Bishop Schlert to Make Pilgrimage to Rome

Visit includes a meeting with Pope Francis and a report on the 'state of the Diocese'

By PAUL WIRTH
Diocesan Communications Staff

Bishop Alfred Schlert will make a pilgrimage to Rome later this month to meet with Pope Francis, to pray at the tombs of the apostles Peter and Paul, and to report to Vatican officials on the state of the Diocese of Allentown.

Bishop Schlert will join his brother Bishops from Pennsylvania and New Jersey on the pilgrimage, which will include a group meeting and discussion with the Pope on Thanksgiving Day. The American holiday is not celebrated in Italy.

The visit is intended to strengthen a Bishop's responsibility as a successor of the apostles, and to reinforce his hierarchical communion with the Pope, who is the successor of Peter.

It will be Bishop Schlert's first such visit as Bishop of Allentown. All Bishops make the pilgrimage and meet the Pope once every five to seven years.

The meeting with Pope Francis is expected to encompass a wide range of topics, particularly those of importance in the United States. Other Bishops who have made such visits report that the Pope is open to discussing any and all issues.

Other spiritual highlights of the pilgrimage will include the celebration of Mass in the crypt of St. Peter, beneath St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, along with visits to pray at the other Papal basili-

Please see **ROME** page 4 >>



Pope Francis meets with U.S. Bishops from the New England States Nov. 7 during their "ad limina" visit at the Vatican. Standing is Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, Massachusetts. Bishop Schlert will join the Bishops from Pennsylvania and New Jersey on their "ad limina" visit later this month. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

State-of-the-Diocese Report Outlines Challenges, Shows Rays of Hope

By PAUL WIRTH Diocesan Communications Staff

A report sent recently to the Vatican provides a snapshot of changes in the Diocese of Allentown over the past eight years.

The Diocese now has fewer priests, fewer parishes and fewer schools than it did in January 2011, and the number of baptisms, first holy Communions, confirmations and Catholic marriages has declined. These trends are similar to those in many dioceses

While the statistics are indicators of major challenges, the report also outlines some important bright spots in the life of the Diocese of Allentown over the same eight-year

- Young men continue to hear Christ's call to the Priesthood and enter the seminary. "These seminarians have a pastoral zeal which offers great hope for the future," says the report.
- The number of Spanish-speaking Catholics continues to increase, and now stands at 25 percent of parishioners in the Diocese.
- A new high school for students recovering from addiction, Kolbe Academy, opened this year.
- More than 2,000 adults converted to Catholicism and joined the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.
- The clergy have found renewed strength and growth in their lives of service to the

Please see **REPORT** page 4 >>

In This Issue

Because We Are Catholic Christmas Special Events Council of Stewards Family Evangelization

New Bioethics Column CYO Cross Country

11

Poverty Relief Fund

12

Bazaar Listing

13

U.S. Bishops Examine Challenges Faced by Church, Society

BALTIMORE (CNS) – On the agenda for the U.S. bishops' Nov. 11-13 meeting in Baltimore were elections and discussions of key challenges in the church and the nation. Unlike recent previous meetings, their response to the clergy abuse crisis was mentioned but was not the primary focus.

On the second day of the meeting, Nov. 12, the bishops elected Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles to a three-year term as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Archbishop Allen Vigneron of Detroit as vice president.

Archbishop Gomez, the first Latino to be elected to this role, was chosen with 176 votes from a slate of 10 nominees. He has been USCCB vice president for the past three years and his new role begins at the end of

Please see **BISHOPS** page 16 >>

DIOCESE THE A.D. TIMES November 14, 2019



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

Published biweekly or triweekly on Thursdays by Allentown Catholic Communications, Inc. at P.O. Box F Allentown, PA 18105-1538 Phone: 610-871-5200, Ext. 2264 Fax: 610-439-7694 E-mail: adtimes@allentowndiocese.org

> President Bishop Alfred Schlert

Secretary for External Affairs Matt Kerr

> **Editor** Jill Caravan

Staff Writers Tara Connolly Tami Quigley

Design & Production Marcus Schneck

Advertising Contact Lori Anderson

Administrative Assistant Cheryl Dano

DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN MISSION STATEMENT

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

POLICY STATEMENTS

The A.D. Times will consider all editorial copy and photos submitted in a fair and objective manner. The newspaper reserves the right to reject or edit any submission.

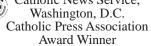
Any advertising copy accepted does not necessarily reflect the views, opinions or endorsement of The A.D. Times and/or its publisher. The A.D. Times reserves the right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

DEADLINES

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

MEMBERSHIPS

Catholic Press Association, Rockville Centre, N.Y. Catholic News Service, Washington, D.C.



1991, 1992, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

POSTAL INFORMATION

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

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

Because We Are Catholic

The Surprising Thing About Volunteering

By PAUL WIRTH Diocesan Communications Staff

There's a surprising thing about giving your time to others. That's the message Rosanne Venditto has for anyone thinking of volunteering in their parish or community.

She has been a church organist for many years, but since retiring a few years ago, Venditto has added many new volunteer gigs to the ones she was already doing in her parish, Our Lady Help of Christians in Allentown.

She's a member of the Diocese Commission for Women. She sings on the Diocesan Choir. She plays the organ at daily Masses and at the Phoebe Home. She volunteers at Mercy School for Special Learning, Allentown. She helps with parish fundraisers.

As an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, she regularly delivers the Eucharist to patients in Lehigh Valley Hospi-

She tells the story of a long day making her way through the halls at the hospital, feeling a little discouraged because she had found few patients on her list who were willing or able to receive Communion.

On one of her last stops, however, an elderly lady began crying with joy when Venditto stepped into her room. "I had been hoping all day that you would come," the lady said.

I guess my visit made a big difference in her day," said Venditto. "It certainly made a big difference in mine.

"You give people your time, but it can be amazing what comes back to you in return," she said. It's the special grace that comes from serving others.



"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.

Rob Nicolella Named Executive Director of Catholic Charities

Rob Nicolella, a seasoned administrator at Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown, has been named the agency's executive director.

For the past 18 years, Nicolella, of Boyertown, served as the Catholic Charities county administrator, managing government grants and supervising programs such as soup kitchens, adult day care, community support, and veterans and immigration services.

'Catholic Charities has built a positive reputation as a key community service provider in Lehigh, Northampton, Berks, Carbon and Schuylkill counties," said Ni-

"Our goal is to continue to expand our reach and our services to those in need throughout the Diocese of Allentown."

Before joining Catholic Charities, Nicolella was community services for the manager County of Chester. His previous experience also includes mental health coordinator for Northwestern Human Services, Lansdale; social work supervisor for the Salvation Army, Norristown; and consultant for the Department of Hu-



Nicolella

man Services, Philadelphia.

He earned his bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton, Ohio, and master's degree in social work from Temple University, Philadelphia. He is a parishioner of St. Columbkill, Boy-

Catholic Charities is a nonprofit social service agency caring for needy people in Lehigh, Northampton, Berks, Carbon and Schuylkill counties, regardless of their religious affiliation.

Among its services are feeding the hungry, helping veterans in danger of becoming homeless, counseling families and students, caring for the elderly, and offering service for pregnant women in need of support.

Join the Diocese of Allentown Email List

If you would like to receive informational emails from the Diocese of Allentown, please let us know by emailing communications@allentowndiocese.org.



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.

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 lînea 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.

NOVEMBER 14, 2019 THE A.D. TIMES DIOCESE ____

Advent and Christmas Vespers, Concerts, Shows, Special Events

The following vespers, concerts, shows and other special events have been announced for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. To have your event added to the list for the Nov. 28 issue, send information to adtimes@allentowndiocese.org.

Vespers

Sunday, Dec. 15

Advent Vespers, St. Benedict, 2020 Chestnut Hill Road, Mohnton, 6 p.m., parish choir joined by string quartet, refreshments provided by Women's Club, 610-856-

Saturday, Dec. 21 and Sunday, Dec. 22

Christmas Vespers, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, White House Chapel, Saturday 7 p.m., Sunday 2 and 7 p.m., freewill offering, refreshments, 610-867-

Concerts and Shows

Friday, Nov. 22 and Saturday, Nov. 23"It's a Wonderful Life," theater performance, Notre Dame High School, Easton, 7 p.m., adults \$8, students \$6, under 6 free, 610-868-1431, notredametheatrecompany@ ndcrusaders.org.

Sunday, Nov. 24

Christmas Concert with Blue Mountain Heritage Chorus, St. Mary, Hamburg, 2

Sunday, Dec. 1

"God is With Us," Christmas concert, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, 3 p.m., free will offering for a family in need; featuring four adult choirs - Cathedral, Angelorium, Diocesan and Living Word; guest soloist Sister Josephine Wagner; carolers starting at 2:30 p.m.; 610-433-6461.

Saturday, Dec. 7

"Savior of the Nations, Come," Advent concert, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, main chapel, 7 p.m., free, www.jesuitcenter.org/arts.

Sunday, Dec. 8

Christmas Concert, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, 5 p.m., 610-266-0695.

Christmas Cantata, featuring Youth, Handbell and Adult choirs, Holy Trinity, 4456 Main St., Whitehall, 4 p.m., 610-262-9315.

Christmas Lessons and Carols, with Blue Mountain Heritage Chorus and participation by clergy of Northern Berks Ministerium, St. Mary, Hamburg, 4 p.m., 610-562-

Children's Christmas Pageant, St. Joseph, Frackville, parish hall, 6 p.m., free, light refreshments, 570-874-0610 ext. 4.

