

# the times

VOL. 32, NO. 2 | JANUARY 23, 2020



*Gala 2020*  
*At Home*  
*With Catholic*  
*Charities*  
Sunday  
March 8, 2020  
5:00 PM  
DeSales University Center



Mary and Anthony  
Martocci



Monsignor Martin

## Honorees announced for 2020 Catholic Charities Gala

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Allentown – which provided vital services for thousands of individuals and families last year throughout Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill counties – will hold its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala – “At Home With Catholic Charities” – with the goal of increasing fundraising to serve the less-fortunate in our communities.

While guided by Catholic social teaching, the agency has served individuals of all faiths since 1954.

This year's gala will be Sunday, March 8 at 5 p.m. at the DeSales University Center, Center Valley. The evening will feature live and silent auctions, a special appeal and presentations to the honorees, as well as a special raffle.

Last year's gala, attended by nearly 500 people, raised \$250,000.

This year's gala honorees are: Monsignor John Martin, pastor of St. Peter, Coplay; and Anthony (Tony) and Mary Martocci, parishioners of Assumption BVM, Bethlehem.

Jane and Von George will serve as gala chairpersons. Other committee members are: Paul Acampora, Evelyn and Anthony Carfagno (past co-chairs), Patty and Paul Huck (past co-chairs), Lori Mergel, Andrea Neagle, Rob Nicolella, Pam Russo, Julie Scheck, and Debra Walter.

All proceeds from the gala will support Catholic Charities programs and services in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill counties.

Services include: emergency food pantries, soup kitchens in Allentown and Pottsville, Chew Street Community Center in Allentown, case management, individual and family counseling, pregnancy and parenting support, veterans

*The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Catholic Charities Gala will support critical human services for those in need throughout Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill counties.*

support, services for older adults, immigration services, adoption search and reunion, and disaster relief services.

“The most important thing to staff and donors always is how we can help those who need us and how can we help

See GALA, page 4

## Status report on Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program

The Independent Oversight Committee has released an interim report on the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program, which is funded by the Diocese of Allentown to provide compensation for victims of clergy sexual abuse as one aspect of their healing.

The committee had planned to wait until all claims were processed and all offers were made before providing information publicly. However, because many of the applications

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## Episcopal appointments

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert has reappointed the following Vicars Forane, effective Jan. 2. Vicars Forane oversee the five deaneries that constitute the Diocese of Allentown.

**Father Thomas Bortz** – Berks Deanery (3-year term).

**Monsignor John Chizmar** – Carbon Deanery (1-year term).

**Monsignor William Glosser** – Schuylkill Deanery (2-year term).

**Monsignor Stephen Radocha** – Northampton Deanery (2-year term).

**Monsignor Daniel Yenushosky** – Lehigh Deanery (1-year term).

## COLUMN ] *Because We Are Catholic*

### Spreading God's love with nice, warm sweaters

William Shewalter was in second grade at Sacred Heart School in West Reading when his teacher challenged her students to find service projects to help the less fortunate.

Eight years later, Shewalter's "Sweaters for Seniors" project is still going strong. With the help of his parents and many generous volunteers, Shewalter has collected more than 1,500 sweaters for residents of Reading area nursing homes.

Why sweaters?

"I remember visiting my great aunt in a nursing home," said Shewalter, now a sophomore at Berks Catholic High School. "Everyone there wore sweaters year-round. They were always cold."

This year's Sweaters for Seniors collection is under way now and will run through February. With the help of Catholic Charities, Shewalter gets the word out for people to drop off sweaters at his school or his parish, Sacred Heart in West Reading. Then the 15-year-old piles them in the family car, and his parents drive him around to distribute them.

"God is very loving," Shewalter explains as he talks about his motivation for the project. "Jesus helped everyone he saw, and he taught us to be as loving to our neighbors as he was to us."

> By Paul Wirth, Diocesan Communications Staff

*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.



*This year's Sweaters for Seniors collection is under way now and will run through February.*

## PROGRAM

> continued from page 1

were received near the end of the program, causing a delay in processing, the committee decided to provide an interim report in the interest of transparency.

Here is the status report provided to the Diocese of Allentown by the Independent Oversight Committee:

"As of Jan. 2, 2020, 47 applicants have received compensation or compensation offers in the amount of \$8,975,000. No compensation offer has been rejected. Another 56 applications remain under consideration and review by the Independent Program Administrators who have not informed the Committee of a completion date. Please note that one application has been transferred to another Diocese. The IOC will issue its final Report when the Independent Program Administrators have fully completed their assessments. - The Independent Oversight Committee, by Edward N. Cahn, Lisa Garbacik, Rich Grucela"

Here is some background on the Independent Reconciliation

and Compensation Program:

The program is administered completely independent of the Diocese by Washington D.C.-based Attorney Kenneth Feinberg and his colleague, Camille Biros, who have a national reputation for fairness and independence in compensating victims of clergy sexual abuse and other tragedies. It was open for applications from April 23, 2019 through Sept. 30, 2019.

To help ensure autonomy, the Independent Oversight Committee operates without influence or control from the Diocese of Allentown. The committee oversees and periodically reviews the implementation and administration of the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program. It is chaired by The Honorable Edward N. Cahn, former Chief U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania now retired. Other members are Lisa B. Garbacik, Executive Director of Human Resources and Title IX Coordinator at Cedar Crest College; and The Honorable Richard Grucela, former State Representative for District 137 in Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

The Diocese set aside millions of dollars for victim compen-

sation by borrowing money, by the sale of unused property to repay the loans, and by using available cash.

No parish or school assets, and no money donated to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, are used for victim compensation. Current and future collections at parish Masses also will not be used for the fund.

The program is providing victims with prompt compensation, without the need for the uncertainty of years-long litigation. Applying to the fund was voluntary, and victims are not required to accept offers made by the administrators.

Providing funding for the program has placed the operations of the Diocese under severe financial stress. Nevertheless, the Diocese is working diligently to continue its pastoral and charitable mission for the communities in its five counties: Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill.

Anyone who knows of an incident of abuse, in the Church or elsewhere, should report it to the State ChildLine 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.

### How to report abuse:

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

### Cómo denunciar un abuso:

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



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Official newspaper for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Allentown, serving Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill counties.

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

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Top: Seminarians gathered with Bishop Schlert, center, and Father Christopher Butera, right, director of seminarian formation, are from left: Philip Mass, Keaton Eidle, Miguel Ramirez, Robert Rienzo, Deacon Juan Eduardo Rodriguez, Tyler Loch, Kolbe Eidle, Aaron Scheidel, Matthew Kuna, Anh Do Mai, James Hy Ngô and Alexander Brown. Bottom left: Talking at the luncheon are, from left, Alexander Brown, Anh Do Mai, Monsignor John Grabish, Father Mark Searles, Philip Maas and Monsignor David James. Bottom right: Bishop Schlert prays grace before the meal, and offers words of encouragement and gratitude. (Photos by John Simitz)

## Seminarians gather for Christmas, reflect on their vocations

Seminarians of the Diocese of Allentown gathered Dec. 27 at Lehigh Country Club for the annual Seminarian Christmas Luncheon, with Bishop Alfred Schlert, the seminarians' pastors, and members of the Diocesan Commission for Orders and Ministries.

Bishop Schlert welcomed the opportunity to spend some time with the seminarians during the season of Christ's birth, and thank them for their willingness to answer God's call to serve his Church as priests.

He also encouraged them to continue to support one another, and to continue to focus their time in seminary to pray, study and discern.

"Now in my fifth year of formation for the priesthood, I continue to wonder at God's great providence," said seminarian Philip Maas.

"Throughout my journey, he has put so many wonderful priests and seminarians in my life who have inspired and challenged me to grow in holiness and knowledge of Christ. I'm especially humbled to be studying alongside such fine men from the Diocese of Allentown."

New seminarian Kolbe Eidle commented, "I have always felt the call to the priesthood since I was very little. This has been further reinforced by the examples of the many great priests who I have been in contact with.

"I have also been blessed with the constant support of my family and friends. These have all been so instrumental in helping form and strengthen me as I discern my vocation further at St. Charles [Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia]."

Another new seminarian, James Hy Ngô, noted his "vocation journey is a journey with abundant blessings from God."

"In every single moment," he said, "I experience many different aspects of God's love. Learning from priests, my professors, my fellow seminarians and every person who God sends to my life, I grow day by day and get ready to introduce God and his love to people."

More photos on the diocesan website  
[www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org)  
under "What's New" on the homepage.



## Diocese recognized for its expertise in processing education tax credit scholarships

Recognizing the Diocese of Allentown's high level of service to donors who want to divert their state tax dollars to support Catholic education, the Diocese of Harrisburg will be using the Eastern Pennsylvania Scholarship Foundation to process applications for its education tax credit program.

Under the program, eligible donors can receive a 90% state tax credit, and designate that money to the Catholic school of their choice.

"This is a way to ensure that your state tax dollars make a positive impact in your own community," said John Fierro, who manages the tax credit program for the Allentown Diocese.

The Harrisburg Diocese had been processing applications through another vendor, but switched to the Diocese of Allentown's scholarship foundation to improve service to its donors. Harrisburg donors still designate to Catholic schools in their own diocese.

The arrangement also generates a modest income stream for the foundation because of a small processing fee for Harrisburg applications. Diocese of Allentown participants in the program pay no processing fee.

Under state rules, donors must meet certain eligibility requirements to take advantage of the program. The requirements, along with more information on the program, can be found at <http://spe.allentowndiocese.org>. Or call Fierro at 610-866-0581 ext. 2344.

The deadline to participate in this year's round of tax-credit scholarships is Friday, Feb. 28.

> By Paul Wirth, Diocesan Communications Staff

Catholic Schools Week 2020  
Sunday, Jan. 26 through Saturday, Feb. 1  
Open Houses and Other Events  
Listed on Facebook  
"Allentown Diocese Catholic Schools"



## GALA

&gt; continued from page 1

more of them. Our annual gala raises funds to enable us to do more," said Catholic Charities Executive Director Rob Nicoletta.

"We are so excited and proud to be honoring Monsignor Martin and Tony and Mary Martocci. Each of them believes in and shares our mission to provide compassionate service to all with respect for the sanctity of life."

You can help support Catholic Charities' annual gala, thereby funding the vital services it provides, by attending the gala, becoming a sponsor, purchasing an advertisement in the gala program book, purchasing raffle tickets or making a direct gift to Catholic Charities.

