday, Nov. 3**

Christmas Bazaar, St. Benedict, Mohnton, Family Life Center, Saturday 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m.-1 p.m., food available all day, 610-842-9360.

Grand Market Christmas Bazaar, St. Peter, Reading, Marciano Hall, Saturday 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 610-372-9652.

Fall Basket Bazaar and Bake Sale, St. Nicholas, Walnutport, Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 610-767-3107.

Fall Festival and Tricky Trays, St. John the Baptist, Allentown, social hall, Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 610-432-3505.

**Saturday, Nov. 9**

Christmas Bazaar, St. Francis Academy, Bally, school auditorium, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Home and Craft Show, St. Charles Borromeo, 1115 Walnut St., Ashland, parish hall, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 570-875-1521.

**Saturday, Nov. 9 – Sunday, Nov. 10**

Craft Fest and Holiday Boutique, St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, Saturday 9 a.m-3 p.m. (lunch 11 a.m.-2 p.m., takeout after 2 p.m.), Sunday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (complementary coffee and donuts), 610-432-2186.

**Saturday, Nov. 16 – Sunday, Nov. 17**

Autumnfest, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown, Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; pictures with Santa both days 10 a.m.-1 p.m.).

**Friday, Nov. 22 – Saturday, Nov. 23**

Christmas Boutique, St. Catharine of Siena, Exeter Township, Friday 5-9 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-3 p.m., 484-332-8695.

## Socials

**Sundays, Oct. 20; Nov. 3, 24; 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.

**Friday, Oct. 25 – Sunday, Oct. 27**

Tricky Trays, Holy Family Manor, Bethlehem, Ladies Auxiliary, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 26 – Sunday, Oct. 27**

Basket Party, Holy Trinity, Whitehall, Saturday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. -1 p.m., 610-262-9315 or 610-533-2794.

Autumn Basket Raffle, St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Mahanoy City, Saturday 5-7 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m., doors open noon.

**Sunday, Nov. 3**

Bountiful Bingo, St. Paul, Allentown, parish center, St. Vincent de Paul Conference, 3:30 p.m., doors open 2:30 p.m., advance tickets \$20, at door \$25, 610-421-6279.

**Sunday, Nov. 10**

Vendor Bingo, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Kutztown Fire Hall, 310 Noble St., Kutztown, doors open noon, 610-509-0444, [maur1117@msn.com](mailto:maur1117@msn.com).

**Thursdays, Nov. 14; Dec. 12; Jan. 9, 2020; Feb. 13; April 30; and Wednesday, May 13**

Bingo, Knights of Columbus Council 4397, St. Thomas More, Allentown, Family Center, doors open 5:30 p.m., 610-391-8991.

**Sunday, Nov. 17**

Meat Bingo, St. John the Baptist, Allentown, social hall, 1 p.m., doors and kitchen open noon, 610-432-3505.

## Trips

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

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

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

**Newly announced**

**Tuesday, Nov. 5**

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

**Tuesday, Dec. 5**

St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown to Christmas show, American Music Theater, Tanger Outlets, Lancaster, \$104, 610-433-6102, [sepler@stfrancisallentown.org](mailto:sepler@stfrancisallentown.org).

**Wednesday, March 25, 2020**

St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown to “Queen Esther,” Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, \$113, 610-433-6102, [sepler@stfrancisallentown.org](mailto:sepler@stfrancisallentown.org).

**Previously announced**

**Tuesday, Oct. 22**

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

**Thursday, Oct. 24 – Monday, Oct. 28**

Sacred Heart, Bethlehem, Travelers to “October Mystery Tour,” \$995, 610-691-6054.

**Thursday, Oct. 31**

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

**Saturday, Nov. 2**

Nativity BVM High School, Pottsville, Alumni Association to free day in New York City, \$45, 570-622-1859.

**Wednesday, Nov. 6 – Thursday, Nov. 7**

St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to Atlantic City, New Jersey, 610-791-1758.

**Thursday, Nov. 7 – Saturday, Nov. 16**

Assumption Travel Club, Assumption BVM, Slatington to Rome and Amalfi Coast, Italy, \$3,899, 610-767-3036.

**Saturday, Nov. 9**

St. Thomas More, Allentown to Broadway, “Hadestown” \$184, “Moulin Rogue” \$210, “Tina Turner Show” \$154, “Jagged Little Pill” \$155, “Lion King” \$178, 484-951-0440.