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Classical Guitar Christmas Music, Our Lady Help of Christians, Allentown, 4 p.m., followed by 4:30 p.m. Mass, with Mark Reinhart from Three Pure Rivers Studio, 610-

Live Nativities, Tableau

Friday, Dec. 13

Live Nativity, St. Francis Academy, Bally, at Most Blessed Sacrament, Bally, 7 p.m., 610-845-2460.

Saturday, Dec. 14

Live Nativity, by parish youth, St. Mary, Hamburg, Ave Maria Hall, 5:30 p.m., 610-562-7657.

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Tableau, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 3:45 p.m. before the 4:30 p.m. Mass, featuring children of the parish, 610-433-6102.



(CNS file photo/Katie Rutter)

Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020

Living Nativity Tableau on Feast of the Epiphany, Sacred Heart, Palmerton, at 9:30 a.m. Mass, 610-826-2335.

Special Events

Thursday, Nov. 21

Holiday Mass of Remembrance, St. Ann, Frackville, 6 p.m., hosted by Bereavement Ministry of St. Joseph, Frackville, 570-874-0610 ext. 4; snow date Tuesday, Nov. 26, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 24

"Advent Reflection for Women," St. Joseph, Coopersburg, 2 p.m., guest speaker Monsignor Andrew Baker, \$5, 610-390-4131.

Saturday, Nov. 30

Advent by Candlelight, for women, Sacred Heart, Palmerton, social hall, 6:30 p.m., 610-826-2335.

Saturday, Dec. 7

Breakfast with Santa, Immaculate Conception, Douglassville, social hall, seatings 8 and 10 a.m., advance \$8, at door \$10, children under 3 free, santa@icaknights.org.

Saturday, Dec. 14

"Bearers of Light," Advent day of reflection," for women of the Diocese of Allentown, offered by Diocesan Commission for Women, speakers Father Bernard Ezaki and seminarian Matthew Kuna, McGlinn Conference Center, Reading, adjacent to Alvernia University, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$20, register by Sunday, Dec. 1, https://www. allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality.

Sunday, Dec. 15

Christmas House Tour, Cathedral St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, Women's Alliance, 1-5 p.m., featuring 10 decorated homes belonging to parishioners, including Cathedral Rectory, advance tickets only, \$20 per person, after Masses Nov. 30-Dec. 1, Dec 7-8 and Dec. 14-15; or send check payable to The Women's Alliance, c/o Cathedral Church of St. Catharine of Siena, 1825 W. Turner St., Allentown, PA 18104, with stamped self-addressed envelope; information 610-437-5933, thekovacs4@aol.com, or 336-408-6051, ckastrava@me.com.

Monday, Dec. 16

Advent Communal Penance Service, Sacred Heart, Palmerton, 7 p.m., 610-826-





Rome

▶▶Continued from page 1

cas in Rome: St. Paul Outside the Walls, which contains the tomb of the apostle Paul; St. Mary Major; and St. John Lat-

While in Rome, Bishop Schlert also will attend Vatican meetings on the protection of minors, on the Sacraments, on Catholic Education, and on many other

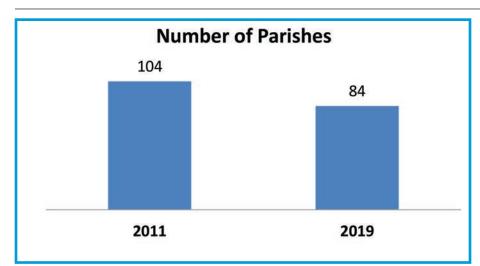
In advance of the visit, each Bishop submits a report to the Vatican on the state of the Diocese. The Diocese of Allentown's report, prepared and submitted several months ago, paints a picture of challenging times but outlines a hopeful path forward (see accompanying article).

The formal name of the periodic visit made by Bishops is "ad limina apostolorum," which is Latin for "at the threshold of the apostles.'

"I look forward to joining my brother Bishops in our meeting with the Holy

Father to discuss issues important to today's Catholics, and to our Church," said Bishop Schlert.

"The faithful of the Diocese will be in my prayers. Through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, the Patroness of the Diocese of Allentown, I pray for a successful and fruitful visit.'



Report

▶▶Continued from page 1

Church. The mutual love and respect between the faithful and their priests and deacons is "an essential element of the good work that is occurring in the Diocese," says the report.

• Donations by the faithful, in the form of weekly collections and Mass and charitable contributions to 'Because We Are Catholic," the Bishop's Annual Appeal, have remained relatively steady.

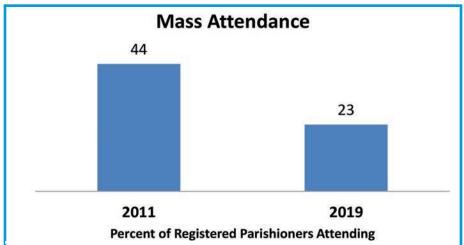
The report recognizes the heartfelt concern among the faithful when a parish is consolidated or closed, and when a school is merged or closed. The process of evaluating parishes and schools for long-term viability began as the result of the Second Diocesan Synod in 2005 and 2006, and has continued.

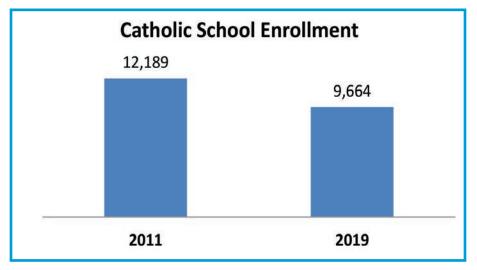
The Catholic population of the Diocese is made up primarily of descendants of European immigrants who arrived in the late 1800s and early 1900s, notes the report. Today, however, the fastest-growing ethnic group in the Diocese is people of Hispanic descent, who have arrived in the past 20 or 30 years from Mexico, Central and South America, and the Ca-

The Diocese has taken steps to welcome Spanish-speaking people, says the report. Spanish-language Masses are offered at 10 parishes, the Diocese has an Office of Hispanic Affairs, and Bishop Alfred Schlert has been studying Spanish so that he can better celebrate Mass and other sacraments in Spanish.

The greatest challenge in recent history is the clergy sexual abuse crisis, acknowledges the report. The Diocese has continued to strengthen its programs and procedures to keep children safe while responding immediately to credible allegations by notifying law enforcement, by removing the priest from ministry and by being transparent in cooperation with law

As part of its response, the Diocese established a new senior-level position, Secretary for Youth Protection, and began an Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program to compensate





victims of clergy sexual abuse as one aspect of their healing.

The Lord has bestowed many blessings upon the Diocese of Allentown during the past eight years, concludes the report, in the midst of the challenges of the clergy sexual abuse crisis and the rise in the United States of those who do not practice any faith.

Looking ahead, the report sets out several main goals for the Diocese in coming years: continued healing in the Church, increased Mass attendance, evangelization and religious instruction of the faithful, and encouraging more men to become priests.

Women's Evangelization and Discipleship Advent Day of Reflection

Women of the Diocese of Allentown are invited to join the Diocesan Commission for Women for an Advent Day of Reflection, Saturday, Dec. 14 at McGlinn Conference Center, Reading, adjacent to Alvernia University.

Theme for the day will be "Bearers of Light.'

Speakers will be Father Bernard Ezaki, assistant pastor of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, and Matthew Kuna, parish-son of St. Thomas More, Allentown and seminarian for our diocese.

The day will begin with registration and continental breakfast at 9 a.m., followed by Mass, rosary, lunch and fellowship, ending at 2:30 p.m.

Cost is \$20 per person. Deadline to register is Sunday, Dec. 1.

For more information or to register: https://www.allentowndiocese.org/cfwspirituality.



Next First Friday Adoration for Vocations Dec. 6

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 Dec 6 Ian 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 oken that where the Lord's presence is honored, reverenced 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,

'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 msearles@allentowndiocese. Searles, org, 610-437-0755, or visit www.allen towndiocese.org/vocations.

Participate in #GivingTuesday for Catholic Charities

#GivingTuesday is a global giving day following Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. #GivingTuesday focuses on charitable giving in the spirit of Thanksgiving.

It is an opportunity for the faithful of the Diocese of Allentown to come together and raise money and awareness for Catholic Charities on Tuesday, Dec.

As you begin to celebrate the holiday

season, please keep Catholic Charities' clients and those most in need in our community in your prayers.

For more information about or make a gift to Catholic Charities, visit www. allentowndiocese.org/catholic-charities/ about.

NOVEMBER 14, 2019 DIOCESE THE A.D. TIMES 5

Council of Stewards Donors Recognized with Evening of Appreciation

By TAMI QUIGLEY Staff Writer

In appreciation of their generosity to the Diocese of Allentown, the Council of Stewards was recognized with a special evening Oct. 21 at DeSales University, Center Valley.

The event featuring a One Man Performance of C.S. Lewis' "The Great Divorce" presented by Anthony Lawton drew 250 guests to DeSales University Center.

The Council of Stewards includes donors who support the Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA) with gifts of \$500 or more.

The evening was sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development.

Paul Acampora, Diocesan Secretary of Stewardship and Development, wel-

comed those gathered. Bishop Alfred Schlert addressed those gathered after the performance, which was followed by a dessert reception.