For more information, contact Julie Scheck, Catholic Charities advancement director, at 610-871-5200 ext. 2216 or [jscheck@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:jscheck@allentowndiocese.org), or visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/gala](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/gala).

## Monsignor Martin

Monsignor Martin was born in 1946, the first of seven children of the late John Martin and Anna (Kupetz). He attended St. Bartholomew School, Brockton and graduated from Marian High School, Tamaqua.

He prepared for the priesthood at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, where he earned bachelor of arts and master of divinity degrees. He was ordained March 18, 1972 at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown by Bishop Joseph McShea.

The new priest's first assignment was as assistant pastor of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall 1972-74. He was then called to service in diocesan administration, where for more than 20 years he served in a variety of roles: assistant financial secretary and then financial secretary for the Diocese; assistant director, Holy Family Manor and Villa, Bethlehem.

For part of that time, he served as chaplain of St. Francis

Center for Renewal, Monocacy Manor, Bethlehem. For 11 of those years he was in residence at St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield.

In 1992 he was named pastor of St. Stephen of Hungary, Allentown. He was pastor of Assumption BVM, Bethlehem 1996-2011. Since then he has been pastor of St. Peter, Coplay.

Monsignor Martin also has been a member of the Council of Priests, the Diocesan Consultors, the Committee for Priestly Vocations, the Board of Directors of the former Catholic Social Agency (now Catholic Charities) and most recently, member and later vice president and then president of the Board of Directors of Catholic Senior Housing and Health Care Services, Inc.

Monsignor Martin has twice received papal honors. He was named Chaplain of His Holiness with the title Monsignor on Dec. 15, 1981 by Pope John Paul II, and was named Prelate of Honor of His Holiness on Feb. 10, 1987 also by Pope John Paul II.

## Mary and Anthony Martocci

Mary Tropila of St. Anthony Parish in Jersey City, New Jersey met and married Anthony (Tony) Martocci while attending New York University. Having five children in six years (Laura, Philip, Natalie, Monica and Diana) kept her busy. During this time the family moved to Bethlehem and joined Assumption BVM (ABVM), Bethlehem.

Mary was very active with the new grade school and the parish, particularly coordinating bus trips, parish wedding ministry and altar flower committee. Outside the parish she enjoys volunteering at St. Luke's Hospital and spending time with her nine grandchildren.

Anthony (Tony) Martocci of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Roseto met Mary while in graduate school. At Bethlehem Steel he worked in various plant locations, in addition to Homer Research Labs and Corporate Energy Affairs.

After retirement Tony consulted for the U.S. Department of Energy with Oak Ridge National Labs. When relocating to Bethlehem, he became involved in ABVM activities, including

the Holy Name Society, Eucharistic minister coordinator and Finance Council.

In 1975 he became involved in the parish Boy Scout troop and continues his activity with the troop and Cub pack. Tony began making parish retreats at St. Francis Retreat House, Easton 45 years ago and continues as Board Emeritus.

They both made a "Cursillo Weekend" 40 years ago that was life-changing for them.

In their post-children-raising years they have focused on helping the poor, handicapped and elderly, which is similar to the mission of Catholic Charities. They feel very blessed to be part of our wonderful Catholic Diocesan Community.

COLUMN ] *Lightposts*

## Sunday of the Word of God an opportunity to encounter Christ

***This is the first in a series of monthly columns in observance of the first Sunday of the Word of God, Jan. 26.***

Are you familiar with the Scriptures? There is a new opportunity to encounter Christ in his word.

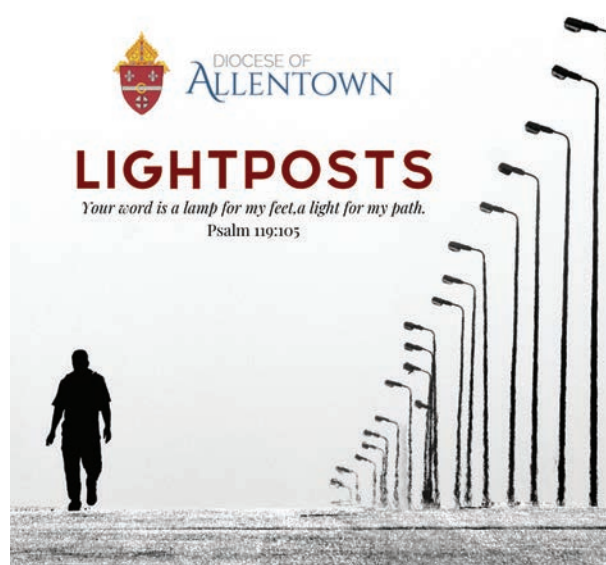
Pope Francis has instituted the "Sunday of the Word of God" beginning in 2020 on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, this year, Jan. 26. The Holy Father wants us to recognize and celebrate the inexhaustible riches that God offers in Scripture.

As Christians, we are called to regularly encounter Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Scriptures. Christianity is foremost a relationship with Christ, which requires knowledge of the other.

St. Jerome's oft-quoted claim "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ" impels us to engage the Scriptures.

In his document establishing this celebration, "Aperuit Illis," Pope Francis offers several suggestions for parishes to celebrate this Sunday. How would observation of this Sunday impact the life of the average parishioner? All should use this as an opportunity to engage the Scriptures.

You are encouraged to acquire a copy of the Catholic Bible, if you do not have one already. There are many translations available, but the most common are the Revised Standard Version (RSV) and the New American Bible (NAB), which is read during the Liturgy. If you do



not read Scripture regularly, consider reading for a few minutes every day, beginning with the Gospels and the Psalms.

Preparing for Holy Mass by praying with the readings for the day will enrich your experience of the Liturgy. The readings can easily be found online or with subscription services like "The Word Among Us" and "Magnificat" that send you booklets with the readings and reflections. If your parish has a subscription to [formed.org](http://formed.org), you can also use the "Opening the Word" resource to study and

pray with the Sunday readings.

In his Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis recommends "lectio divina" (divine reading), an age-old practice of reading and meditating on the Scriptures.

To learn more about it, read "Praying Scripture for a Change: An Introduction to Lectio Divina" by Dr. Timothy Gray or "WRAP Yourself in Scripture" by Karen and Lawrence Dwyer. Ascension Press also offers a video program called "Oremus," which teaches "lectio divina." Our Lord communicates with us through the Scriptures, so we must regularly pray with his word.

Consider undertaking some study of the Scriptures. For beginners, "Great Adventure: The Bible Timeline" video program by Jeff Cavins and Ascension Press is a great place to start. There are several studies in the series that go deeper into particular books of the Bible.

For a slightly more advanced study, Augustine Institute's "Lectio" series offers scriptural studies on several topics. The Bible study program "Verbum" facilitates the study of Scripture on a variety of levels for even the most academic proficiencies.

Wherever you are in your walk with God, take the opportunity of the Sunday of the Word of God to grow deeper in relationship with him through encountering him in the Scriptures in a new and deeper way than you have before.

> By Rick Dooley, Director, Adult Catechesis and Evangelization.

# Pope sets special day to honor, study, share the Bible

## *Sunday of the Word of God*

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** – The newly established “Sunday of the Word of God” is an invitation to Catholics across the world to deepen their appreciation, love and faithful witness to God and his word, Pope Francis said.

By papal decree, the third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Jan. 26 this year – is to be observed as a special day devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God.”

A day dedicated to the Bible will help the Church “experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world,” said the pope in the document establishing the special Sunday observance.

Dioceses and parishes have been invited to respond with creative initiatives, helpful resources and renewed efforts for helping Catholics engage more deeply with the Bible at church and in their lives.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, said added emphasis on the importance of the word of God is needed because “the overwhelming majority” of Catholics are not familiar with sacred Scripture.

For many, the only time they hear the word of God is when they attend Mass, he told Vatican News Sept. 30, when the papal document, titled “Aperuit Illis,” was published.

“The Bible is the most widely distributed book, but it’s also perhaps the one most covered in dust because it is not held in our hands,” said the archbishop.

With this apostolic letter, the pope “invites us to hold the word of God in our hands every day as much as possible so that it becomes our prayer” and a greater part of one’s lived experience, he said.

In his letter, Pope Francis wrote, “A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a yearlong event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers.”

“We need to develop a closer relationship with sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes



Left, Pope Francis holds the Book of the Gospels. (CNS photo/Paul Haring). Right, the official logo for the Sunday of the Word of God depicts “The Road to Emmaus” and is based on an icon written by the late Benedictine Sister Marie-Paul Farran. (CNS logo/courtesy Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization)



shut, struck as we are by so many forms of blindness,” he wrote.

Sacred Scripture and the sacraments are inseparable, he wrote. Jesus speaks to everyone with his word in sacred Scripture, he said, and if people “hear his voice and open the doors of our minds and hearts, then he will enter our lives and remain ever with us.”

Pope Francis urged priests to be extra attentive to creating a homily each Sunday that “speaks from the heart” and really helps people understand Scripture “through simple and suitable” language.

Pope Francis encouraged people to read the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, “*Dei Verbum*,” and Pope Benedict XVI’s apostolic exhortation on the Bible, “*Verbum Domini*,” whose teaching remains “fundamental for our communities.”

The pope also suggested pastors encourage people to read and pray with Scripture every day, especially through “*lectio divina*.”

“The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less

*“A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a yearlong event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers.”*

a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words,” the pope wrote.

## Next webinar a guide to defending your faith



“The Beginner’s Guide to Defending Your Faith” will be the topic of the next installment of the Winter Webinar Series, Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m.

Trent Horn, an adjunct professor of apologetics at Holy Apostles College and staff apologist for Catholic Answers, where he specializes in teaching Catholics to graciously and persuasively engage those who disagree with them, will lead the webinar.

He will show that you don’t need all the right answers – you just need the right questions and the right attitudes to share the

Catholic Faith with anyone.

A webinar is a live, virtual event hosted online. You can access the webinar from anywhere using your mobile device, computer or tablet/iPad.

For these webinars, you do not need a camera. The event will not be recorded or re-broadcast.

For more information and to register, visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/webinars](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/webinars). Once you are registered, you will receive instructions on how to connect.

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## Support the work of Catholic Relief Services Jan. 25-26

Parishes in the Diocese of Allentown will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection the weekend of Jan. 25-26. Your support of this collection serves Jesus in disguise in some of the most marginalized communities in our world.

For migrant farmworkers in California's San Joaquin Valley, workdays during the grape harvest begin at 6 a.m. and last until 7 p.m. Some workers have lived in the valley for years, renting nearby trailer housing, and others live in towns nearby. Still others are recent migrants from Mexico and Central America.