**Wednesday, Nov. 13**

St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Hollywood Casino, Grantville, \$30, [suemueller45@gmail.com](mailto:suemueller45@gmail.com), 610-392-2957.

**Thursday, Nov. 14**

Holy Guardian Angels, Reading, Seniors to “Irving Berlin’s Holiday Inn,” Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, Lancaster, \$84, 610-921-1515 or 610-929-0384.

**Wednesday, Dec. 4**

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

St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Christmas Show, Bird-in-Hand Dinner Theater, Lancaster, \$90, 610-392-2957, [suemueller45@gmail.com](mailto:suemueller45@gmail.com).

**Thursday, Dec. 5**

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown, Seniors to Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, \$55, 610-360-3738.

**Tuesday, Dec. 10**

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

**Thursday, Dec. 12**

St. Thomas More, Allentown to Radio City Christmas Show, New York City, \$125, 484-951-0440.

Notre Dame of Bethlehem, 55 + Club to American Music Theatre, “Joy to the World,” 610-866-0360.

**2020**

**Friday, Jan. 24**

St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to March for Life, Washington, D.C., \$10, [suemueller45@gmail.com](mailto:suemueller45@gmail.com), 610-392-2957.

**Wednesday, April 1**

St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to “Esther,” Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, \$115, 610-392-2957, [suemueller45@gmail.com](mailto:suemueller45@gmail.com).

**Wednesday, April 15**

St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Mount Airy Casino, Mount Pocono and “Bill Haley Jr. Rock Around the Clock,” \$80, [suemueller45@gmail.com](mailto:suemueller45@gmail.com), 610-392-2957.



# Ángeles

Por DIÁCONO JOSÉ M. SANTOS

Dios creó a los ángeles perfectos, llenos de luz y belleza, les dio sabiduría para conocer y cuidar de la creación. Los ángeles adoran a Dios continuamente, lo alaban, lo bendicen, lo glorifican y le dan gracias sin cesar. Contemplan a su Creador, lo obedecen y están a su servicio.

Haciendo referencia bíblica al libro del Génesis 1, 26-28, 31, puedo decir que Dios ha querido que los ángeles cuiden y protejan lo que Él más ama en toda la creación. "Entonces dijo: Ahora hagamos al hombre a nuestra imagen.... Cuando Dios creó al hombre, lo creó a su imagen; varón y mujer los creó ... y les dio su bendición: Tengan muchos, muchos hijos; llenen el mundo. y Dios vio que todo lo que había hecho estaba muy bien.

Nuestro Dios y Creador ha puesto a los ángeles para que nos guíen por el camino del bien, les ha dado instrucciones para que nos libren del mal, y les ha dado autoridad para que nos protejan de todos los peligros en la vida, especialmente para librarnos de las tentaciones del enemigo de las almas, a los que buscamos obedecer al Señor. "Pues él mandará que sus ángeles te cuiden por dondequiera que vayas. Te levantarán con sus manos para que no tropieces con piedra alguna" (Salmo 91, 11-12).

"Los ángeles y los hombres, criaturas inteligentes y libres, deben caminar hacia su destino último por elección libre y

amor de preferencia. (CIC 311). La existencia de seres espirituales, no corporales, que la Sagrada Escritura llama habitualmente ángeles, es una verdad de fe. El testimonio de la Escritura es tan claro como la unanimidad de la Tradición. ¿Quiénes son los ángeles? San Agustín dice respecto a ellos "El nombre de ángel indica su oficio, no su naturaleza. Si preguntas por su naturaleza, te diré que es un espíritu; si preguntas por lo que hace, te diré que es un ángel."

Con todo su ser, los ángeles son servidores y mensajeros de Dios. Porque contemplan "constantemente el rostro de mi Padre que está en los cielos," son "agentes de sus órdenes, atentos a la voz de su palabra" En tanto que criaturas puramente espirituales, tienen inteligencia y voluntad: son criaturas personales e inmortales. Superan en perfección a todas las criaturas visibles. El resplandor de su gloria da testimonio de ello. Cristo es el centro del mundo de los ángeles, los ángeles le pertenecen: "Cuando el Hijo del hombre venga en su gloria acompañado de todos sus ángeles..." Le pertenecen porque fueron creados por y para Él (CIC 328-331).