Lewis' "The Great Divorce" is a classic Christian allegorical tale. It is the story of Clive, who, along with a motley crew of malcontents, takes a

bus ride from hell to heaven. An extraordinary reflection on good and evil, grace and judgment, Lewis' revolutionary idea is that the gates of hell are locked from the inside.

Clive and the others are offered a chance to stay in heaven forever if they

like, but the choice between joy and miserable loneliness proves to be much harder than they would have guessed.

Lewis is best known for his fictional work, especially "The Screwtape Letters," "The Chronicles of Narnia" and "The Space Trilogy," and his nonfiction Christian apologetics, such as "Mere Christianity," "Miracles" and "The Problem of Pain."

In "The Great Divorce" Lewis champions a simple truth: that ways we live and the choices we make really matter.

Lawton performs the play solo, portraying more than a dozen characters.

One of those characters is a man who is a ghost with a little red lizard on his shoulder. Because the lizard will not be quiet, the man thinks he must return to hell, or "grey town" as it is called.

An angel offers to kill the lizard, and with the man's permission does so with-

out killing the man, though it hurts him. The man goes from being a ghost into a solid man, and the lizard becomes a great stallion.

Then they ride into the everlasting morning, the foothills of heaven. The man is told nothing can go up to the mountain as it is — flesh and blood cannot come to the mountain because they are too weak.

The Philadelphia-based Lawton has acted professionally since 1992. He has performed in over 100 professional productions, and has experience in film and television.

In 1998 he started the Mirror Theatre Company, which performs solo and small-cast plays. The mission of the Mir-



Bishop Alfred Schlert, right, is among the 250 attending a showing of the One Man Performance of C.S. Lewis' "The Great Divorce" Oct. 21 at DeSales University, Center Valley. (Photos by John Simitz)

ror is: Spiritual Theatre for a Secular Audience. The company is committed to presenting drama about our spiritual life that will be of interest to all audiences, secular or religious. Lawton wants his plays to be part of an ongoing dialogue with the audience – a dialogue in which we discuss and consider that which is (or isn't) eternal in us.

"Thank you all for coming," Bishop Schlert told donors after the performance, noting that "Anthony is so tremendous" in his performance of this "morality play."

The evening, he said, is "just a little thank you for all you do."

"It teaches us a lesson to come together tonight," the Bishop said. "It reminds us of all our gifts and talents that are all caught up in the morality play of living our lives

"Sin dies hard, but with the power of Christ can be overcome."

"The people we serve see Christ day in and day out. I thank you, and they thank you," Bishop Schlert told donors.

"It's good to see how many are engaged – and not everyone is here – in this work of Christ, bringing the light of Christ to the community and each other."

The audience showed its appreciation to Lawton with a standing ovation.



"It's good to see how

many are engaged –

and not everyone is

Christ, bringing the

light of Christ to the

community and each

other."

here - in this work of

Those attending enjoy the evening performance, sponsored by the Diocesan Secretariat for Stewardship and Development.



Anthony Lawton presents his show, which drew a standing ovation.

More photos on the diocesan website <u>www.allentowndiocese.org</u> under "Latest News" on the homepage.

ProximoTravel

Your Catholic Tour Company

Prices starting at \$2,499 ~ Prices are ALL-INCLUSIVE w/Airfare from anywhere in the USA

Travel with Fr. Abraham Ha Assistant Pastor
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Bethlehem PA on our Ireland & Scotland Trip.

Where: Galway, Our lady of Knock, Cliffs of Moher, Killarney, Dublin, Edinburgh Castle, St. Andrews Cathedral. Trip Dates: June 16-26 2019 Cost: \$4,600.00

We also specialize in custom trips for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

www.proximotravel.com Hablamos Español anthony@proximotravel.com 508-340-9370 855-842-8001 call us 24/7



James Funeral Home

& Cremation Service, PC

527 Center Street hlehem, Pennsylvania 1801

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018 **Phone: 610-867-4617**

Louis C. James, President & Supervisor, We Are Family Owned. www.jamesfuneralhome.org

Member of the K of C, AOH and Assumption BVM Parish in Bethlehem.

Serving the families of the Lehigh Valley and Diocese of Allentown.

Budget friendly Traditional Funeral and Cremation Services.

Pre-Arrangement Services & Irrevocable Funeral Trusts.

Contact us anytime for information or a price quote.

THE A.D. TIMES DIOCESE **NOVEMBER 14, 2019**

Hispanic Ministry – Evangelizing Mission Conference: 'Family: Sanctuary of Love'

By BERNARDA LIRIANO Director, Office of Hispanic Affairs

The Office of Hispanic Affairs of the Allentown Diocese offered an evangelization conference Nov. 2, with the motto "Family: Sanctuary of Love," at St. Mary Parish, Hamburg.

The conference was part of the evangelization mission coordinated by the Office of Hispanic Affairs. The mission, which was supported by priests and lay leaders, began at St. Paul Parish in Reading Oct. 30, with a night of praise, prayer, confessions and exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Juan Carlos Tobón Echeverry, general supervisor of the religious community of the Immaculate Conception, accompanied us from

Colombia in this mission and was the main speaker of the night. Members of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of St. Paul Parish guided the prayer of the rosary, praises and songs.

The mission continued Oct. 31 in St. Paul Parish in Allentown. Father Diego Flórez from the Immaculate Conception religious community joined the celebration, along with Father Tobón, who also joined the rest of the evangelizing mission for the week.

Nov. 1 the mission took place at Holy Infancy Church in Bethlehem, where both priests joined the community during



the celebration of the Holy Mass, and accompanied by songs and musical ministry by Father Flórez.

Nov. 2 was the big momentum of the diocesan celebration. The conference was held with several talks on formation, prayer, meditation, activities for the youth, the celebration of the Holy Mass by Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert and uplifting music through the day.

The speakers of the day were: Diossanta Reyes, MAMFT; Father Tobón; and Father Flórez.

Please see **HISPANIC** page 7 >>



Left, Padre Juan Carlos Tobón habla al grupo. / Father Juan Carlos Tobón speaking to group.

Above, Padre Diego Flórez le habla a los jóvenes. / Father Diego Florez talks to the children. (Photo by John Simitz)

Participant Comments

"This conference will be of many blessings for my family. Thank you for motivating us and for giving us tools to be able to be better parents and that way reflect the great love that God has for us. I look forward for more events of this kind." – Sara Castillo.

"The presentation was a success" -Deacon Ricardo Ceballos.

"I personally learn a lot." - Delfina

"The conference was a success for all of us who came from my parish" - Renso

"It was an honor and a pleasure to be able to participate at this conference. It helped me to renew my commitment with God within the Church, and it confirmed the pastoral ministry that God has entrusted to me" – Diossanta Reyes.

Misión Evangelizadora Del Ministerio Hispano Conferencia: "Familia: Santuario de Amor"

Por BERNARDA LIRIANO Directora, Oficina de Asuntos Hispanos

La Oficina de Asuntos Hispanos de la Diócesis de Allentown, ofreció una conferencia de evangelización el sábado 2 de noviembre de 2019, el cual llevó como lema: "Familia: Santuario de Amor." Este evento se llevó a cabo en la Parroquia St. Mary en Hamburg.

La conferencia fue parte de la misión de evangelización coordinada por la Oficina de Asuntos Hispanos. La misión que contó con el apoyo de los sacerdotes y líderes laicos, inició en la Parroquia San Pablo en Reading el miércoles 30 de octubre con una noche de alabanzas, oración. confesiones, exposición y adoración al Santísimo.

El Padre Juan Carlos Tobón Echeverry, Supervisor General de la Comunidad Religiosa de la Inmaculada Concepción nos acompañó desde Colombia durante toda la misión y dirigió la enseñanza de la noche. Las alabanzas fueron dirigidas por el equipo de servidores de la Renovación Carismática Católica de la Parroquia de San Pablo.

El día jueves, 31 de octubre, la misión continuó en la Parroquia de San Pablo en Allentown. El Padre Diego Flórez de la Comunidad de la Inmaculada Concepción se unió a la celebración junto al Padre Juan Carlos Tobón para acompañarnos durante el resto de la misión de evangelización.

El día viernes, 1 de noviembre, la misión tuvo lugar en la Parroquia Santa Infancia en Bethlehem donde ambos

sacerdotes acompañaron a la comunidad durante la celebración de la Santa Misa y acompañados por las canciones y ministerio musical del Padre Diego Flórez.

El sábado, 2 de noviembre fue la gran celebración diocesana donde se llevó a cabo la conferencia con varias charlas de formación, oración, meditación, actividades para los jóvenes, la celebración de la Santa Misa con el Obispo Alfred A. Schlert y animación musical.

Los presentadores del día fueron: Diossanta Reyes, MAMFT, el Padre Juan Carlos Tobón Echeverry y Padre Diego

El Padre Diego compartió varias charlas con los jóvenes y acompañó al Padre Juan Carlos con la música de meditación durante las charlas y reflexiones del día. El ministerio de música de Rafael y Yaniri animaron a los participantes con canciones y animación en un espíritu de

Los temas de la conferencia fueron: "El lenguaje del amor en la familia,"
"Amar significa poner límites," "Familia:
Iglesia doméstica" y una oración y meditación de sanación dirigida por el Padre Juan Carlos y Padre Diego: "Sanando las heridas emocionales para crecer juntos en el amor como familia."