Catechists and lay ministers serve all these workers by visiting migrant camps near the vineyards where they work. They bring religious instruction and share prayer, theological reflection, and Catholic social justice teaching about the inherent dignity and rights of migrant workers like the people they serve.

Through funds from the collection, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' program for the pastoral care of migrants, refugees, and travelers collaborates with local dioceses to visit and attend to the needs of underserved migrant farm workers and others who live on the margins.

Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the globe. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year.

To learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, visit [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

Support the collection, and answer the knock of Jesus in disguise.



Displaying the proceeds from the Diocese of Allentown Golf Tournament are, from left: front, Father Jason Stokes, Bishop Alfred Schlert, Eric Weigand; middle, Monsignor Francis Schoenauer, Monsignor Edward Domin, Michael Duff, Monsignor David James; back, Paula Buchvalt, Frank Buchvalt, Michele Mullikin, Paul Acampora and John Boyer. (Photo by John Simitz)

## Golf tournament golfers and sponsors provide \$90,000 in scholarships

Seminarians and Catholic school students will receive more than \$90,000 in scholarships, thanks to dedicated golfers and sponsors who participated in the Diocese of Allentown Golf Tournament.

The event was held the last day of September at the Steel Club in Hellertown. It attracted more than 100 players who drove, chipped and putted their way to a very enjoyable afternoon. More than 40 sponsors generously provided financial support.

Co-chairs for the event were Eric Weigand, a parishioner of St. Thomas More, Allentown, and Father Jason Stokes, pastor of St. Matthew the Evangelist and St. Michael the Archangel parishes in Minersville.

The proceeds are providing seminarian scholarships for men considering a life of ordained service to the Diocese.

Additionally, golf tournament funds are providing scholarships to assist children and families hoping to enroll in a Catholic elementary school, high school, or center for special learning.

And if you missed your chance to call "fore" and join in the fun, mark your calendar: the next Diocese of Allentown Golf Tournament will be Monday, Sept. 28, 2020, at the Steel Club.

For more information, call Michele Mullikin, director of stewardship and annual giving, at 610-871-5200 ext. 2282, or visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/golf](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/golf).

*Join us!*

**Diocese of Allentown**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**September 28, 2020**

**Steel Club • 700 Linden Ave • Hellertown, PA**

*Proceeds to benefit Seminarian and Catholic School Education*

For more information contact Michele Mullikin at [mmullikin@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:mmullikin@allentowndiocese.org) or at 610-871-5200 x2282.

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## Death *Religious sister*

Sister Ann Damian Schwegler, 74, of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of St. Francis, died Jan. 18 at St. Joseph Villa, Reading.

She served in Pennsylvania as a teacher, principal, superior, administrator and local minister. In the Diocese of Allentown, she served at St. Anthony, Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Villa, all in Reading.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday, Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Convent Chapel, Mount Alvernia, Reading, with burial in the congregation's cemetery.



*A Tradition of Trust Since 1895*



## *Our Thoughts and Prayers go out to all the Families whose Loved One was Interred or Entombed with us in 2019*

RAMONA ACOSTA  
DOROTHY P ADAMS  
ANTHONY ALAIMO  
STELLA V ALBRECHT  
ALEJANDRO A ALMANZAR  
SANCHEZ  
DANILO C ALMERO  
JOHN ANDRAS  
JOAN M ANGST  
FRANCES M ANTOSY  
VIRGINIA M ARENTZ  
JOSEPH C AZZOLINA  
THOMAS E BABCAK  
CHARLES BAILEY JR  
LAUREN N BALBERCHAK  
FRANCES M BAMBRICK  
ROBERT S BARE  
JACQUELINE R BECK  
JEAN K BEDNAR  
EDWARD F BERGER  
GLORIA C BERNHART  
FRANK BIANCA SR  
SANDRA J BIBBO  
FRANK G BIGOS  
DEBORAH L BILINSKI  
STELLA K BLATT  
EDWARD D BOCHNIAK  
STANLEY J BOCZAR  
LUZ BORRERO  
JAMES P BORST  
LEON F BORST  
ANNA C BOUCHER  
MARY BOVA  
DOLORES BOWERS  
JOAN J BOWMAN  
ANNE F BOYER  
TERESA M BRETON  
KATHLEEN A BRICE  
CHARLES BRICKEL  
ARTHUR C BROMIRSKI  
VIRGINIA M BROPHY  
STELLA M BROSKEY  
BERNICE M BROWN  
JOSEPHINE BROZENE  
HAROLD R BUCHTER  
JEAN G BUCKLEY  
CHARLES A BUECHLEY JR  
THANH V BUI  
FLORENCE A BURASZ  
ALBERT W BURKEVAGE JR  
IBELISSE CABRERA  
WILLIAM A CAMARGO  
TERESA R CAMBRIA  
ALBERT CANDELARIA  
MARIA C CAPPELLO  
BRIAN M CARR  
VERONICA M CARRIGAN  
DEYNA CASTILLO  
JOYCE CASTNER  
DOREEN CHELIUS  
ARLENE R CHIRIELEISON  
PATRICIA A CHLEBOWSKI-EROH  
JOAN A CHRISTENSEN  
JOSEPH P CIATTO  
JAMES G CICHOWICZ  
MARIE C CIOTTI  
CATERINA F CIRULLI  
CATHERINE C CIRULLI  
THERESA G CITRULLO  
LISA M COLE  
JUSTINE M COLEMAN  
MARY E COLLINI  
MARIAN J CONDON  
JOANNE E COTE

BRIAN J CRONAN  
JOAN M CRONAN  
FELIX CRUZ  
JOHN D CUMMINGS JR  
RICHARD J DANILOWICZ  
JEANNE W DEANGELO  
BENJAMIN L DEAYER JR  
FRANK DEFAZIO  
MARIA I DeJESUS  
ANTHONY G DEL PERCIO  
WILFREDO DIAZ  
ANTHONY DiBLASI-MYERS  
WILLIAM J DIEHL JR  
BETTY J DISALVO  
WALTER B DOMAGALSKI  
BEATRICE M DOMENICE  
MICHELINE DOUGHERTY  
BARBARA A DOYLE  
EDITH I DUGUAY  
DOROTHY A DZIAMBA  
BARBARA ENGLEHART  
MARIA R ENGLEHART  
JAMES G ERTZ  
ARIANNA F ESTRADA  
PALMA D EVANS  
ELIZABETH M FARINA  
CHARLES R FARINA JR  
ELIZABETH M FASIG  
HAROLD J FASIG  
ELIZABETH A FAYEWICZ  
GABRIEL J FELLIN  
JANET M FENSTERMACHER  
MARIA FERRANTE  
EUGENE C FICK  
GERALDINE C FICK  
ALBERT J FIORINI  
DOMENICA FIORINI  
MARY FRANCES FIRTH  
THEODORE H FLOWERS SR  
RODOLFO V FOLINO  
CHARLOTTE S FOX  
DR FRANK A FRANCO  
BUENAVENTURA FRIAS  
ANN-MARIE FRIEL  
FELICIA B GABRIELLI  
MARY B GALLAGHER  
LEE W GARRIGAN  
JOSEPH A GATTO  
ERIC M GEHRER  
FRANCIS A GERSBACH JR  
MARY B GIANOPLOS  
ANNE J GIBO  
BETTY G GIFT  
LOUISE B GILES  
DOROTHY M GIOVANELLI  
CESAR GONZALEZ JR  
ISAIAH GONZALEZ-CASTILLO  
ROSALIE GRASSI  
MARGARET R GREELY  
PHYLLIS J GRILLO  
SANDRA L GROSS  
CHARLENE J GUIDARA  
GEORGE A GUILLES  
DOROTHY J HAGAN  
CLARENCE J HALL  
GERTRUDE T HALLOWELL  
MARY M HAMMES  
KRISTIN M HECKLER  
RAYMOND S HENDEL  
ROBERT P HERTZOG  
ROSE A HETZ  
WILLIAM H HEVALOW  
ROSALIA V HINKEL  
DOLORES J HOSLER

EUGENE E HRACHO  
JAMES H HUDSON  
MIRIAM L HULLINGER  
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PHYLLIS B IGLAR  
RICHARD K ISETT SR  
ANGELINE J JENDRUS  
SONIA C JOERGER  
WILLIAM J JOERGER SR  
WILLIAM N JONES  
KEVIN JUAREZ GONZALEZ  
STEVEN W JULIAN  
JOHN A KADILAK  
STANLEY C KALNOSKI  
WILLIAM J KELLER  
NANCY J KEMERY  
RALPH E KEMERY  
NORMAN J KENARY  
ALICE T KETTERER  
EUGENE W KLINGER  
DOROTHY R KLUSEWITZ  
KENNETH K KNARR  
GENE R KNOLL  
HOLLY S KNOLL  
SHARON L KOBER  
CRAIG A KOEHLER  
JOHN A KOLSON  
RICHARD M KOSTIVAL  
PATRICIA A KOSTZEWA  
JOSEPHINE KOWALSKI  
LAURA R KOZAK  
PAULINE A KRAFFT  
BOGDAN J KUSNIERZ  
DOLORES M LAMP  
PETER LAPI  
RONALD C LATTANZIO  
ASSUNTA M LePORE  
ANDREW E LIVINGHOUSE  
JORGE LOAIZA  
MARY F LOEPER  
DARLENE J LONG  
LENORE J LONG  
DOLORES R LORD  
JOSEPH A LUPIA SR  
JOHN MACHUZICK  
DONALD P MADARA  
JEANNE D MADDALONI  
SARA J MADL  
CAROLYN D MAGGIO  
MARY A MAGUIRE  
LUZ M MALDONADO  
W BERNARD MANNING  
VIVIAN E MARINELLI  
MARY E MARION  
PAUL A MARRELLA  
DENNIS S MARTIN  
ANNA L MASTRANGELO  
JOHN B MASTRANGELO  
PAULA V MATTHEWS  
LOUIS F MATUSZAK  
CHRISTOPHER J MAYER  
FRANK P MAYER  
ROBERT P MCCARTHY  
GERALD L MCDEVITT  
JOSEPH M MCGEE  
JOHN E MCGUIRE  
MARY ANN MCLAUGHLIN  
CARL M MEINHOLD  
JUAN R MENDEZ  
MARTA H MERCADO  
THERESA MERLINO  
FRANCES B MESSINA  
SALVATORE MICCICKE JR  
FRANCES D MILLER