A continuación un resumen de angelología bíblica. Propongo hacer uso del beneficio de creer en los ángeles y la prontitud de las respuestas que podemos lograr al invocar la asistencia de los ángeles, porque ya Dios los ha puesto también a nuestro servicio, porque nos ama, como amó a su Hijo primogénito Jesucristo.

El Profesor Pepe Gonzalez Martínez del Instituto Bíblico Católico de Guadalajara, nos presenta como la Iglesia guiada



por el Espíritu Santo y basada en los Textos Sagrados presenta a los ángeles organizados en 9 coros:

1-Coros de los Santísimos Serafines: ellos arden de amor divino y están siempre adorando a Dios su creador. Cuando le invocamos nos ayudan a entrar en un profundo amor por Dios y caridad por nuestros hermanos.

2-Coros de los Sabios Querubines: ellos contemplan las maravillas de Dios, se deleitan mirando lo que Dios es y hace en toda la creación. Nos ayudan a abandonar el pecado y permanecer en el camino del bien.

3-Coros de los Altísimos Tronos: ellos llevan en sí al Señor, en su majestad, grandeza y soberanía. Infunden en nuestros corazones un verdadero espíritu de humildad.

4-Coros de la Suprema Dominaciones: ellos postrados adoran a Dios permanentemente, y defienden lo que pertenece a Dios, su casa y su familia. Su misión es ayudarnos a dominar nuestros sentidos y pasiones.

5-Coros de los Principados: presiden los reinos, la Iglesia, las diócesis y las parroquias. Infunden en nosotros espíritu de sincera y verdadera obediencia.

6-Coros de las Potestades: descubren a los demonios, vigilan el mundo espiritual. Nos ayudan a librarnos de las tentaciones y nos proveen para bien de nuestras almas el don de discernimiento.

7-Coros de las Virtudes: son operadores de los milagros para acompañar y hacer crecer el Reino de Dios en la tierra. Nos acompañan en la oración para realizar prodigios y obtener la salud, especialmente a los que oran por sanación del cuerpo y liberación de los espíritus inmundos.

8-Coros de los Arcángeles: son embajadores, llevan el mensaje de Dios con fidelidad. Conocemos 3 arcángeles, San Miguel – quien como Dios, San Rafael – medicina de Dios, San Gabriel – mensajero de Dios. Nos ayudan a perseverar en la fe y en las buenas obras.

9-Coros de los Felicitos Ángeles Guardianes: Sirven a Dios con alegría cuidando de lo que Él más ama, tú y yo. Nos acompañan día y noche en la vida presente, al morir junto con San Miguel nos llevan a la presencia del Señor.

De todos los ángeles, San Miguel Arcángel es el Príncipe de la Celestial Milicia. Así se le invoca, alabado sea Dios por todos sus ángeles y su amor por nosotros.

## 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.

### Recommended to Your Prayers by Pope Francis

## Apostleship of Prayer Intention for November

Universal: That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

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, Oct. 20  
29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading  
**Exodus 17:8-13**  
Responsorial Psalm  
**Psalms 121:1-8**  
Second Reading  
**2 Timothy 3:14 4:2**  
Gospel  
**Luke 18:1-8**

Sunday, October 27  
30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading  
**Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18**  
Responsorial Psalm  
**Psalms 34:2-3, 17-19, 23**  
Second Reading  
**2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**  
Gospel  
**Luke 18:9-14**

## Upcoming Issues of The A.D. Times

Publication Date	Advertising Deadline	News Deadline
<b>2019</b>		
Oct. 31	Oct. 21	Oct. 24
Nov. 14	Nov. 4	Nov. 7
Nov. 28	Nov. 18	Nov. 21
Dec. 19	Dec. 9	Dec. 12
<b>2020</b>		
Jan. 9	Dec. 30	Jan. 2

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## Sister Serving at Allentown Central Catholic Makes Perpetual Vows



Gathered after the ceremony are, from left: Sister Maria del Rosario Castro, general superior of the congregation; Sister Mary Edward Spohrer, provincial of the North American Eastern Province; Sister Sophia Marie Peralta; and Bishop Manuel Cruz.