Diossanta Reyes explicó la importancia de poner límites para empoderar a los padres de familia y como poner límites saludables con los hijos. Crear conciencia de la necesidad de poner límites con amor y por amor y como validar lo difícil de la crianza de los hijos para desarrollar una relación sana entre padres e hijos.

El Padre Juan Carlos Tobón inició la primera presentación del día dirigiéndose a las parejas de matrimonio que estaban presentes. Exhortándoles a continuar viviendo y cultivando el amor que un día se profesaron.

Tocó el tema de cómo en estos tiempos "modernos" en los que estamos viviendo, a veces las mismas parejas van perdiendo la forma del lenguaje que usan para comunicarse y manifestar sus sentimientos. De una forma jocosa, nos ilustró como en lugar de mantener verdadera comunicación verbal, las parejas hoy en día prefieren el uso de mensajes de texto a través del celular.

Y para hacer las cosas peor aún, ya no se están comunicando a través de frases u oraciones formales, sino al contrario, a través de los famosos emojis, cosa que va deteriorando cada vez más la verdadera comunicación entre las parejas y por ende entre los demás integrantes del núcleo fa-

Nos exhortó que debemos buscar so-

lución para que la comunicación familiar no siga en el deterioro. Planteó como una posible solución, que en el hogar haya una canasta en donde se depositen los teléfonos celulares cuando entremos al hogar, para de esta forma poder activar la comunicación verbal entre sus miembros y que no se siga perdiendo la interacción familiar la cual es tan vital para mantener la unión entre las familias.

El día domingo la misión de evangelización concluyó en con la Celebración Eucarística en la Parroquia Divina Misericordia en Shenandoah.

Más que un evento, esta misión fue un despertar de fe y un revivir a regresar a nuestras raíces y buenas costumbres como familias hispanas que oran en familias y crecen juntas en santidad en medio de las adversidades del día a día.

Que la Bienaventurada Virgen María continúe intercediendo por todas las familias de nuestra diócesis y las familias del mundo. Amén.

Comentarios de los Participantes

"Esta conferencia será de muchas bendiciones para mi familia. Gracias por motivarnos y darnos herramientas para poder ser mejores padres y así reflejar el gran amor que Papito Dios tiene para nosotros. Espero muchos más eventos como estos" – Sara Castillo.

"La presentación fue un éxito" - Dcn. Ricardo Ceballos.

"Aprendí mucho en lo personal" -

Delfina Velazco.

"La conferencia fue un éxito para todos los que asistimos de nuestra parroquia" – Renso Minaya.

"Fue un honor y un placer participar de esta conferencia. Me ayudó a renovar mi compromiso con Dios dentro de la iglesia y me clarifico aún más el ministerio pastoral que Dios me está confiando"

Diossanta Reyes

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

DIOCESE

THE A.D. TIMES

7

Hispanic

▶▶Continued from page 6

Father Flórez shared two talks with the youth and accompanied Father Tobón during the meditations with the music during the talks and reflections of the day. Rafael and Yaniri with their music ministry encouraged participants with songs and uplifted the audience with a joyful spirit.

The themes at the conference were: "The language of love in the family," "Loving means setting limits," "Family: The Domestic Church" and a healing prayer with meditations by Father Tobón and Father Flórez: "Healing the emotional wounds to grow together in love as a family."

Reyes during her talk expressed the importance of setting limits to empower parents and how to set healthy limits with their children; the awareness of the need to set limits with love and for love, and how to validate the difficulty of raising children to develop a healthy relationship in the family.

Father Tobón started the first presentation of the day by addressing the married couples present – exhorting them to continue living and cultivating the love they once professed for one another.

He put emphasis on the issue of how in these "modern times" we are living in; sometimes the same couples are losing the language they use for communicating and expressing their feelings. In a particular way, he illustrated how instead of maintaining true verbal communication, couples today prefer to use text messages.

And to make things even worse, they are no longer communicating through formal phrases or sentences, but instead,



they use an emoji, something that is increasingly deteriorating the true communication between couples and consequently between other members of the family nucleus.

He urged us to find a solution so that family communication does not continue deteriorating. He proposed as a possible solution, that at home there should be a basket where cell phones are deposited when we enter the home, so that we can activate verbal communication between each other and that family interaction is not lost, which is so vital to maintain the union between families.

The evangelization mission concluded Nov. 3 with the Eucharistic Celebration at Divine Mercy Parish in Shenandoah.

More than just an event, this mission was an awakening of faith and a reminder to return to our roots and good customs as Hispanic families who pray together and grow together in holiness in the midst of the everyday adversities.

May the Blessed Mother Mary continue interceding for all the families in our Diocese and in the world. Amen.

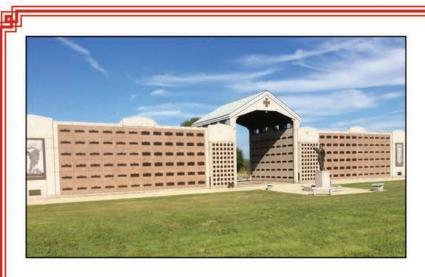
El grupo ora. / The group prays. (Photo by John Simitz)

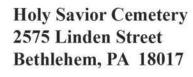
More photos on the diocesan website www.allentowndiocese.org under "Latest News" on the homepage.

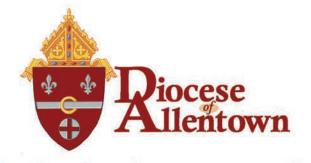
Más fotos
en el sitio web diocesano
www.allentowndiocese.org
en "Últimas noticias"
en la página de inicio.



Jóvenes de la familia Alvarenga disfrutan en el área de fotografías con la familia. / Members of the Alvarenga family enjoy the photo area as a family. (Photo by Bernarda Liriano)



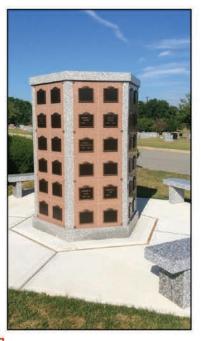




Pre-Need selections are available at Diocesan Cemeteries

Resurrection Cemetery

547 N. Krocks Road Allentown, PA 18106



Please contact the cemetery to speak with one of our knowledgeable Family Services Representatives.

Pre-Need selections can alleviate the stress of making interment arrangements at the time of need.

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

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



8 THE A.D. TIMES OPINION November 14, 2019

The Time to Speak Up is Now

"First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out – because I was not a socialist.

"Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out – because I was not a trade unionist.

"Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Jew.

"Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me."

Most of us are familiar with these famous words written by a Lutheran pastor in the years immediately after the Second World War. Over the years, they have served as a constant reminder for our need to be vigilant, and to speak up in defense of the poor and needy in the world.

And for the most part, it is a message that has been heeded. The world is full of movements and organizations speaking up in defense of the most vulnerable among us. What few realize and fewer want to accept is that this same attitude is to govern the practice of our faith.

Our Gospel over the next two weeks presents us with stereotypical end-of-world scenarios. They speak of wars, famines, persecutions and chaos in our streets. All this, we're told, is directed against God and his followers, with the end result being our opportunity to witness to him and what we profess.

It is fortunate that the majority of us reading these words will never experience this scenario. As Americans,

the physical violence described by Jesus, especially the violence against the faith, is a rare occurrence. However, this peace we enjoy also leads easily to complacency.

As American Catholics, we've convinced ourselves that since it's not the end of the world there is no need to speak about God in public whether in our families or places of work. We tell ourselves that most people are good by nature and that left to themselves they will make the right choices.

These are lies that paralyze us and blind us from the truth. The time to witness to our faith is not something only for the end of the world. The time to speak up is now

It may not be as described by St. Luke, but the battle in which we are engaged as Catholics is real.

When 2/3 of Catholics have been led to believe that the Eucharist is simply a sign, there is a problem.

When 88% of "active" Catholics no longer confess their sins at least yearly, we have a problem.

When the majority of Catholics hold positions directly contrary to our faith, there is reason for concern.

Daily, we see young people drifting away from the faith. Daily, our beliefs are ridiculed by politicians and entertainers. The world has come against us. And how do we respond? Often in the very ways that our Lord condemns.

Fearing rejection and divisions within our families, we remain silent when we see our children and grandchildren no longer practicing the faith. Yet, Jesus has

Publication Date

By Father Joseph Ganser, assistant pastor of St. Joseph and St. Paul churches, Reading.



said, if we speak up, "I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist."

Seeing our faith so often publicly mocked, we ignore the difficult teachings of Christ and instead design new committees, pastoral plans and programs to lure people back to Church. We so often rely on human skills to defend ourselves when only one thing will truly suffice: to proclaim openly the truth of Christ that has been handed on to us by the apostles.

The readings over the next two weeks are at times difficult to hear. Certainly, they are not the words we expect to hear from Jesus. Yet, despite their darker tone, they speak to us very clearly about the state of our world in every generation.

Our faith is always under attack. We will always be opposed by this world in one way or another. But as we see this fight being raged, how am I responding? How am I witnessing now to the truth of Christ so that I and my family may secure our lives?