SHARON A MILLER  
WILLIAM J MINOR JR  
JOHANNA B MITCHELL  
JOSEPH F MITCHELL  
WALLACE J MONDEREWICZ  
NOAH T MONSANTO  
EDWARD W MORRIS JR  
BERNICE C MOUNTZ  
WILLIAM G MOUNTZ  
CLARENCE MOYER  
IRENE MOYER  
JULIA A MOYER  
RODNEY E MOYER  
ARNOLD MUCH  
KATHLEEN A MURPHY  
PELA A NAFFIN  
ARTHUR C NAUGLE  
DAWN M NEGRI  
ROSE NEGRI  
ANNETTE L NEWKIRK  
EDWARD R NIEDROWSKI  
TERESA E NIEDROWSKI  
CARMELA NIGRELLI  
LUCIANO NEGRON RIVERA  
DONALD E NOGA  
ANNALIESE R NOVAK  
GERALD A NOWOTARSKI  
LAWRENCE W NOWOTARSKI  
THERESA A NOWOTARSKI  
ELAINE M OKONSKI  
CYNTHIA R OLEARY  
UMBERTO OLIVARES  
ELIZABETH ORTIZ  
RICHARD W PAOLINI  
ANGELA PARZANESE  
REV MARIAN PASKOWICZ  
RICHARD B PENTURELLI  
CHESTER PERFETTO  
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JAIME E RAMOS  
MARIA E RAMOS  
HECTOR S RAMOS-CRUZ  
FRED A RANALLI SR  
BERNICE G RATHMAN  
JOHN V RATHMAN  
JOHN RAVERT  
JAN G REBER  
DAVID A REIFSNYDER  
ROSEMARIE L REIFSNYDER  
WILLIAM W REINHART  
LUZ MARIA REYES  
FRANCIS R RICCI  
ELEANOR E RISSMILLER  
AURORA RIVERA  
JAIME RIVERA ROMAN  
JESUS M RODRIGUEZ  
ROSELIN RODRIGUEZ  
MIGUEL A ROSARIO  
ANNE M ROZUM  
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CATHERINE M RUDY  
ANNA T SAJDAK  
ELNON E SANCHEZ JR  
LUCIO SANTOS  
MARLISE N SANTOS  
DAMIEN F SANTOS-TORRES  
REV FREDERICK F SATTLER  
CARMELA SCHIAROLI  
MARCIA L SCHMIDT

SCARLET J SCHMITTINGER  
FLORETTA L SCHOOLS  
RICHARD E SCHRANTZ  
IGNATZ P SCHWAB JR  
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FRANCESCO SCIBILIA  
MICHAEL J SCREPESI  
JAMES R SEAMAN  
JOHN M SELLERS  
DANIEL P SEYLER  
ROSE MARIE SHADE  
MILDRED L SILLMAN  
ANNA SIMINITUS  
JANE A SKORASZEWSKI  
WILLIAM G SOCKEL  
ANA LUZ SOTO  
RITA A SROKA  
CAROL M STANTON  
BETTY R STASEK  
IRENE S STEINHAEUER  
JACQUELYN G STENAVAGE  
MARY ANN STENGEL  
STEVEN N STENGEL  
MARYLOU STOVER  
RICHARD S STUDLACK  
MARY E SULLIVAN  
TERESA M SWALLEY  
BARRY L SWEIGART  
ANNA F SWIEZAK  
ALFRED A SZYMBORSKI  
JOSEPHINE M SZYSZPUTOWSKI  
DOLORES V TARAS  
LOUISE M TASSONE  
JASON N TAYLOR  
MARY E TIEHL  
GEORGE J TOMASZEWSKI  
CAROL C TONER  
ALICIA R TORRES  
AILEEN C TSCHIDERER  
JEANNE H TURNER  
MADELYN R TURNER  
MARIE A UMBENHOUE  
RONALDO A URIBE  
ANGEL VEGA CINTRON  
ESTEBAN VELAZQUEZ  
MARIA M VELAZQUEZ  
IRIS M VELEZ  
BEATA M VILLANUEVA  
ELIZABETH E VOELKER  
ROBERT C VOGEL  
CHARLES VOZELLA  
ERIKA M WAGNER  
IRENE J WAGNER  
WILLIAM T WARD  
EILEEN WEIDNER  
JOHN J WELLS JR  
D ERMA WERNICKI  
JOSEPHINE V WILK  
DAVID S WILMOT  
MARY J WLOCZEWSKI  
PAUL YANOSIK  
DOROTHY M YEAGER  
STEPHANIE J YENSER  
BRYAN P YETTO  
PAUL E YODER  
RUTH V YODER  
PETRINA B YONCHUK  
BETTY J YOUNG  
JULIA A ZAJAC  
LOUISE K ZAMBITO  
MARY A ZDUNOWSKI  
WALTER R ZERKOWSKI  
RICHARD J ZVITKOVITZ



Above, first and second place winners of the junior and senior division are, seated from left, Luke Messina, Giavanna Randich, Megan Reaman and Katherine Joyce. Standing from left: Dr. Philip Fromuth, superintendent for Catholic education; Matthew Brumley; Annie Sarlo, secretary for Catholic Life and Evangelization; John Philipavage, Knights of Columbus; and Father Andrew Torma, M.S.C. Top right, Katherine Joyce, Senior Division first place winner, reads her essay. Bottom right, Matthew Brumley offers the keynote address on what it means to be pro-life. (Photos by Alexa Smith)



More photos and the first place essays on the diocesan website [www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org) under "What's New" on the homepage.

## Student essays affirm value of human life at every stage

"In the challenging times that we live in, it is our faith that Christ is our hope in every season of life," said Dr. Philip Fromuth, superintendent for Catholic education, at the "Stand Up for Life" essay contest award ceremony Jan. 19 at St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown.

"Christ Our Hope: In Every Season of Life" was this year's theme for the Junior and Senior Divisions, prompting students to affirm the value of the human person at every stage from conception to natural death.

A collaboration between the Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization and the Knights of Columbus, the essay contest garnered more than 600 submissions from middle and high school students throughout the Diocese.

Opening prayer was offered by Father Andrew Torma, M.S.C. Awards were presented by Annie Sarlo, secretary for Catholic life and evangelization, and John Philipavage, Knights of Columbus.

"We pray that our society will embrace the values that made us a great nation – the values of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all," said Fromuth during his opening remarks. "As faithful Catholics, we must be voices of hope to help those in need and reach out to protect the lives of those most vulnerable in our society."

Fromuth, who has been involved with the essay contest for more than 35 years, told the finalists and their families that even though we live in a society that values being politically correct, we must first and foremost demonstrate being profoundly Catholic.

"The challenges are clear, but the message is too often clouded in our secular society," he said. "As people of faith, we must speak out on the attacks on the rights of all our citizens in every season of their life."

> By Alexa Smith

## It takes courage to proclaim pro-life message

After presentation of the awards, a keynote address was offered by Matthew Brumley, parishioner of St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, and member of Lehigh Valley Pro-Life Future. In his remarks, Brumley called upon John 3:16.

"What does it mean for God to love the world so much that he would give his son to save it? What could be so valuable?" he asked.

Brumley explained it was not the vegetation nor the animals that made the world so precious, though they are beautiful. It was humanity, the pinnacle of creation, that God himself deemed priceless.

"Because of this, human life is inviolable," said Brumley. "Because of this, any act against the dignity of life is unequivocally prohibited by God and his Church, and we must do everything in our power to uphold this universal truth."

Brumley noted that it requires great courage for us to stand up in the public square to proclaim the pro-life message, and that it is vital to do so.

"We are in the midst of a war between the Culture of Life

and the Culture of Death, and millions of lives hang in the balance," he said.

Calling the audience to action, he discussed the importance of changing the culture through more than our words and conversations.

"We are called to go beyond the political sphere and intellectual discussion," he said. "There are many people immersed in the Culture of Death who are looking for a way out, who are crying out from the darkness. As Catholics, we must bear the light of hope so that they can walk back into communion with God."

Brumley noted that works of mercy, such as feeding the hungry or volunteering at shelters, are every bit as important to the Gospel of Life as the intellectual discussions in the political sphere.

He challenged his listeners to make frequent use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

"It is the imperative moral duty of all of us as Catholics to protect human life from womb to tomb," said Brumley.

## 'Stand Up for Life' essay winners

Winners for the Senior Division (grades 9-12): first place, Katherine Joyce, Blue Mountain High School, Schuylkill Haven; second place, Luke Messina, Nativity BVM High School, Pottsville.

Winners for the Junior Division (grades 7-8): first place, Megan Reaman, St. Jerome Regional School, Tamaqua; second place, Giavanna Randich, St. Theresa School, Hellertown.

Honorable mention in Senior Division: Karla Elias, Allentown

Central Catholic High School (ACCHS); Aaron Janis Jr., ACCHS; Keith Neidig, Bethlehem Catholic High School (Becahi); Gabriel Velez, Becahi.

Honorable mention in Junior Division: Angela Meiss, St. Jerome Regional School, Tamaqua; Tyler Nolt, LaSalle Academy, Shillington; Kate Redmond, St. Thomas More School, Allentown; Sam Salari, St. Thomas More; Jordan Smith, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton; Sara Witmer, LaSalle Academy, Shillington.

## OPINION ] Father Cizek: missionary, priest, hero



The mandate of Christ to go to every nation in His name serves as the foundation and motivation for the life of a man, a priest, a son of Shenandoah.

He was a man whose faith and fortitude took him 5,000 miles from home to endure cruelty, to court martyrdom, and to unite his life to Jesus Christ and proclaim Him crucified to a people brutalized, suffering, and laboring

under the Godless dictatorship of atheistic Communism.

Father Walter Cizek would fulfill what the future St. Paul VI would call, "The grace and vocation proper to the Church, and her deepest identity" because the Church "exists in order to evangelize."

Exactly 90 years ago, 150 Jesuit priests responded to the missionary call of Pope Pius XI, who realized the gravity of the circumstances in Russia as a new and godless doctrine began to corrode away a culture once steeped in the life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God. He called those Jesuits to go to Russia. Only Father Walter would ever come home.

Disguising himself to enter Russia, he was arrested and endured five years of torture and starvation, was imprisoned with Nazis and murderers when not being kept in the desolation of solitary confinement, and was forced to endure a decade of the most brutal Siberian labor.