Bishop Cruz blesses Sister Sophia Marie's ring during the vow ceremony.

Sister Sophia Marie Peralta, who serves as campus minister at Allentown Central Catholic High School, recently pronounced her perpetual profession of vows as a Sister of Christian Charity (SCC).

She made the profession in the presence of the community, her family and friends from Atlanta, Georgia, and friends from Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Aug. 15, in the Chapel of Mary Immaculate of the Sisters of Christian Charity, Mendham, New Jersey.

Sister Maria del Rosario Castro, general superior of the congregation, re-

ceived her vows.

Auxiliary Bishop Manuel Cruz of the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey and vicar for the Hispanic Apostolate officiated the ceremony.

"On behalf of the Church and this Community of Christian Charity ... we thank you that you are not afraid to continue the mission of Mother Pauline," he said in his homily.

"Day after day, your mission is to pick up the broken glass (as Mother Pauline did) that has injured the people of God. They need to experience acts of companionship, mercy and Christian charity so that the Church can be a true field hospi-

tal where the wounded can find healing."

Before Sister Sophia Marie answered the call to religious life, she lived with her family in Atlanta and volunteered at her parish, the Cathedral of Christ the King, in various ministries.

Six years ago, when Sister made her first profession of vows, Bishop Cruz celebrated the liturgy.

Sister's service includes: assistant director of the former Department of Catechesis at St. Paul Inside the Walls, Madison, New Jersey; campus minister at Colegio Mallinckrodt, Buenos Aires, Argentina, a sponsored work of the SCCs in Uruguay/Argentina; and campus min-

ister at Allentown Central Catholic High School (ACHHS), where she continues to serve.

Two Diocese of Allentown priests were among those concelebrating with Bishop Cruz: Father Mark Searles, chaplain for ACCHS; and Father Allen Hoffa, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Summit Hill.

As Sister Sophia Marie continues her journey of faith, she looks forward to "continue to grow in intimacy and fidelity to my Divine Spouse so that I may share the joy that flows from walking in his will, and bring the fire of his unconditional love and mercy to our world."



Children enjoy singing "God's Love Is" (John Burland), directed by Lisa Bilansky, music director.



Bandaids snacks correlated with the "Good Samaritan" story made by parishioner Tracey Denion, of graham crackers, marshmallow and cherries.

## 'World Changers' at St. Michael Bible School

Children at vacation Bible school at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Minersville June 17-20 learned how to become "World Changers" by living their lives as Jesus wants us to live.

The teachable parables of the Good Samaritan, the Wedding Feast of Cana, the healing of the paralytic, and the multiplication of loaves and fishes were stories that brought about thought-provoking

questions on how we should imitate Jesus.

Participants acted out parables, sang songs, made crafts and enjoyed snacks connected with each story.

The program was directed by Sister Catherine Therese Brennan, director of religious education and parish pastoral assistant, with the approval of Father Jason Stokes, pastor.

## An Extraordinary Month

In light of the centenary (on Nov. 30) of the Apostolic Letter "Maximum Illud," with which Pope Benedict XV wished to give new impetus to the missionary call to proclaim the Gospel, Pope Francis has called for the whole Church to observe an Extraordinary Missionary Month in October, which is World Mission Month.

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for the monthlong celebration is "Baptized and Sent."

The Pope suggests four dimensions of the month – and the Pontifical Mission Societies (Missio) has four ways for you to live out each one:

1 – A personal encounter with Jesus

Christ alive in his Church: Eucharist, Word of God, personal and communal prayer.

2 – The witness of the saints, the missionary martyrs and the confessors of the faith, who are unique expressions of the churches throughout the world. Read about missionary witnesses like Sister Dorothy Stang, who was martyred in Brazil in 2005 because of her defense of indigenous people and the environment.

3 – Biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological formation regarding the "mission ad gentes."

4 – Missionary charity as a material



support for the immense work of evangelization, especially the "mission ad gentes" and Christian formation in churches that are most in need.

As part of its celebration of the Extraordinary Mission Month, the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States is launching [www.missio.org/course](http://www.missio.org/course), a free, online introduction to mission theology.

**The Mission Sunday Collection in the Diocese of Allentown is scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 19-20.**



## Rosary

►Continued from page 1

15 to launch the latest effort to respond to what he said was Pope Francis' explicit request that the network help young people learn to pray and love the rosary.