News Deadline

Ad Deadline

Upcoming Issues of The A.D. Times

opcoming issues of the A.D. Times						
			Feb. 20	Feb. 10	Feb. 13	
Publication Date	Ad Deadline	News Deadline	March 5	Feb. 24	Feb. 27	
			March 19	March 9	March 12	
<u>2019</u>			April 2	March 23	March 26	
Nov. 28	Nov. 18	Nov. 21	April 16	April 6	April 9	
Dec. 19	Dec. 9	Dec. 12	April 30	April 20	April 23	
<u>2020</u>			May 14	May 4	May 7	
Jan. 9	Dec. 30	Jan. 2	May 28	May 18	May 21	
Jan. 23	Jan. 13	Jan. 16	June 18	June 8	June 11	
Feb. 6	Jan. 27	Jan. 30	July 9	June 29	July 2	



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

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.
- Builds cash value.
- 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
 Descriptions include monthly greately.
- Payment options include monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual
- Payments can be automatically deducted from your checking/savings account

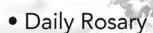
Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union

Check out our website www.lpscu.org Contact us by calling 570-823-3513 or toll-free 888-834-6614 or e-mail us at lpscu@lpscu.org

Serving our members since 1898!



For all of your Spiritual needs.



- Weekly Mass
- Worship Services
- Bible Studies

Excellence in senior living, offering independent living, personal care, and memory care.

Suites and apartments available.

Northampton: 610-262-4300

Saucon Valley: 610-814-2700



SacredHeartSeniorLiving.com

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

DIOCESE THE A.D. TIMES

Pushing Back Against Evil

"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.

During a recent speech in Texas, I mentioned that "Drag Queen Story Hours" are being sponsored by local public libraries across the country. Toddlers and kids are brought in and placed in front of crossdressing men who read children's stories to them, stories that encourage them to reject fundamental gender differences between males and females.

The LGBTQ agenda, I also noted, is being energetically promoted to upend and rewrite public school curricula even for kindergarten and preschool-aged children

During the Q & A after the talk, one of the parents in attendance, with a measure of frustration in his voice, asked what the average person can do to push back against the seemingly endless expansion of error and evil in our society.

His question is a common one.

I usually reply by saying that we cannot yield to discouragement over the apparently widespread moral decline around us, nor dissipate our personal energy in worry and anxiety about the state of the world

Instead, we need to recognize how God has entrusted to each of us a small garden that he asks us to tend. If we tend that plot well, he will extend the reach of his grace in ways we cannot foresee or imagine, and we will actually contribute to stemming the tide of error and evil well beyond the limited confines of our particular plot.

This implies that each of us has different responsibilities, depending on our particular state in life, our commitments, and our employment and family situations. By attending carefully to those responsibilities and conscientiously tending our gardens, the air around us can indeed begin to change.

A true story I recently heard brought this lesson home in a powerful way.

A woman, facing complex health issues, felt a strong impulse one morning to pray for her oldest son while she was confined to her bed. He lived far away in a large metropolitan area and worked in his spare time for a ride-sharing company.

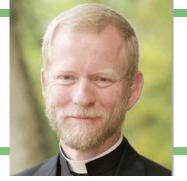
Later that day her son called home, and she mentioned that she had felt the need to pray for him earlier. "That's interesting," he replied, "because I had something unusual happen today."

He then told her about picking up a pregnant woman with two young children. After greeting them, he looked at his phone and started driving.

The address on his screen subconsciously caught his attention; meanwhile

Making Sense Out of Bioethics

Fr. Tad Pacholczyk



the woman was speaking to someone on her phone in the back seat. After several minutes of thinking about the address, the young driver suddenly realized where they were headed: the local Planned Parenthood abortion clinic.

He decided to make a couple of wrong turns to buy some time so the woman would finish up her phone conversation. When she kept on talking, he pulled the car over and brought it to a complete stop.

As she paused her conversation, he turned and said to her, "I'm sorry but I have to let you know that because of my religious beliefs, I simply cannot take you where you are going. I will return you to where I picked you up and refund your fee."

The woman was surprised, but seemed to understand, and he drove her and her three children back to the pickup point.

That young driver made an intentional decision, within the confines of the particular garden God had given him to cultivate, to push back against a present evil

he became aware of.

Another person of lesser determination might have said, "Who am I to get involved in this person's choices? Am I my brother's keeper?"

He recognized, however, that he was already unwittingly involved, and that each of us, in fact, is our brother's keeper.

He was concerned about a neighbor and her little family gathered in the back seat of his car. He knew he could not be party to the wrongdoing she seemed poised to carry out against her unborn child.

We don't know what happened after he dropped her off. Maybe, sadly, she just ordered another ride. Maybe, however, she reconsidered her choice.

Any time we try to do what is right and push back against evil, any time we seek to act with resolve on behalf of what is good and true, new options open up, the air changes around us, and we contribute to renewing our world.

That's what each of us can do as we take care of our own garden.

First Friday for Homeschool Families

Homeschool families of the Diocese

of Allentown are invited to a First Friday gathering on Thursday, Dec. 5 at St. Anne Church, 450 E. Washington Ave., Bethlehem.

Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m. by

Father Kevin Bobbin, chaplain to the Homeschool Community, followed by adoration and confessions until 7 p.m., then an informal social.

Please join us for this opportunity to

meet each other as we come together for prayer and fellowship.

For questions, contact Father Bobbin, 610-866-0791 ext. 332 or kbobbin@alentowndiocese.org.



November 15th through November 24th
Feast of Christ the King
NOVENA IN HONOR OF JESUS KING OF ALL NATIONS
With Icons of
JESUS KING OF ALL NATIONS
and
OUR LADY OF GUADELUPE

VISITING CHURCHES IN THE DIOCESE

November 15th - Holy Infancy- after the 12:15pm mass until 5:00pm

November 17th - SS Simon and Jude - 12:00pm to 1:30pm and after the Vietnamese mass from 2:00pm to 5:00pm

November 18th - St. Luke's Sacred Heart Hospital Chapel - 2:00pm to 3:00pm, and after the 3:30pm Mass

November 22th through November 24nd - Notre Dame - Bethlehem, after the morning mass until 4:00pm

CHAPLET OF UNITY (Please pray from November 15th to the Feast of Christ the King)
On the Our Father Beads of the Rosary:

God Our Heavenly Father through Your Son Jesus, our Victim, High Priest, True Prophet and Sovereign King, pour forth the power of Your Holy Spirit upon us and open our hearts. In Your Great Mercy, through the Motherly mediation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Queen, forgive our sinfulness, heal our brokenness and renew our hearts in the faith and peace and love and joy of Your kingdom that we may be one in You.

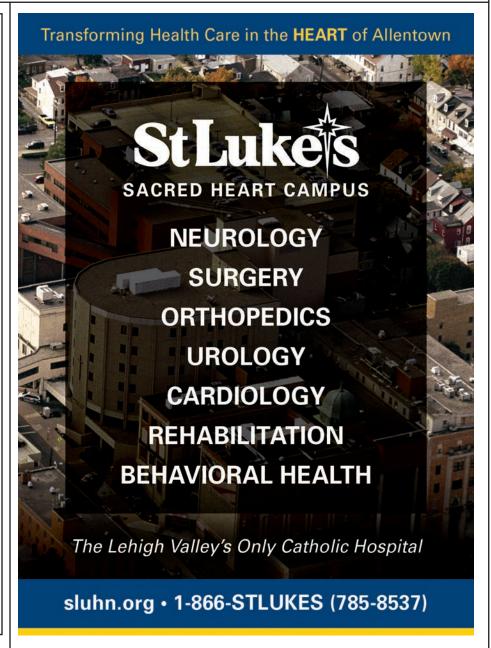
On the Hail Mary Beads of the Rosary:

In Your Great Mercy, forgive our sinfulness, heal our brokenness and renew our hearts that we may be one in You.

After five decades:

Hear, O Isreal, the Lord, our God is one God. Jesus, King of All Nations, may Your reign be recognized on earth. Mary, our Mother and Mediatrix of all Graces, pray and intercede for us, Your children. St. Michael, great prince and guardian of your people, come with all your holy angels and saints and protect us. Amen





Sister Monica Makes Solemn Profession of Vows with Carmelites

By TAMI QUIGLEY Staff writer

Carmelite Sister St. Mary Jeanette Monica Santos (Sister Monica) made her solemn profession of vows June 8 at the Carmelite Monastery of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Coopersburg.

The Allentown Carmelite Monastery is also site of the Shrine of St. Therese of

"Now she can sing with the virgin martyr, St. Agnes, 'I am a daughter of the Church.'" Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert presided at the ceremony.

Sister Monica is from the Mater Carmeli Monastery, Tarlac, Philippines. In February she and Sister Arlene Marie and

Sister Mary Ann left the monastery to reinforce the Carmel of the Little Flower in the Allentown Diocese.

Carmelite Mother Mary Veronica, prioress of the monastery, said it was significant the ceremony took place the day before Pentecost.

"The universal Church expressed its joy as this young woman consecrated her life in poverty, chastity and obedience as Americans, Filipinos, Africans and Irish, among others, witnessed the event," said Mother Veronica.

"The beautiful symbols – the ring of espousals with Jesus, the Breviary for the Life of Prayer and the Rules and Constitutions of the Carmelites – were presented to the newly professed," Mother Veronica said.

"Now she can sing with the virgin martyr, St. Agnes, 'I am a daughter of the Church,'" said Mother Veronica.

The Lehigh Valley Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) served as Sister Monica's honor guard.

The Apostles of Jesus are chaplains of the monastery.