Yet facts only tell part of the story, because in them we also find the countless thousands of hidden baptisms and secret confessions. We find a man of such deep personal mental, if not mystical, prayer that it led him to make so great a sacrifice of his very self to offer the sacrifice of the Holy Mass and treasure its richness and power, and in turn to offer that grace to others.

As Father Walter wrote, "it was my primary concern each new day... I would go to any length, suffer any inconvenience, run any risk to make the bread of life available to these men.

As the last century faced the threat of Communism, so we also face what Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI so rightfully called, "the dictatorship of relativism." It is a doctrine unto itself in which knowledge, truth, and certain morality is blinded from finding an absolute. Father Walter's life goes beyond showing us a diagnosis; he presents us with a cure.

Our Pope Emeritus states, "A friendship with Christ that opens us up to all that is good and gives us a criterion by which to distinguish the true from the false, and deceit from truth" is the answer. Father Walter's words are so powerful, but as saying goes, "actions speak louder than words."

Father Walter's friendship with Christ brought forth heroic actions meant to bring about the salvation of souls. From his life's witness we too can draw the strength to become missionaries. In this new era of Evangelization, our Church calls

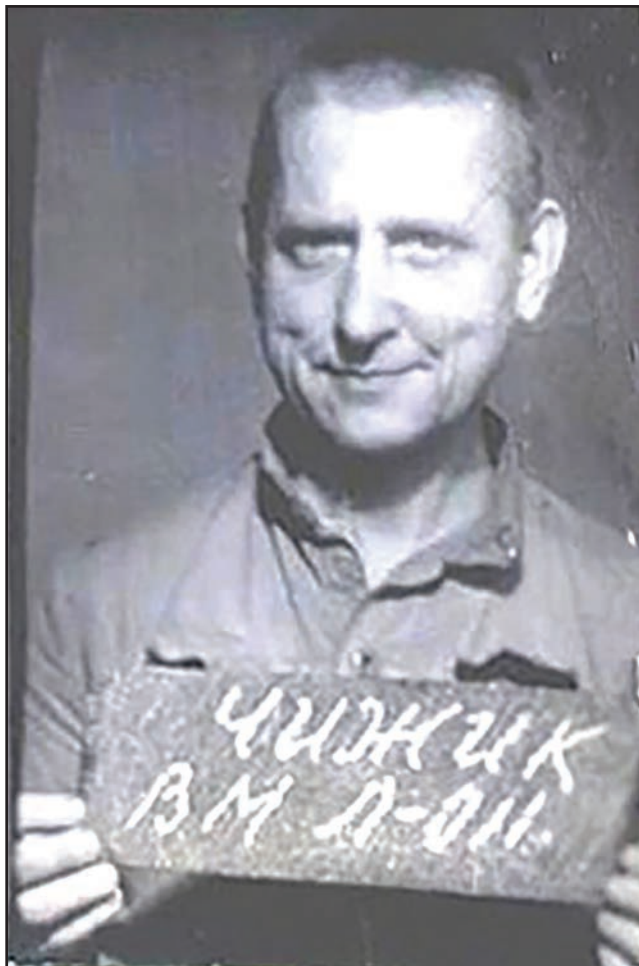
us to be the presence of Christ to a culture where the Gospel has been preached for centuries, because its message demands that it must be heard anew. We do so remembering those who once risked their lives for the Sacramental absolution of Sins, for the grace of the sacraments, and most of all for sanctification that occurs in the depths of our being from the Mass.

From Siberia, Father Walter discerned how the missionary plan of Christ is brought about. He writes that the Gospel reaches men one at a time, and "by God's grace and according to his providence, not in some great visionary crusade or overnight," but rather by each day as God presents to us peo-

ple and opportunities on which he expects us to act." Then, to the many priest prisoners in Siberia, he wrote, "Waste no time through doubt or discouragement because Christ alone is the guarantor of the success of a priest."

The words and heroic actions of Father Walter Cizek draw us to that friendship with Christ that is necessary for our own salvation, and then they impel us to offer this greatest of gifts to the world. To accomplish this we might hear his words again: Waste no time on doubt or discouragement: Christ alone guarantees our success.

> By Father Eugene Ritz, co-postulator for the Cause of Canonization of Father Walter Cizek.



### Prayer to seek the intercession of the Servant of God, Father Walter Cizek, S.J.

Gracious God, in Russia you led Father Walter Cizek to a deep understanding of life and of your love. Then, you brought him safely home, so that he might teach us how to abandon ourselves to your Providence. Through his intercession, hear our prayer (pause and mention request) and help us to do always and in everything your holy will. Amen.

*Nihil Obstat: Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert  
Diocese of Allentown, October 2019*

**THE FATHER WALTER CISZEK PRAYER LEAGUE, INC.**  
18 East Oak Street, Shenandoah, PA 17976  
Phone (570) 462-2270  
Official Organization for the Promotion of the Cause of  
Canonization of REV. WALTER J. CISZEK, S.J.

## New prayer for intercession of Father Cizek

Bishop Alfred Schlert recently approved a new prayer seeking the intercession of Father Walter Cizek, the Shenandoah native who is the subject of a cause for canonization.

The prayer was written by Father Marc Lindeijer, a Jesuit priest from the Netherlands who has worked on the canonization, with collaboration from Elaine Cusat and John De-Jak, who also are working on the cause. The prayer is heavily inspired by Father Cizek's own writings.

"Together, we have done something that is among the most beautiful things a person can do, a true spiritual work of charity, namely compose a prayer for the use of many," said Father Lindeijer. "May it help bring about the much desired miracles for his beatification and canonization."

Recently, when Bishop Schlert was in Rome, Vatican officials told him they consider the diocesan portion of the canonization process to be complete, and they are waiting for the documentation of a miracle.

## First Friday for Homeschool Families

Homeschool families of the Diocese of Allentown are invited to a First Friday gathering on Thursday, Feb. 6 at St. Ambrose Church, 201 Randel St., Schuylkill Haven.

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@allentowndiocese.org.

## Continue the '9 Days for Life' novena

Continue to pray the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops '9 Days for Life,' the annual pro-life novena that began this year on Jan. 21 and continues through Wednesday, Jan. 29.

The pro-life novena is an opportunity for recollection and reparation in observation of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade – the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal throughout the country.

For more information, visit [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com).



# 'Eugenic goals' and abortion

*This article appeared in the January 2020 issue of Columbia magazine and is reprinted with permission of the Knights of Columbus, New Haven, Conn.*

Last May, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a 7-2 decision in *Box v. Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky*, a two-part case involving an Indiana abortion law.

In the first part, the Court upheld the state's law regarding the disposal of aborted fetuses. Justice Clarence Thomas noted that the law "prohibits ... treating the bodies of abortion children as 'infectious waste' and incinerating them alongside ... laboratory-animal carcasses, and surgical byproducts."

The second question before the Court was whether the state could prohibit abortions based on the child's race, sex, diagnosis of Down syndrome, disability or related characteristics. Though the Court declined to consider that part of the law, Justice Thomas took the opportunity in his concurring opinion to address the topic of eugenics in relation to elective abortions.

The following excerpt is drawn from his judicial opinion.

This case highlights the fact that abortion is an act rife with the potential for eugenic manipulation. From the beginning, birth control and abortion were promoted as means of effectuating eugenics. Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger was particularly open about the fact that birth control could be used for eugenic purposes. These arguments about the eugenic potential for birth control apply with even greater force to abortion, which can be used to target specific children with unwanted characteristics.

Even after World War II, future Planned Parenthood President Alan Guttmacher and other abortion advocates endorsed abortion for eugenic reasons and promoted it as a means of controlling the population and improving its quality. As explained below, a growing body of evidence suggests that eugenic goals are already being realized through abortion.

Like many elites of her day, Sanger accepted that eugenics was "the most adequate and thorough avenue to the solution of racial, political and social problems." ... In her view, birth-control advocates and eugenicists were "seeking a single end" "to assist the race toward the elimination of the unfit." ... Sanger even argued that "eugenicists and others who are laboring for racial betterment" could not "succeed" unless they "first clear[ed] the way for Birth Control."

Sanger herself campaigned for birth control in black communities. In 1930, she opened a birth-control clinic in Harlem. Then, in 1939, Sanger initiated the "Negro Project," an effort

to promote birth control in poor, Southern black communities....

To be sure, Sanger distinguished between birth control and abortion.... Sanger argued that "nothing short of contraceptives can put an end to the horrors of abortion and infanticide." ...

Today, notwithstanding Sanger's views on abortion, respondent Planned Parenthood promotes both birth control and abortion as "reproductive health services" that can be used for family planning. And with today's prenatal screening tests and other technologies, abortion can easily be used to eliminate children with unwanted characteristics.... As petitioners and several "amicus curiae" briefs point out, moreover, abortion has proved to be a disturbingly effective tool for implementing the discriminatory preferences that undergird eugenics.

In Iceland, the abortion rate for children diagnosed with Down syndrome in utero approaches 100%. Other European countries have similarly high rates (98% in Denmark, 90% in the United Kingdom, 77% in France), and the rate in the United States is approximately two-thirds.

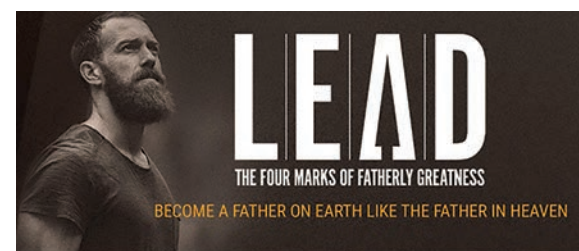
In Asia, widespread sex-selective abortions have led to as many as 160 million "missing" women – more than the entire female population of the United States. And recent evidence suggests that sex-selective abortions of girls are common among certain populations in the United States as well.

Eight decades after Sanger's "Negro Project," abortion in the United States is also marked by a considerable racial disparity. The reported nationwide abortion ratio – the number of abortions per 1,000 live births – among black women is nearly 3.5 times the ratio for white women. And there are areas of New York City in which black children are more likely to be aborted than they are to be born alive – and are up to eight times more likely to be aborted than white children in the same area....

Enshrining a constitutional right to an abortion based solely on the race, sex or disability of an unborn child, as Planned Parenthood advocates, would constitutionalize the views of the 20th-century eugenics movement. In other contexts, the Court has been zealous in vindicating the rights of people even potentially subjected to race, sex and disability discrimination. Although the Court declines to wade into these issues today, we cannot avoid them forever. – *Justice Clarence Thomas*



(CNS photo/Larry Downing, Reuters)



## LEAD retreat will inspire men to fatherly greatness

A one-day retreat called "LEAD: The Four Marks of Fatherly Greatness" will inspire men to embrace God's purpose and plan for their life.