The Click to Pray eRosary is both a free app for Apple and Android and an actual high-tech rosary bracelet that connects to a smartphone using Bluetooth. Making the sign of the cross with the rosary automatically opens the app on the phone, while clicking one of the prayer beads allows the person praying to advance through the prayer texts, music and images on the screen.

Father Joao Chagas, head of the youth office at the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, said the app – described on [www.clicktoprayerosary.org](http://www.clicktoprayerosary.org) – is “a concrete sign of the pope's desire to enter the lives of young people and help them pray.”

Pope Francis' big push to get young people to pray the rosary came in the run-up to and the celebration of World Youth Day in Panama in January, Father Fornos said. Hundreds of thousands of rosaries were distributed to the young people taking part.

But the pope has not let up. Speaking to Polish pilgrims at his weekly general audience Oct. 9, Pope Francis reminded them that when Mary appeared to two young women in Gietrzwałd, Poland, in



1877, she told them, “Pray the rosary every day” and, the pope said, “she assured them that the graces imparted by this prayer would be salvific and would lead people to happiness in heaven.”

“Remember these words, especially now, in the month of October dedicat-

This handout photo shows the Click to Pray eRosary, which is a rosary bracelet that connects to a smartphone application. (CNS photo/courtesy Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network)

ed to the rosary,” the pope continued. “Through the intercession of Mary, mediator of graces, we ask for peace for the world, wisdom for those who govern and for faith and unity for families.”

Marking the month of the rosary in 2017, Pope Francis tweeted: “The rosary is a synthesis of the mysteries of Christ: we contemplate them with Mary, who allows us to see with her eyes of faith and love.”

Pope Francis asked Catholics last year to pray the rosary each day in October, asking Mary to protect the church and make it more aware of its “sins, errors and the abuses committed in the present and the past, and committed to fighting without hesitation so that evil would not prevail.”

Turning to Mary in times of trouble should be as natural as turning to one's earthly mother when things look grim, he has said.

Celebrating the feast of Mary's assumption into heaven Aug. 15, Pope Francis told people that the feast is a reminder that, in heaven, “there is a mother who waits for us, and she is our mother. She loves us, she smiles at us and she rescues us with great care.”

“Like every mother, she wants the best for her children and tells us, ‘You are precious in the eyes of God. You were not made for the little gratifications of this world, but for the great joys of heaven,’” he said.

“Let's allow the Mother of God to take us by the hand,” the pope said. “Every time that we pick up the rosary and pray, we take a step forward toward the great goal of life,” which is to be with God for eternity.

The pope also has let the rosary speak for itself, such as when he went to Rome's Shrine of Our Lady of Divine Love May 1, 2018. Greeting the crowds gathered outside the shrine's original little church, the pope said little more than: “Let's pray together. I'll see you later, but let's pray, OK?”

Then he went inside, recited the rosary with a few dozen people and came back outside to recite one more Hail Mary with the crowd and give them his blessing.

In Pope Francis' descriptions of her, Mary is the ideal disciple: full of faith, willing to take risks and ready to set out at a moment's notice.

The Gospel description of her visitation to her cousin Elizabeth says, “She set off in haste.”

At the end of a Marian procession and recitation of the rosary in the Vatican Gardens in 2014, Pope Francis said Mary, “the virgin of haste,” is “always ready to come to our aid when we pray to her, when we ask her help, her protection.”

## In Brief

### Catholics arrested with other faith groups

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – Catholics joined an array of faith communities, human rights groups, clergy, refugees and refugee resettlement agencies gathered outside the U.S. Capitol Oct. 15 protesting deep cuts to the refugee admissions program.

Some shouted “Jesus was a refugee” toward the Capitol as others, including a former U.S. assistant secretary of state for population, refugees and migration, were led from the steps of the U.S. Capitol in handcuffs in an act of civil disobedience.

Catholic groups, including the Franciscan Action Network and Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, joined other Christian organizations, along with Jewish and Muslim groups demanding that the refugee cap be set at 95,000 for the upcoming fiscal year, and not the expected 18,000 the Trump administration has asked for.