Gathering at the main altar at the solemn profession of vows of Sister Monica at the Allentown Carmelite Monastery of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Coopersburg are, from left: Carmelite Mother Teresa Margarita; Carmelite Sister Arlene Marie; Marylyn Santos, Sister Monica's mother; Father Mario Esposito; Carmelite Sister Monica; Deacon Christopher Kinsella, who serves St. Thomas More, Allentown; Bishop Alfred Schlert; Apostles of Jesus Father Augustine Indra; Apostles of Jesus Father Elias Munyaneza; Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Joseph Becker, the sister's confessor at the monastery; Apostles of Jesus Father Bahati; and Edmund Santos, Sister Monica's brother. (Photos courtesy of Michael Demyan)



Processing into the ceremony are, from left, Carmelite Sisters Mother Teresa Margarita, Sister Monica and Sister Arlene Marie.



Sister Monica holds the Breviary for the Life of Prayer before Bishop Schlert.



133 East Broad Street Bethlehem

610.691.2800

www.DanyiLaw.com

ESTATE PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION
POWERS OF ATTORNEY
TRUSTS
ELDER LAW

We make local nursing home and house calls.



Where: St. Benedict Parish 2020 Chestnut Hill Road Mohnton (Plowville) PA, 19560

Please join our Parish Choir, under the direction of Andrew Angstadt, as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus Christ. During this season of running around let us take a moment and reflect on the true meaning of the season. Join us for scripture and music that will fill your spirits!

Our Parish Choir will be joined with a professional String Quartet and our Women's Club will be providing free refreshments for all who attend.

O Come All Ye Faithful!!!

NOVEMBER 14, 2019 DIOCESE THE A.D. TIMES 1

Cross Country Championship Draws Record High 19 Teams



Left, kindergarten to second-grade boys start their race during the Diocesan Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Cross Country Championship Oct. 13 at St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton. Nathan Maxwell (#3909) of St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield came in first and Maxwell Baxter (#4079) of St. Thomas More, Allentown was second. A total of 19 teams — the largest number of teams ever competing — and 552 runners participated. CYO is one component of a parish's youth ministry program and is coordinated by the Diocesan Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry (OYYAFM). (Photo by Ed Koskey)



The start of the third- and fourth-grade girls' race during the meet. "I think this event best lays out the mission of CYO. This is an open event to all parishes in the Diocese, which includes kids of all ages from K-8. There are kids of all different talent levels afforded the opportunity to compete and have fun. I see kids enjoying themselves whether they come in first or are the last one across the line. In my opinion just finishing the race makes every kid here a winner," said Daniel Jones, CYO coordinator with OYYAFM. (Photo by Ed Koskey)





Above right, Mike Romanic, who coaches the cross country team from St. John Vianney Regional School, Allentown, shows the shirt he received during the event for his 21 years of coaching. Romanic, who is retiring, is holding the "Passion" shirt from Team Decker's fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society/Team Decker and local blood cancer patients. "The words on the shirt are true for any blood cancer patient, but also true for the dedication and devotion Mike has shown to his kids at St. John Vianney and the rest of the diocesan runners," said Gene Decker, St. Jane's coach and diocesan CYO cross country coordinator. (Photo by Ed Koskey)

Left, The 552 runners are ready to start the meet, holding signs thanking Team Decker in their fundraising efforts to fight blood cancers. Gene Decker, center, honors two diocesan coaches who are survivors of blood cancers: Erin Boyle Dewatt of St. Jane, left, and Tony Karwacki of St. Theresa, Hellertown. The fundraising was for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society/Team Decker and for local blood cancer patients. Team Decker will be running the Disney World Half Marathon for the fourth time Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020 to honor blood cancer patients. Its fundraising year ends with this event.

More photos on the diocesan website <u>www.allentowndiocese.org</u> under "Latest News" on the homepage.

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.

ICF 105 – Christian Morality

Learn not just the what, but the why,

of the Church's moral teachings. Participants will examine virtue, conscience formation and make application to contemporary moral is-

sues in the areas of health care, sexuality and social justice.

The

Institute for

Formation

Catechesis

Presented online by Father Eric Gruber, Monday, Nov. 18 to Sunday, Dec. 15.

Sunday Scripture

Sunday, Nov. 17 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading
Malachi 3:19-20a
Responsorial Psalm
Psalms 98:5-9
Second Reading
2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Gospel
Luke 21:5-19

Sunday, Nov. 24 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-3 Responsorial Psalm Psalms 122:1-5 Second Reading Colossians 1:12-20 Gospel Luke 23:35-43 12 THE A.D. TIMES DIOCESE _______NOVEMBER 14, 2019

St. John XXIII's Baby Food Ministry Expands with Poverty Relief Grant

By TARA CONNOLLY Staff writer

One of the many local projects and services funded with Diocesan Poverty Relief grants will help struggling parents and families with baby food and cereal in Schuylkill County.

St. John XXIII Parish, Tamaqua was awarded a \$5,000 grant through the fund, which is made possible through a special annual second collection that will be held at Masses the weekend of Nov. 16-17.

The parish began developing the ministry last fall after Father John Frink, pastor, and other parishioners became aware of the financial burden families encounter when purchasing baby food and cereal for infants.

After meeting with members from the nearby Zion Lutheran Church, Tamaqua, who operate a "diaper depot," the parish began planning the ministry with Zion Lutheran.

"It's nice to work together to better our community. We followed their lead, and they have been a huge help to us," said Anna Mary Maura, parishioner and volunteer for the ministry.

But the ministry had no funding until it applied for a Diocesan Poverty Relief grant that put the ministry in motion after the society was notified of the award.

Diocesan Poverty Relief grants support a wide range of local projects and services that alleviate and address poverty in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill counties.

Since May, the grant has allowed the society to purchase baby food and cereal through its local grocer, Boyer Food Market, Tamaqua, said Maura, a member of the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society, which spearheaded the ministry.

According to Maura, the society distributes brochures promoting the ministry for families in the Tamaqua Area School District or for families who attend the parish.

"After we get the number registered, we then shop for all of those people. We go to Boyer's, and they've been fantastic. We go shop for the people and they package it up for us, and we distribute it here," she said.

The initial month of the ministry saw a modest request for baby food and cereal, but by October, requests had risen six-fold – largely in part due to the 24.9 to 42.9 percent of children under age 5 falling below the poverty rate in the region.

"The grant has been a big help to fami-



lies, and the ministry has brought more parishioners together," said Maura.

Families served by the ministry include a young woman with twins, couples

Jean Hunsinger, left, and Anna Mary Mauro package baby food and cereal for the new ministry at the parish made possible by a Poverty Relief grant.

with multiple children, and grandparents who foster or have custody of grandchildren

Aside from the baby food ministry, SVDPS also extends assistance to other people facing financial difficulties and poverty.

"If people call us and need assistance for groceries or utility bills ... we've helped with that," said Marge Menconi, recording secretary for the ministry. "If somebody calls for help that needs food, we would shop for them and then deliver the groceries to their house."

The ministry takes place the third Saturday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. and is by appointment only. Registration can be emailed to tamaquasvdp@outlook.com or by phone at 570-225-8620. Requests must be made at least three days before the distribution on the third Saturday.

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.

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 <u>www.allentowndiocese.org/poverty-relief</u> or contact Paul Acampora at <u>pacampora@allentowndiocese.org</u> or 610-871-5200 ext. 2210.



Colecta de Fondos Diocesanos para Combatir la Pobreza

16 y 17 de Noviembre

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

Bangor Knights of Columbus Donate to Galgon House

Knights of Columbus Father DeNisco Council 3862 of Bangor concluded its "baby bottle" fundraiser July 20 for the Cay Galgon Life House, Bethlehem, raising a total of \$5,678.

Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Roseto and St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Pen Argyl, the council collected over 300 pounds of checks, bills and coins between Mother's Day and Father's Day.

"This is the first time we participated in this campaign and frankly, we were astounded by people's generosity," said campaign chairman Tom Miller.

The Galgon house provides limitedterm residential support to pregnant women and mothers with newborns who would otherwise be without housing.

It also provides nonresidential services to over 500 low-income women and children in the community each year, through items such as food, clothing, diapers, formula and furniture.

Founded by Father Michael J. Mc-Givney to provide financial aid to immigrants and families suffering from the death of the breadwinner, the Knights of Columbus has grown to over 15,000 councils and 1.9 million members. In 2017, the Knights set a record for charity with \$185,600,673 in donations and 75.6 million hours of service.



Christine Duddy, director of operations at Cay Galgon Life House, receives the donation from Greg Findon, left, grand knight, and campaign chairman Tom Miller.

DIOCESE THE A.D. TIMES November 14, 2019

Calendar

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

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, 610-867-

Friday, Nov. 15

"Visitation of the Traveling Images of Jesus, King of All Nations and Our Lady of Guadalupe," Holy Infancy, Bethlehem, after 12:15 p.m. Mass until 5 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 16

Poverty Relief Fund Collection, also Sunday, Nov.

White Mass, Annunciation BVM (St. Mary's), Catasauqua, 4 p.m. allentowncma@gmail.com.

Sunday, Nov. 17

Breakfast, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bath, Knights of Columbus 14464, church basement, 7-11 a.m., adults \$9, children \$4, under 6 free; monthly special Belgian

Breakfast, St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring, Knights of Columbus, school hall, 8 a.m.-noon, adults \$8, children 6-12 \$4, under 6 free.