Explore the spirituality of St. Joseph with presenter Rob Longo at St. Mary, Kutztown on Saturday, Feb. 29.

A daily Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert during the retreat, and there will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession.

Longo has a deep love and passion for his faith and his family. After 17 years of serving in various sales, marketing and leadership roles in the health care industry, he co-founded "Stewardship: A Mission of Faith" in March 2010 and serves as its president and board secretary.

He and his wife Megan have been blessed with five children. He enjoys coaching and playing soccer or any other sport or game his kids ask him to play. He also enjoys reading books and listening to talks that inspire him to live out his purpose – to know, love and serve God.

This retreat is sponsored by the Diocesan Commission for Men. For more information or to register, visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/LEAD](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/LEAD).

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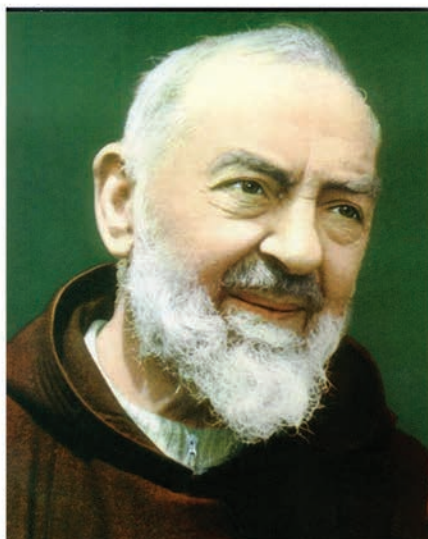
**Contact us for full itinerary**

Marian Pilgrimages:

877-545-2444 | [mary@marianUSA.com](mailto:mary@marianUSA.com)

Julia Calandra-Lineberg:

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## State Knights of Columbus presents donations to Bishop

Representatives of the Pennsylvania State Council of the Knights of Columbus visited the Diocese of Allentown Dec. 5 to present two checks to Bishop Alfred Schlert. Participating are, from left: Ron Butkera, state warden; Jim Szoszorek; program chairman; Father Gregory D'Emma, state chaplain; Bishop Schlert; Mark Jago, state deputy; and Dennis Sullivan, district deputy. The check for \$1,581.05 will be used for promoting vocations in the Diocese. Half of the check for \$2,845.68 will be directed to the retirement fund for diocesan priests and the other half to the Carmelite Monastery of St. Therese in Coopersburg. Bishop Schlert conveyed his appreciation, and the gratitude and prayers of the sisters and our retired priests who will benefit from their kindness. (Photo by John Simitz)

## 'Bernardine Bonanza' special event to benefit retired sisters

The Bernardine Franciscan Sisters have served the people of Reading for over 125 years beginning with their care for orphans at St. Francis Home, then their teaching at local parishes, the two former Catholic high schools (Holy Name and Central Catholic), their Montessori School and Alvernia University, which was founded by the sisters in 1958.

Today the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters minister in seven states across the United States, throughout Brazil, in the Dominican Republic, and in the African countries of Liberia and Mozambique. They have touched countless lives and continue to do so to this day.

Recently the sisters established an Adult Literacy Center in downtown Reading where people of low economic standing take classes in ESL (English as a Second Language) and computer skills or obtain their GED (General Education Development). In addition, they run "Doorways to Hope," a preschool program for at-risk children in north Reading.

Many people today lead fulfilling lives because of the sisters' influence, education excellence and compassionate care.

The sisters work faithfully in carrying out the mission of Jesus wherever they are. However, with few sisters working full time, and more and more reaching retirement age, they must balance the ongoing works of their mission with the rising cost of providing care for their members, many of whom are sick, retired and very elderly.



Pictured are 33 of the 65 sisters residing at their retirement home.

Today over 65 sisters live at their retirement home, St. Joseph Villa in Reading, with an additional 20 living at their motherhouse. The Bernardine Franciscan Sisters have opened the doors of their retirement home to other religious communities, and in November 2019 welcomed nine retired sisters from the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

To help offset their economic retirement challenges, the sisters are hosting their ninth annual fundraising event, "Bernardine Bonanza," on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the McGlinn Conference Center, at the motherhouse in

Reading.

The night will include live music by the Uptown Band, great food, exciting auctions and all-around fun. Tickets are \$95, with proceeds from the event benefitting the growing number of retired Bernardine Franciscan Sisters.

The Development Advisory Board of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters invites everyone to "Make it a Habit" by attending the event or making a monetary gift in honor of your favorite sister. You may purchase tickets, become a sponsor or make your gift at [www.bfranciscan.org](http://www.bfranciscan.org). For more information, call Sister Maria Bartos at 484-334-6815.



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# Calendar of Events

## Friday, Jan. 24

- "Free Tax Preparation Assistance," to senior citizens, incomes below \$54,000, with disabilities, students, military, ESL, by junior and senior accounting students, DeSales University, Center Valley, 610-282-1100 ext. 1868, through Friday, March 27.

## Saturday, Jan. 25

- "Polar Plunge," Marian High School, Tamaqua, at Mauch Chunk Lake, Jim Thorpe, registration \$35, 10-11:30 a.m., plunge at noon, 610-704-8037.

## Saturday, Jan. 25 – Sunday, Jan. 26

- Homemade Soup and Halushki, St. Patrick, Pottsville, parish center, Saturday noon-6 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. to sell-out, 570-622-1802.

## Sunday, Jan. 26

- Breakfast, Knights of Columbus Council 16656, St. Nicholas, Walnutport, social hall, 8 a.m.-noon, adults \$8, children 5-10 \$5, under 5 free, portion of proceeds benefits Coats for Kids.

## Saturday, Jan. 25 – Sunday, Jan. 26

- Annual Catholic Relief Services Collection.

## Wednesday, Jan. 29

- "The Beginner's Guide to Defending Your Faith," speaker Trent Horn, second in Winter Webinar Series from Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry, 7 p.m., access from anywhere using your mobile device, computer or tablet/iPad, free, register [www.allentowndiocese.org/webinars](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/webinars).

## Saturday, Feb. 1

- St. Brigid Feast Day Mass, with Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, 4:15 p.m., accepting food donations in foyer for SS. Simon and Jude, Bethlehem St. Vincent de Paul Society's food bank in the generous spirit of St. Brigid, maurar1117@msn.com.

## Thursday, Feb. 6

- Homeschool Families First Friday Gathering, St. Ambrose Church, 201 Randal St., Schuylkill Haven, 6 p.m. Mass celebrated by Father Kevin Bobbin, followed by adoration and confessions until 7 p.m., and informal social, 610-866-0791 ext. 332 or kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org.

## Friday, Feb. 7

- "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 p.m. for more vocations to priesthood and religious life.

- Diocese of Allentown Office for Vocations Promotion, First Friday Adoration, Holy Hour and Sacred Heart Devotion, every First Friday through May, Holy Ghost, Bethlehem, 417 Carlton Ave., Bethlehem, 7-8 p.m., also March 6, April 3 and May 1, msearles@allentowndiocese.org, 610-437-0755, [www.allentowndiocese.org/vocations](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/vocations).

## Saturday, Feb. 8

- Valentine's Bar-B-Q Dinner, Sacred Heart, Bath and Knights of Columbus Council 14464, 6-8 p.m., tickets in advance, adults \$18, children 6-12 \$12, under 6 free, steinster101@gmail.com or 610-381-3469.
- Catholic Woman's Club of Berks County. St. Ignatius Loyola School, Sinking Spring, 1 p.m., speaker Michelle White from Heart for the Nations.

## Sunday, Feb. 9

- Spaghetti Dinner, St. Patrick, Pottsville, parish center, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., adults \$8, children \$3.50.
- Juventutem, coalition of young adults whose mission is the sanctification of youth through the traditional means of the Church, Mass every second Sunday, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, 1:30 p.m., followed by potluck, Facebook "Juventutem Lehigh Valley" or [www.juventutemlehighvalley.org](http://www.juventutemlehighvalley.org).

## Saturday, Feb. 22

- "Holy Hour for Vocations," St. John the Baptist, Pottsville, Carbon-Schuylkill Serra Club, hosted with chaplain Father David Loeper, 9-10 a.m., continental breakfast.

# Socials

## Sundays

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

## Third Sundays

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

## Thursdays

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

## Thursdays, Feb. 13; April 30; and Wednesday, May 13

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

## Sunday, Feb. 23

- Mardi Gras Bingo, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Incarnation of our Lord, Bethlehem, 2 p.m., doors open noon, advance \$20, at door \$25, 610-866-3391.

## Friday, March 20 – Sunday March 22

- "Tricky Tray Weekend and International Food Celebration," Home and School Association, Holy Family, Nazareth, parish center, Friday 5-8 p.m. with Lenten food and kid's candy bingo, Saturday 2-8 p.m. (food 4-8 p.m.), Sunday 8 a.m.-1 p.m. breakfast with Easter bunny, tricky-trayhfsa@gmail.com.

# Trips

## Newly announced

## Friday, March 27

- Notre Dame of Bethlehem, 55+ Club to Hollywood Casino, \$30, 610-866-0360.

## Thursday, April 2

- Holy Guardian Angels, Reading, HGA Seniors to "Sherlock Holmes Returns," Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, \$91, 610-929-5290, 610-929-0384 or 610-533-7404.

## Wednesday, May 6

- Notre Dame, Bethlehem, 55+ Club to "Lights Out – Music of Frankie Valli," Penn's Peak, Jim Thorpe, \$80, 610-866-0360.

## Wednesday, July 1

- Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bethlehem to "Queen Esther," Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, \$120, 484-456-6818 or 484-767-8669.

## Thursday, July 30

- Notre Dame of Bethlehem, 55+ Club to "Queen Ester," Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, \$113, 610-866-0360.

## Tuesday, Aug. 4

- St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, Europe trip with Oberammergau Passion Play, 610-392-2957 or suemueller45@gmail.com.

## Wednesday, Sept. 16

- St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to Mohegan Sun Casino, \$25, 610-791-1758 or dfe60@msn.com.
- St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Mount Airy Casino, Mount Pocono and "Divas 3, Four Decades of Iconic Diva Hits," \$80, suemueller45@gmail.com, 610-392-2957.