### Priorities: Pastoral care of Hispanics, outreach

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – The pastoral care of Hispanic families and immigrants, accompaniment of youth and young adults, and leadership development were the top priorities that Hispanic ministry leaders of seven dioceses, including the Archdiocese of Washington, addressed Oct. 5 at The Catholic University of America.

The gathering of about 50 Encuentro delegates, including laypeople, religious and clergy from episcopal region four, is part of the Fifth National Encuentro, or V Encuentro. This multiyear process that involves mission, consultation and community building, seeks to establish ways in which the Catholic Church can better respond to the Hispanic presence in parishes across the country.

“The Encuentro process has been a real blessing for us to go deeper in the reflection (of) what are we going to do with this challenge, which is an opportunity for us to continue to spread the good news” of Jesus, Washington Auxiliary Bishop



## Pope and Prince Charles at Canonization

Pope Francis speaks with Britain's Prince Charles at the Vatican Oct. 13 the day of the canonization of St. John Henry Newman and four others. See article below right. (CNS photo/Vatican Media via Reuters)

Mario Dorsonville said in an interview with the Catholic Standard, Washington's archdiocesan newspaper.

### Indigenous culture can enrich liturgy

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** – Proposals at the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon for indigenous- or Amazonian-rite ceremonies are meant to enhance and enrich the liturgy with cultural signs and gestures, not change what is essential for Catholics, a bishop said.

Spanish-born Bishop Rafael Escudero Lopez-Brea of Moyobamba, Peru said Catholics are not asking for a new “liturgical rite,” but want to maintain the essential elements “received by the Lord and the apostles in the Eucharist” while introducing cultural elements.

“When we speak of this possibility, it means to introduce some symbols into the Eucharist, some rites that do not affect what is essential in the Eucharist because if not, we would ruin the sacrament and go against that revelation,” Bishop Escudero told journalists Oct. 15. During that morning's session of the synod,

several participants addressed the theme of inculturation which, according to a Vatican News summary, would “open the church to discover new paths within the rich diversity of Amazonian culture.”

### U.S. bishops speak at synod for the Amazon

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** – The Synod of Bishops for the Amazon is not a “referendum” on priestly celibacy; it is looking for ways to provide for the sacramental life and formation of the people there, U.S. Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston said.

“Because one of the themes is the terrible shortage of priests in the Amazonia region, I was trying to stress that, if we want to have priests in that area, we are going to have to make sacrifices to have people who can promote vocations and accompany and train seminarians in their own milieu and their own languages,” he said he told synod participants.

The cardinal and Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego both were appointed by Pope Francis to be voting members of the

synod, which was being held Oct. 6-27 at the Vatican. The cardinal, who also is a member of the pope's Council of Cardinals, gave a summary on [www.CardinalSeansBlog.org](http://www.CardinalSeansBlog.org) of what he told the synod in his talk to the general assembly and issues being brought up by the pope and others.

### Vatican security chief resigns after leak

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** – Pope Francis accepted the resignation of Domenico Giani, head of the Vatican police, nearly two weeks after an internal security notice was leaked to the Italian press.

The Vatican announced Oct. 14 that the pope accepted the resignation of the 57-year-old Vatican police chief who, although “bears no personal responsibility” for the leak, “tendered his resignation to the Holy Father out of love for the church and faithfulness to Peter's successor.”

The pope accepted Giani's resignation, and in a conversation with him, “expressed his appreciation to the commander for his gesture.”

### Pope declares five new saints

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** – Saints are people who recognized their need for God's help, who took risks to discover God's will and to help others and who nurtured a habit of thanksgiving, Pope Francis said.

“The culmination of the journey of faith is to live a life of continual thanksgiving. Let us ask ourselves: Do we, as people of faith, live each day as a burden, or as an act of praise?” the pope said in his homily Oct. 13 after formally declaring five new saints for the Catholic Church.

Those canonized at the Mass were: St. John Henry Newman, the British theologian, poet and cardinal who died in 1890; Brazilian St. Maria Rita Lopes Pontes, popularly known as Sister Dulce, who died in 1992; Indian St. Mariam Theresia Chiramel Mankidiyan, founder of the Congregation of the Holy Family, who died in 1926; St. Marguerite Bays, a Swiss laywoman and mystic, who died in 1879; and St. Josephine Vannini, the Italian co-founder of the Daughters of St. Camillus, who died in 1911.