'Visitation of the Traveling Images of Jesus, King of All Nations and Our Lady of Guadalupe," SS. Simon and Jude, Bethlehem, noon-1:30 p.m. and after Vietnamese Mass at 2 p.m.

"Because We Are Catholic" Casting Extras for Video, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, 1 p.m., RSVP stephanie@thepeaktv.com.

"Gosnell," movie, St. Anne, Bethlehem, Community Center, 3 p.m.; investigation, coverup and trial of his abortion killing spree in Philadelphia; free admission and refreshments, entrance from Hickory Street or Washington Avenue, bephl1973@gmail.com.

Monday, Nov. 18

'Visitation of the Traveling Images of Jesus, King of All Nations and Our Lady of Guadalupe," St. Luke's Sacred Heart Campus Chapel, Allentown, 2-3 p.m. and after 3:30 p.m. Mass.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

Eucharistic Adoration, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, after 8:15 a.m. Mass ending at 9 p.m. with benediction, Divine Mercy chaplet 3 p.m., Miraculous Medal Novena 7 p.m., Rosary 7:30 for more vocations to priesthood and religious life, every Tuesday.

Thursday, Nov. 21

"Visitation of the Traveling Images of Jesus, King of All Nations and Our Lady of Guadalupe," Allentown Central Catholic High School, chapel, 7:45 a.m.-4 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 22 – Sunday, Nov. 24

"Visitation of the Traveling Images of Jesus, King of All Nations and Our Lady of Guadalupe," Notre Dame, Bethlehem, after morning Mass until 4 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 23

"Standing Firm in Our Faith," Diocese of Allentown men's conference, DeSales University, Center Valley, register by Friday, Nov. 13, www.allentowndiocese.org/ 8900 ext 2021

Saturday, Nov. 23 – Sunday, Nov. 24

Bake Sale, Immaculate Conception BVM, Allentown, Saturday after 4 p.m. Mass, Sunday after 9:15 a.m. Mass.

Sunday, Nov. 24

Observance Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, noon Mass, exposition until 4 p.m., Divine Mercy chaplet 3 p.m., benediction at 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 3

#GivingTuesday, largest global giving day of the year, including Catholic Charities, www.allentowndio cese.org/catholic-charities/about.

Thursday, Dec. 5

Homeschool Families First Friday Gathering, St. Anne, 450 E. Washington Ave., Bethlehem, 6 p.m., followed by adoration and confessions until 7 p.m., and informal social, 610-866-0791 ext. 332 or kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org.

Friday, Dec. 6

"Catholic Questions and Answers," Dunkin' Donuts, Pottsville, First Fridays evangelization effort by Monsignor Edward O'Connor and Father Barnabas Shayo of St. Patrick Church, Pottsville, 6 p.m., 570-622-1802.

Eucharistic Adoration, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, after 8:15 a.m. Mass until 10 p.m. with benediction, Divine Mercy Chaplet 3 p.m., rosary 7:30 for more vocations to priesthood and religious life.

Saturday, Dec. 7

Holiday Hop Dance, St. John the Baptist, Allentown, social hall, 7-10 p.m., \$5, BYOB, doors and kitchen open 6:30 p.m., 610-432-3505.

National Appeal for Retired Religious, also Sunday,

Sunday, Dec. 8

Spaghetti Dinner, St. Patrick, 319 Mahantongo St., Pottsville, parish center, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., adults \$8, children \$3.50, 570-622-1802.

Retreats

First Tuesdays

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

Friday, Nov. 15 – Sunday, Nov. 17

"Messengers of Grace: Learning to Listen for God's Daily Invitations," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, www.jesu itcenter.org/MessagesofGrace.

Wednesday, Dec. 4

"Anticipation: The Challenges and Blessings of Waiting," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, www.jesuitcenter.org/ AdventDayofPrayer.

Friday, Dec. 6 – Sunday Dec. 8

"Advent Weekend Directed Retreat," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, www.jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats by-

Friday, Dec. 13 – Thursday, Dec. 19

"Five-Day Advent Directed Retreat," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, mleonowitz@jesuwww.jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats by

"Love Beyond All Telling: Advent Journey of Faith," St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, \$165, stfranciscenter@gmail.com, www.francisctr.org, 610-867-8890.

Monday, Dec. 16

"Franciscan Christmas," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 6 p.m., \$30, register by Monday, Dec. 9, www. stfrancisretreathouse.org, 610-258-3053, ext. 10.

Thursday, Jan. 2 – Monday, Feb. 3

"The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius," 30-day silent retreat, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, www.jesuitcenter. org/spiritual_exercises.

Friday, Jan. 10 – Saturday, Jan. 18

"Eight-Day Directed Retreat," Jesuit Center for Spir-Sunday, Dec. 15 itual Growth, Wernersville, mleonowitz@jesuitcenter. org, www.jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats bylength.

Friday, Jan. 24 – Sunday, Jan. 26

Weekend Directed Retreat," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, mleonowitz@jesuitcenter. org, www.jesuitcenter.org/directedretreats bylength.

> Advent and Christmas Vespers, **Concerts, Shows, Special Events** See Page 3

Bazaars/Festivals

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.

Saturday, Nov. 23

Christmas Bazaar, St. Mary, Hamburg, Ave Maria Hall, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 610-562-7657, ext. 0.

Saturday, Dec. 7

Christmas Bazaar and Flea Market, St. Joseph, 1018 N. Eighth St., Reading, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., 610-376-2976. Christmas Craft Bazaar, Holy Guardian Angels, 3125 Kutztown Road, Reading, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 610-929-3544.

Saturday, Dec. 7 – Sunday, Dec. 8

Christmas Crafts and Food Festival, St. Columbkill, Boyertown, Quinn Hall, Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 484-529-5423.

Sunday, Dec. 8

Cookies and Crafts for Christmas, St. Nicholas, 4412 Mountain View Drive, Route 946, Walnutport, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 610-360-4708 or 610-703-4943.

Holiday Artisan Showcase and Sale, St. Catharine of Siena, 4975 Boyertown Pike, Reading, social hall, 5:30-8:30 p.m., aimpellizzeri@scsreading.org.

Socials

Sundays

Bingo, St. Joseph, Summit Hill, 6:30 p.m. Bingo, Immaculate Conception School, Pen Argyl, 1 p.m., doors open 11 a.m., 610-863-4816.

Bingo, Most Blessed Sacrament, Bally, 12:30 p.m., doors open 11 a.m., 610-987-8851.

Thursdays

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

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.

Saturday, Nov. 16

Cash Bingo, Knights of Columbus Council 19654, St. Benedict, 2020 Chestnut Hill Road, Mohnton, 6-10 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 17

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

Sunday, Nov. 24

Meat Bingo, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, church hall, 1 p.m., doors and kitchen open noon, ticket required, \$20, 610-433-6102.

Sundays, Nov. 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.

Saturday, Dec. 7 – Sunday, Dec. 8

Tricky Tray, Sacred Heart, Bethlehem, Father King Hall, Saturday 11 a.m-7 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-1:45 p.m., 610-330-0761.

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

Trips

Newly announced

Sunday, June 14 – Friday, June 19

St. Teresa of Calcutta, Mahanoy City, Golden Agers to Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina, \$789, 570-773-1753.

Diocese to Host Webinar on Drawing Young People Back to the Faith

"How to Draw Young People Back to the Faith with Marcel Lejeune" will be the topic of a webinar hosted by the Diocese of Allentown Wednesday, Dec. 4 at

This seminar on the internet can be accessed on your own device at our own location.

LeJeune, president and founder of "Catholic Missionary Disciples," will offer some guidance on the best ways to draw the young people in your life back into the Church, especially newly fallen-away college



LeJeune

students

The webinar will be live, free to attend. Preregistration is required. It will not be recorded or rebroadcast.

As a Catholic evangelist, international speaker, and award-winning author, LeJeune loves to share his greatest passion – helping others come to know the love of Jesus and how to share that love with others.

He served as associate director of campus ministry at St. Mary's Catholic Center at Texas A&M University for 11 years, the largest campus ministry in the country. Before that he was director of campus ministry at St. Elizabeth's University Parish at Texas Tech University. He holds a master of theological studies, specializing in pastoral theology.

He is the author of three books and has contributed to several others. His articles



have been published in many national Catholic magazines, newspapers and websites. He is a regular guest on EWTN radio and Relevant Radio. He has also been featured on EWTN Television.

His book "Cleansed: A Catholic Guide to Freedom from Porn" was a first place

winner in the Catholic Press Association's book awards.

The most important part of his life, and his vocation, is being a husband and father. LeJeune and his wife, Kristy, have five children.

To register for the webinar, go to <u>www.</u> <u>allentowndiocese.org/webinars</u>.

Nazareth Knights Present Scholarships





Can You Help? Catholic Charities Volunteer Opportunities

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown is searching for volunteers to assist with our many programs and services.

Volunteer opportunities include activity assistants, compassionate visitors, drivers, food pantry organizers, mentors/homework helpers and soup kitchen servers.

As a volunteer, you provide *help* and create *hope*.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Bob Olney at 610-435-1541 ext. 327 or ccvolunteer@allentowndiocese. org.