**Editor's note:** The A.D. Times publishes newly announced, Church-affiliated trips in every issue. The entire previously announced list is repeated as space permits. Send Church-affiliated trips to [adtimes@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:adtimes@allentowndiocese.org) by Thursday of the week before publication. Please notify The A.D. Times when seats are filled for a trip so it can be removed from the repeating list. Trip listings include sponsoring group, destination, cost and contact information. Contact the sponsor for other details, such as times, dining location, itineraries and what is included in the cost.



## Pre-Need selections are available at Diocesan Cemeteries

**Holy Savior Cemetery**  
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**Resurrection Cemetery**  
547 N. Krocks Road  
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Please contact the cemetery to speak with one of our knowledgeable Family Service Representatives. Pre-Need selections can alleviate the stress of making interment arrangements at the time of need.

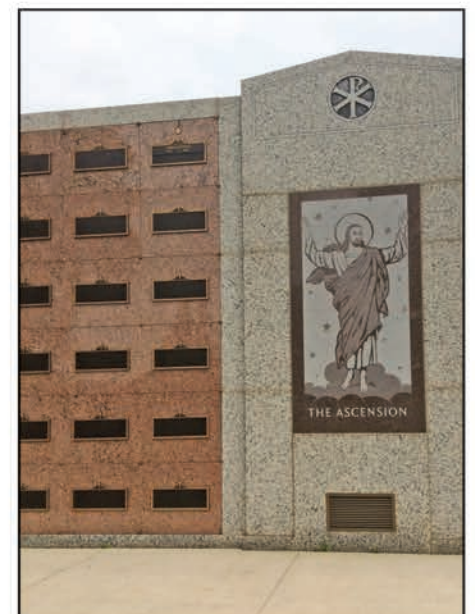
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## First Friday adoration for vocations Feb. 7

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

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

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

"I believe that the young people and families in our Diocese are hungry for more time with the Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament. And several commentators and leaders in our Church have spoken that where the Lord's presence is honored, revered and adored in Eucharistic adoration, the whole Church is lifted up and strengthened," said Father Mark Searles, director of the Office for Vocations Promotion, at the first event, Sept. 6.

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

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

## Institute for Catechesis and Formation course

The Institute for Catechesis and Formation is offering the following course. ICF courses are meant for any adult Catholic looking to grow deeper and learn more about the faith. There are no prerequisites for these courses.

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

### ICF 101 – Christian Anthropology

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

Presented online by Heather Maigur, Monday, Jan. 27 to Sunday, Feb. 23.

## COLUMN ] Making Sense Out of Bioethics

### The foxes and the henhouse



Probably the biggest bioethics story of 2019 involved Dr. Jankui He (known to his associates as "JK"), a Chinese scientist who employed a new technology called CRISPR/Cas9 to produce the world's first gene-edited babies.

JK made genetic changes to two little girls, Lulu and Nana, when they were early-stage embryos, attempting to

modify a receptor for HIV to confer resistance to a possible future infection from the virus.

He publicly announced the birth of the girls at an international scientific conference near the end of 2018, and as the news rapidly spread, many scientists and commentators expressed shock and dismay over his "designer baby" experiments.

Chinese provincial authorities quickly became aware of his activities as well, and he was placed under house arrest upon his return from the conference. In the closing days of 2019, a secret trial was held, and he was sentenced to three years in prison for producing the CRISPR babies. The trial proceedings concluded that JK had "rashly applied gene editing technology to human assisted reproductive medicine."

The verdict reached by the Chinese court raises complex questions that must be confronted: What does it mean to "rashly apply" a new technology like human gene editing? Who should determine if a particular use is "rash" or "reasonable"?

Dr. Rita Vassena, a member of the Executive Committee of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, framed the ethical concerns around JK's case this way: "As the current scientific consensus indicates, the use of CRISPR/Cas9 in human embryos destined to give rise to a pregnancy is, at this stage, unjustified."

She couches her ethical analysis, as many scientists do, in terms of the "current scientific consensus." But such "consensus" is an extremely malleable concept. It also conveniently implies that scientists themselves can set up their own ethical rules and provide regulatory oversight for scientific research, so that they, in effect, become the foxes guarding the henhouse.

The saga that has unfolded during the past year surrounding the gene-editing experiments of JK has demonstrated, if nothing else, how self-serving and ineffective a community of scientists can be as they try to exercise the role of lawyer, judge and jury of their own ethical standards.

Even though we should be justifiably alarmed at Chinese courts meting out jail time in secret to scientific researchers, the fact remains that it was a government-controlled court that finally put some teeth into ethical regulations.

In the West, to have governments, courts or major institutions take any action whatsoever in a case like JK's seems at present inconceivable. Instead, in American and European universities and industrial settings, we often encounter feeble, meandering discussions about research ethics, along with a proliferation of rubber-stamping "ethics review panels."

These often consist of hand-picked members devoid of

strong ethical or religious training and viewpoints. Such panels give increasingly systematic cover for an ever-expanding range of unethical research practices.

Whether it's giving a green light to use stem cells derived from human embryos or tissues from intentionally aborted fetuses for research, or to employ cloning technology to produce new human life, or to manufacture three-parent embryos, many biomedical researchers have come to rely so much on ethical rubber stamps that they just venture ahead, confident that they won't be "fenced in" by ethical considerations.

JK's gene-editing experiments and China's strong reaction have at least managed to bring the ethical concerns momentarily back into the spotlight.

"I think a jail sentence is the proper punishment for him," said Wang Yuedan, a professor of immunology at Peking University, in comments he shared with the New York Times.

*JK's gene-editing experiments and China's strong reaction have at least managed to bring the ethical concerns momentarily back into the spotlight.*

"It makes clear our stance on the gene editing of humans – that we are opposed to it ... signaling that there is a bottom line that cannot be broken."

Yet this is precisely the difficulty in biomedicine today: namely, that there are few, if any, "bottom lines" when it comes to research ethics. The lines have become exceedingly flexible, if the price is right or if a particular political administration is amenable to redrawing them.

While there isn't any perfect solution to ensure scientists never engage in unethical research – and the involvement of communist secret courts is certainly far from ideal – we clearly need to promote, fund and regulate modern biomedical research in a way that prioritizes ethics over expediency.

This means establishing significant sanctions and funding restrictions when ethical violations by researchers occur. It also means including alternative viewpoints on ethics review panels, especially those informed by longstanding religious and philosophical traditions, like that of the Catholic Church, which offer the important perspective that certain ethical lines are not able to be moved or redrawn.

This kind of input can contribute much to the kinds of discussions that need to occur, and can afford an important counterbalance to any foxes who desire to keep guard over the ethical henhouse.

> "Making Sense Out of Bioethics" is a monthly column by Father Dr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk. 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.

**For more information:**

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

## Hibernian ladies to celebrate St. Brigid

To commemorate the feast day of St. Brigid, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) welcomes all to celebrate Saturday, Feb. 1 at the 4:15 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, 1825 Turner St., Allentown.

Food donations will be accepted in the foyer for SS. Simon and Jude, Bethlehem's St. Vincent de Paul Society food

bank in the generous spirit of St. Brigid.

Membership in LAOH is open to all practicing Catholics of Irish descent (birth or marriage).

For more information about the Mass or LAOH, email Maura O'Donnell Roszyk at [maurar1117@msn.com](mailto:maurar1117@msn.com).

# Cathedral rectory among the stops on Christmas House Tour



Left: Tom and Sonny Guinan admire a Nativity scene at the rectory of the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown Dec. 15 on the Christmas House Tour. Visitors were invited to enjoy the afternoon visiting 10 lovely homes of Cathedral parishioners, including the rectory, all decorated for the Christmas season. Above: At another home on the tour, John D'Angelo shows his Santa and choir collection. (Photos by John Simitz) More photos on the diocesan website [www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org) under "What's New" on the homepage.

## Rachel's Vineyard Retreat March 6-8

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, an intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion, will be the weekend of March 6-8.

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

For registration information, contact Sister Meg Cole, 1-866-3 RACHEL (toll free), 610-332-0442 ext. 2019 or [mcole@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:mcole@allentowndiocese.org).

Deadline for registration is March 1. For information about the retreat experience, visit the national website, [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

## Retiro del Viñedo de Raquel

Retiro del Viñedo de Raquel – una jornada espiritual íntima para los que buscan sanación después de un aborto, del 6 a 8 de marzo del 2020.

En un ambiente seguro, de apoyo, sin prejuicios usted puede centrarse en este momento de dolor en su vida y entrar en el proceso de sanación. Mediante lecturas bíblicas, meditaciones dirigidas y las actividades que fluyen de las meditaciones usted puede experimentar la compasión y el perdón de Dios.

Para obtener información de inscripción contactarse con, Hna. Margaret, 1-866-3 RACHEL (línea gratuita), 610-207-8612, [ihmcurac@yahoo.com](mailto:ihmcurac@yahoo.com).

Plazo de inscripción es el 1 marzo. Para más información acerca de la experiencia del retiro, visite el sitio web nacional, [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

## Sunday Scripture

**Sunday, Jan. 26**

First Reading  
Responsorial Psalm  
Second Reading  
Gospel

*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Isaiah 8:23-9:3**  
**Psalms 27:1, 4, 13-14**  
**1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17**  
**Matthew 4:12-23**

**Sunday, Feb. 2**

First Reading  
Responsorial Psalm  
Second Reading  
Gospel

*The Presentation of the Lord*

**Malachi 3:1-4**  
**Psalms 24:7-10**  
**Hebrews 2:14-18**  
**Luke 2:22-40**

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Capuchin Franciscan Brother Andrew Corriente prepares a buttercream icing in the kitchen at his friary in Washington Jan. 9. (CNS photo/Andrew Biraj, Catholic Standard)

## Culinary skills and prayer make religious brother a winner

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – The oven timer dings, alerting Capuchin Franciscan Brother Andrew Corriente the chocolate layer cake he is baking needs to be checked.

A quick test with a toothpick tells him the cake needs about five more minutes in the oven, more than enough time to soften the butter for the buttercream icing.

The enticing aromas in the kitchen at Capuchin College in Washington signal that Brother Andrew is busy creating another treat for the men who call the friary home.

Brother Andrew knows his way around a kitchen. In fact, he was crowned this year's baking champion on ABC's "The Great American Baking Show: Holiday Edition." The program, which aired in December and concluded Jan. 2, is an adaptation of the popular "Great British Bake Off."

Brother Andrew said he wanted to participate "because I love to bake, and I wanted to learn from the others" who were part of the production.

Brother Andrew emerged as the victor after he and the other two finalists were charged with making three individual party desserts of their choice. He earned the crown with chocolate cookies with lime cream and blackberry jam, sponge cakes with fresh cream and fruits, and a puff pastry.

Brother Andrew was given the nod to appear on the show last June, but he applied for the program in 2017.

"In 2018, they (producers of the show) called me, but I said no because I was taking my final vows," he told the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.

"They called me again this year, and I did it."

He said he spent July "recipe developing and recipe testing" before traveling to London in August, where the entire season was taped that month. "Filming sometimes took up to 14 hours a day," Brother Andrew said. "I had to stay focused so that I could get my prayers in, Mass in and meditation in."

Although it was very hot in the kitchen, Brother Andrew chose to wear his distinctive brown Capuchin robes as he baked.

"I love my life so much, and I wanted people to see that," he said. "My ability to bake is so tied to my way of life. Everything I have is from God, and I wanted people to see how all of that is integrated."

The friary where Brother Andrew regularly creates his bakery masterpieces is part of the St. Augustine Province of the Order of Friars Minor. The 30 men who live at Capuchin College are either studying nearby at The Catholic University of America, preparing for the priesthood, serving in various ministries or are retired.

Brother Andrew said he finds time for prayer as he cooks. For example, in preparing meringue – a confection made of whipped egg whites and sugar – "the best way to time my stirring is by praying the Hail Mary."

In addition to his baking, he uses his culinary skills to help the less fortunate and the working poor. He and a group of brothers and lay volunteers cook and serve dinner every Sunday for the day laborers who congregate at a local Home Depot looking for work.



(CNS photo/Vatican Media)

## Pope appoints first woman to Vatican foreign ministry post

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** – Pope Francis named Francesca Di Giovanni, a longtime Vatican official, as an undersecretary in the Vatican's foreign ministry office, making her the first woman to hold a managerial position at the Vatican Secretariat of State.

The Vatican announced Jan. 15 that within the Vatican Secretariat of State's Section for Relations with States, Di Giovanni will head the multilateral sector, which deals with intergovernmental organizations and multilateral treaties.

With the new appointment, the Vatican foreign ministry, led by Archbishop Paul Gallagher, will have two undersecretaries. Di Giovanni will serve as undersecretary alongside Monsignor Miroslaw Wachowski, who will continue to work in the area of bilateral diplomacy.

In an interview with Vatican News published soon after the announcement, Di Giovanni said that there had been a need for an undersecretary for the multilateral sector, but "I sincerely never would have thought the Holy Father would have entrusted this role to me."

"It is a new role and I will try to do my best to live up to the Holy Father's trust, but I hope not to do it alone," she said. "I would like to count on the harmony that has characterized our working group so far."

Born in Palermo, Di Giovanni earned a law degree and began working as an official at the Section for Relations with States in 1993, focusing her work on issues such as "migrants and refugees, international humanitarian law, communications, private international law, the status of women, intellectual property, and tourism," the Vatican said.

## Court to re-examine contraceptive mandate for religious employers

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – The Little Sisters of the Poor are once again going to the Supreme Court.

The order of women religious who care for the elderly poor have been down this road before, twice defending their right to not comply with the government's health law requiring employers to provide contraceptive coverage in their health plans.

Now the court is about to look at the Affordable Health Care's contraceptive mandate from a different angle, examining if the Trump administration can legally allow religious

employers to opt out of the mandate.

In 2013, religious groups and houses of worship were granted a religious exemption by the Supreme Court from the government's mandate in the Affordable Care Act to include coverage of contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs in their employee health plan.

Three years later, religious nonprofit groups challenged the requirement they comply with the mandate and the court sent the cases back to the lower courts with instructions for the federal government and the challengers to try to work out

a solution agreeable to both sides.

In 2017, religious groups were given further protection from the contraceptive mandate through an executive order issued by President Donald Trump requiring the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to write a comprehensive exemption to benefit religious ministries, including the Little Sisters of the Poor, from the contraceptive mandate.

HHS provided this exemption in 2018, but several states challenged it, including California, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, saying HHS didn't have the power to give exemption.

## In brief

### Prayer in public schools

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – The chairmen of the U.S. bishops' religious liberty and Catholic education committees Jan. 20 praised the Trump administration for issuing guidance on prayer in public schools.

The chairmen also welcome the administration's nine proposed rules to ensure the nation's faith-based service providers and organizations are not discriminated against by federal agencies' regulations or in their grant-making processes because of religion.

"We wish to express our gratitude for these steps to ensure that the constitutional right of individual students and teachers to pray voluntarily in public schools is protected," said Bishop George Murry, of Youngstown, Ohio, and Bishop Michael Barber, of Oakland, California.

"This fundamental right ensures that persons may freely worship without sacrificing full participation in schools and in society."

The bishops – who are, respectively, the chairmen of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty, and its Committee on Catholic Education – made the comments in response to President Donald Trump's guidance on prayer in public schools and proposed rules issued Jan. 16, National Religious Freedom Day.

### Study finds bishops satisfied

**MINNEAPOLIS (CNS)** – Many U.S. bishops describe their lives as both all-consuming and satisfying, a priest-researcher said. "These are guys who generally get up very, very early in the morning, pray about two hours every day and work about 10 hours a day," said Father Stephen Fichter, a research associate at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate in Washington, which conducted the survey.

"(They) just really do some interesting things and there are a lot of difficulties that they're dealing with all the time."

A priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, Father Fichter explained the results of a 2016 survey of active and retired U.S. bishops in a talk at St. Mary's University of Minnesota's Minneapolis campus Jan. 15.

The survey was the first to look at the lives of bishops since 1989. The study is the subject of a 2019 book published by Oxford University Press, "Catholic Bishops in the United States: Church Leadership in the Third Millennium."

### Quakes damage historic convent

**HOUSTON (CNS)** – To an island still recovering from the



Pope Francis kisses a child as he baptizes one of 32 babies during a Mass on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 12. In his brief homily before baptizing the infants, the Pope told parents that the sacrament is a treasure that gives children "the strength of the Spirit ... That is why it's so important to baptize children, so that they grow with the strength of the Holy Spirit." (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

devastation Hurricane Maria left behind in 2017, the repeated tremors, earthquakes and aftershocks since Dec. 28 have added another level of stress for Puerto Rico's citizens, as well as its power plants and water plants.

Most of the quaking has been centered in the south and southwest parts of the island. The towns of Yauco and Guanica especially have suffered immense damage to its buildings and roadways, and in between these towns is a small area that also has suffered much. It's Santa Rita, where the Dominican Sisters of Fatima live in a historic convent, which has been hit hard.

Sister Ana Chevres said there had been so many small earthquakes and tremors that the sisters were prepared with their bags packed by the convent door just in case they had to leave their building in a hurry.

### Marriage prep could last years

**MADRID (CNS)** – Catholic couples in Spain will undergo up to three years of marriage preparation under an initiative by their bishops to reverse the country's high rates of divorce. The Spanish bishops launched Together on the Way ("Juntos en Camino"), a program to help couples to succeed in their vocation to marriage amid a divorce rate that sees about 40% of marriages collapse within five years and nearly 60% within 15 years.

The new course could last between two and three years; it

replaces preparation courses that lasted between five and 20 hours.

Speaking at a news conference in Madrid mid-January, Bishop Mario Icaza Gavicagoeascoa of Bilbao said he did not believe previous courses were adequate. "What can we do in five hours?" asked Bishop Icaza, president of the Spanish bishops' subcommission for family and the defense of life.

### Irish bishop offers to mediate

**DROGHEDA, Ireland (CNS)** – An Irish bishop has offered to mediate between feuding criminal gangs in Drogheda in an effort to end violence that has claimed three lives in six months.

The intervention by Auxiliary Bishop Michael Ruter of Armagh, Northern Ireland, follows the brutal murder of 17-year-old Keane Mulready-Woods of Drogheda in mid-January and the discovery of the teenager's remains at two separate locations in Dublin. The youth was a junior member of one of Drogheda's gangs. The gruesome dismemberment of his body has shocked the country.

In the wake of the teen's killing, Bishop Ruter, whose archdiocese straddles the Ireland-Northern Ireland border, said: "All human life is sacred, and an attack of this nature on someone who is still a child is disgusting and beyond belief. This desecration of life has diminished our common humanity and our sense of ourselves as a civilized people."

## TV program notes

**NEW YORK (CNS)** – Here are some television program notes for the week of Jan. 26 and Feb. 2 with their TV Parental Guidelines ratings if available. They have not been reviewed and therefore are not necessarily recommended by Catholic News Service.

Sunday, Jan. 26, 6:30-8 p.m. EST (EWTN) "100th Anniversary of the St. Vincent De Paul Society and Mosaic Dedication." From the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington (TV-Y – all children).

Monday, Jan. 27, 10-11 p.m. EST (PBS) "The First Rainbow Coalition." Filmmaker Ray Santisteban's documentary recounts how community groups in 1960s Chicago bridged race and ethnicity to form a surprising alliance. An "Independent Lens" presentation (TV-PG – parental guidance suggested).

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 5:30-8 p.m. EST (TCM) "The Yearling" (1946). A young boy's attachment to an orphaned fawn relieves the loneliness of life in the Florida wilderness but brings grief as the deer grows to threaten the family's crops in this classic version of the Marjorie Kinnon Rawlings story. A sincere celebration of family values. The Catholic News Service classification of the theatrical version was A-I – general patronage. The Motion Picture Association rating was G – general patronage. All ages admitted.

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 8-9 p.m. EST (EWTN) "EWTN Live." On this edition of the series, host Father Mitch Pacwa interviews Anthony Rizzi, founder and director of the Institute for Advanced Physics (TV-G – general audience).

Sunday, Feb. 2, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. EST (EWTN) "Holy Mass With Religious on the Feast of the Presentation of

the Lord." From St. Peter's Basilica, Mass presided over by Pope Francis on the feast of the Presentation (TV-G – general audience).

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 9-11 p.m. EST (PBS) "The Poison Squad." This episode of the series "American Experience" focuses on the forgotten heroes who fought for food safety at the turn of the 20th century (TV-PG – parental guidance suggested).

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 8-9 p.m. EST (EWTN) "EWTN Live." On this edition of the show, host Jesuit Father Mitch Pacwa welcomes former NFL wide receiver Danny Abramowicz (TV-G – general audience).

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 8-10 p.m. EST (PBS) "Polar Extremes." Paleontologist Kirk Johnson explores the dynamic history – and future – of ice at the poles. A "Nova" presentation (TV-PG – parental guidance suggested).