IDEAL HARDWOOD FLOORS

Residential & Commercial

All types of hardwood floors

- Installation Repairs
- Sanding
 Staining

Refinishing

- "Old floors made like new"
- Quality Work Fully InsuredLow Rates FREE Estimates

CALL JAY (610) 295-4110 or (610) 261-4396

Terry Dunne of Knights of Columbus Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Council 4282 at Holy Family Church, Nazareth presents two \$750 memorial scholarships to Holy Family School eighth grade graduates, Amber Unger, right, and Noah Zachariah. Unger and Zachariah are attending Notre Dame High School, Easton and Bethlehem Catholic High School, respectively.

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

> Reconciliation at Noon Social after mass

Facebook: Berks County
Traditional Latin Mass Community



Affordable Senior Communities of Catholic Senior Housing Development and Management

A DIVISION OF CATHOLIC SENIOR HOUSING AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES, INC.

Queen of Peace Apartments

777 Water Street POTTSVILLE 570-628-4504

Holy Family Bethlehem Apartments

330-338 13th Avenue BETHLEHEM **610-866-4603**

Neumann Apartments

25 North Nichols Street ST. CLAIR 570-429-0699

Queen of Angels Apartments

22 Rothermel Street LAURELDALE 610-921-3115

St. Ann Senior Apartments

30 East Bertsch Street LANSFORD 570-805-4640

Antonian Towers

2405 Hillside Avenue EASTON 610-258-2033

Holy Family New Philadelphia

100 Valley Street NEW PHILADELPHIA 570-429-0699

St. Catharine Senior Apartments

2000 Perkiomen Avenue READING **610-743-5374**



Affordable senior housing applicants must meet federal guidelines for seniors 62+ and disabled individuals 18+. One bedroom and studio apartments rent limited to 30% of your annual income.

ALL FAITHS WELCOME





NOVEMBER 14, 2019

DIOCESE _____THE A.D. TIMES _____

Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners Take Their Faith to the Streets

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in East Allentown held a "Street Ministry" on Hanover Avenue Sept. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Several parishioners stood in front of the church with signs inviting passersby to enjoy a free hot dog. Nearly 300 people stopped.

At the same time, they received a blessing from Father George Jose Kochuparambil (Father Johnson), parish administrator, and an informational sheet inviting them to the parish. The sheet included details regarding Mass times, parish programs and upcoming parish events.

They also were invited to the rear of the church to get their car washed as a

fundraiser for the parish. Approximately 100 cars were sparkling clean as a result.

"It was an exciting and fun way to welcome others to the Catholic faith," said organizers. "It was also a great way to share God's love in the East Side community."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the Church "strives to preach the Gospel to all men: 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and Lo, I am with you always, until the close of the age.'"





Above, Manning the car wash fundraiser are, from left, Alizet Pena, Lia Ramos, Eligio Tavarez and Liana Ramirez.

Below, Father Johnson offers "drive-thru blessings."





Above, Arlenne Rosario and Dennis Buchanin man the hot dog table, wearing shirts that read "We love you, God loves your more."

Left, offering hot dogs
– and their Catholic
faith – to passersby
are Rosanne Venditto and Dick Raffensperger.

Immaculate Conception Parishioners Gather for Picnic



Hundreds of people gathered to celebrate parish fellowship and a strong faith community at the 10th annual picnic of Immaculate Conception Parish, Jim Thorpe. Featured were Irish step dancing, a cake walk, great food and desserts.





World **NOVEMBER 14, 2019 16** THE A.D. TIMES

Bishops

▶▶Continued from page 1

the Baltimore gathering.

Among the other votes Nov. 12, the action item that received the most discussion was about new materials to complement "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," their long-standing guide to help Catholics form their consciences in public life, including voting. The bishops voted to approve the additions, including the addition the statement prompting the discussion that called abortion the preeminent social issue of our time.

The second day of bishops' meeting coincided with oral arguments at the Supreme Court over the fate of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, and bishops at the Baltimore meeting spoke up in defense of DACA recipients on the floor and in interviews with Catholic News Service.

Bishops also heard a wide-ranging report on immigration Nov. 12, which included updates of policy; how programs to resettle refugees, including those run by the Catholic Church have closed or reduced activity because the administration has moved to close the country's doors to those seeking refuge; and efforts on the border to help asylum cases.

After the report, Major-Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia said that no community, more than Catholics in the U.S., know what it's like to be an immigrant in this country.

The bishops' second day of meetings also included a presentation of the pope's document "Christus Vivit," which was issued after the 2018 Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment. Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia and Bishop Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut collaborated on the presentation, which included two young adults.

Brenda Noriega, a young woman from the Diocese of San Bernardino, Califor-



Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, right, applauds as Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles acknowledges the applause after being named the new president. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

nia, said the document "lays out some areas that are especially important to encounter, including young people impacted by marginalization and poverty, young people feeling overwhelmed by culture, family or judgment, young migrants and refugees and immigrants and those impacted (by the) immigration situation."

These areas also are important, she added, to youth who are bullied or ostracized online young, people who feel unloved, "youth or young adults experiencing or witnessing abuse in all forms.'

In the document the pope reminds them of love and of hope, she said, telling them they are not worthless, alone and that Christ is alive.

The bishops also heard that a new pastoral framework for marriage and family life" should be ready for a vote

by the U.S. bishops by next November at the latest, according to Archbishop Chaput, chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

He said the document might be ready for a vote when the bishops meet in June 2020, but stressed that it is not a "plan," since it is intended to be applied within parishes and dioceses. "It was never meant to be a single comprehensive national plan, but a resource toward the development of pastoral plans at the diocesan/eparchial levels.

On the first day of the meeting Nov. 11, the bishops raised pressing issues that included the priesthood shortage, gun violence, young people leaving the church and the need to provide support services for pregnant women.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal

Bishop Schlert Congratulates New President

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert issued the following statement on the election of Archbishop Gomez, the first Hispanic American to be elected to this position.

"I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to Archbishop Jose Gomez, newly elected president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

As a natural unifier in the Conference, Archbishop Gomez will be a stalwart guardian of the Church's teachings, a strong leader in youth protection, and a clear moral voice for the plight of the immigrant and the refugee.

"I look forward to working with Archbishop Gomez and all the newly elected chairmen."

nuncio to the United States, mentioned some of these challenges in his opening remarks, along with the need to welcome migrants and fight racism.

In another vote, the bishops voting overwhelmingly on a revised set of strategic priorities to take them into the next decade. They also discussed upcoming votes during their gathering, such as news materials to complement "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, their long-standing guide to help Catholics form their consciences in public life, including voting.

Retired Army Col. Anita Raines, who chairs the National Advisory Council, said in a report to the bishops that the group supported the prelates' effort to promulgate its "Faithful Citizenship" document and supplemental materials.

Bishop Barron Urges Bishops to Help Bring People Back to the Church

BALTIMORE (CNS) – Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles did not just bemoan the fact that many young people are leaving the Catholic Church. He said church leaders need to make it a priority to bring them back.

The bishop, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, who is known for his website "Word on Fire" and hosting the documentary series "Catholicism," offered a fivestep plan of sorts to bring the religiously unaffiliated, or "nones," back to the fold.

Social justice work

He said for starters, the church should lead with its social justice work, getting young people involved with caring for those in need, working in soup kitchens, prison ministries, helping the homeless. Leaders can reinforce this by reiterating messages on social justice from Popes Leo XIII to Francis.

From there, the church should promote its own writers and artists to show people the beauty of the Catholic faith, he said.

Dumbing down

Another key step – and he said he's been "banging this drum for a long time" – is to stop dumbing down the faith. The bishop, who first brought up this issue of church exodus with the bishops at the spring meeting, said young Catholics, or those of any age, should be able to articulate why they believe what they do.

For starters, "we have to beef up the intellectual content of our religion classes

in Catholic schools, our religious education programs, RCIA, confirmation preparation, etc.," he said.

From his own experience, he said he has been asked very basic questions, particularly on the "AMA" (Ask Me Anything) feature on Reddit, an internet news aggregator, about faith, including: "Who is God and can you prove he exists? Can you explain evil and how do you know that your religion is right?"

He said it "breaks your heart to realize we haven't communicated our tradition effectively," but that doesn't mean throwing in the towel. Instead, the work begins locally: in one's parish.

Missionary grounds

On the parish level, Catholics need to start recognizing that their parishes are not just places where they experience the sacraments, but they should be seen as missionary grounds. This especially holds true with reaching out to young people because, as he put it: "Young people aren't going to come to us; we have to go out to them."

This idea of going out to people is very much in line with Pope Francis' message of accompaniment, he added.

Social media

The bishop's last point was about using social media to turn this trend around stressing: "We should invest lot of time and money to get really good people to work our social media, suggesting that parishes, or even groups of parishes, hire

someone to do effective social ministry outreach.

Discussion

His presentation prompted more than one hour of discussion from the floor with bishops all in agreement that the drop in church numbers is a deep concern, and offering possibilities other to combat it from increased devotion to Mary to opportunities for mission work or strengthening catechetical programs.

Lay leaders

prought three lay leaders to the podium to help with the discussion, including Brandon Vogt,

author and content director for "Word on Fire," who echoed the bishop's point that young people leaving the church is a "huge crisis."

For every one person who comes into the church, six and a half walk out the back door, he said re-emphasizing the need not only to plug the hole but to



Bishop Barron Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron speaks during the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore Nov. 11. (CNS photo/Bob

"look for those who left."

He also suggested that just as parishes and dioceses have staff members working on abuse situation, someone should be working at the local level just to reach out to those who left the church. "If it's a priority, lets emphasize it with resources." he added.