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the *Ad*times

VOL. 32, NO. 3 | FEBRUARY 6, 2020

Celebrating sisters' commitment to religious life

On Sunday, Feb. 2, while many were focused on Groundhog Day and Super Bowl Sunday, Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert celebrated Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown with many faithful members of our Diocese to celebrate World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

"The lives of these women who are here today and all religious who also share a vocation to poverty, chastity and obedience, have had a far greater impact on the world than any Super Bowl or Groundhog Day ever will," said Bishop Schlert in his homily.

"It is good for us to celebrate their commitment to religious life, service to the Church and to all of us. Just think of where our country would be without all religious people who staffed Catholic schools, hospitals, social agencies, orphanages, special learning centers and so much more. They did it with great sacrifice,

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Bishop Schlert talks with some of the sisters at the luncheon, from left, Sister Theresa Duffy, Sister Marietta Andrzejewska and Sister Rose Zielinski. (Photos by John Simitz)



From left, Kayleigh Lauten, Brooke Scalley and Claire Martocci put on their new eighth grade pins after receiving them during the Catholic Schools Week Mass celebrated by Bishop Schlert at Holy Family School, Nazareth. (Photos by John Simitz)

'Thank God for the gift and blessing of Catholic schools'

Holy Family School, Nazareth began the final school day of Catholic Schools Week Jan. 30 with Mass celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert. The Bishop, who was scheduled to celebrate with them last year but was snowed out, fulfilled his promise to be with them this year.

The school, which is home to 203 students in grades K through 8, made many preparations to celebrate this special Mass with Bishop Schlert. Showing their Catholic identity and willingness to serve the students were altar servers, choir members and lectors for the Mass, which was also open to parishioners and family members.

During his homily, Bishop Schlert said, "We are here today to thank God for the gift and blessing of Catholic schools."

He talked of the many people who make sacrifices so that the students can go to Mass and hear about Jesus every day in school.

"We try every day through our schools to help our young generation to know Christ, to love Christ and to serve Christ."

"In the readings today we hear that God works in our lives quietly," he said. "Each day something is happening to the seed that is placed in our hearts. The best place for that seed to grow is in your family and in your church and school.

"That is why Catholic school is so important. You may not

See *SCHOOLS*, page 8



Episcopal appointments

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert has made the following appointment, effective Feb. 4.

Father Adam Sedar to Administrator, St. Nicholas Parish, Walnutport, while remaining Secretary for Clergy.

COLUMN] *Because We Are Catholic*

Old-fashioned family values? There's an app for that

Catholic education, good old-fashioned family values and the latest technology come together in a new smartphone app designed by students at Immaculate Conception Academy in Douglassville.

The "My Pantry" software application won its inventors an award from their local congressmen. Now they'll be going to the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. to show off their work at a gathering of other congressional award winners from across the nation.

The inventors are members of the school's new club that stresses skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, commonly called STEM.

"My Pantry" saves time and money. It also prevents food waste by keeping track of the ingredients you have on hand, reminding you of expiration dates, and suggesting recipes to use the things in your fridge and on your shelves before they go bad. It even counts calories.

Best of all, said Deb Petras, advancement director at the school, using the app can mean more free time to spend with family.

"The students really focused on tying this into creating more family time," she said.

"If you don't have to run to the store for last-minute ingredients, you are more organized and have more time to sit down as a family, say grace and eat dinner together."

Family values, said Petras, are stressed at Immaculate Conception Academy as an important part of a well-rounded Catholic school education.

> 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. Videos of people in the series are available on the diocesan website at www.allentowndioecese.org/bishop-blog.



From left are: front, Luke J., seventh grade; back, Anthony R., eighth grade; Aidan C., sixth grade; and RJ P., seventh grade. (Photo by Paul Wirth)

'Lunch and Learn' About Ministries with Catholic Women's Society of Giving

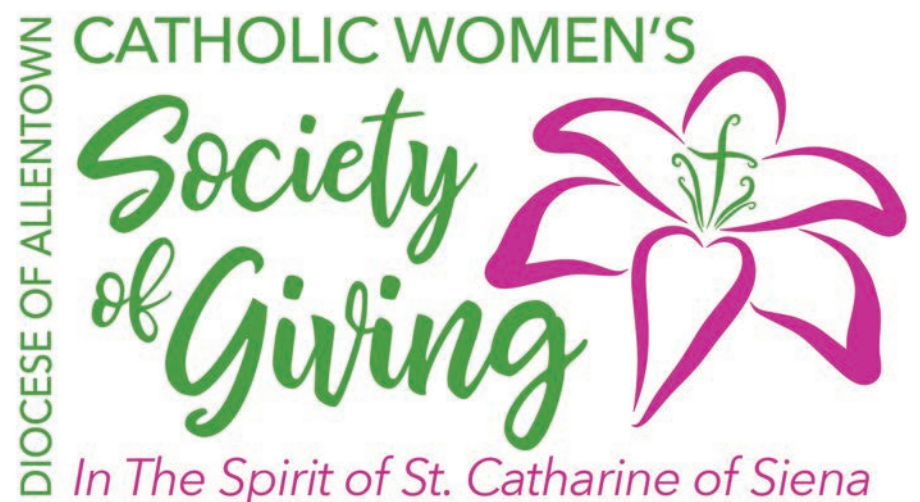
There's still time to join the new Catholic Women's Society of Giving, which will meet Sunday, Feb. 9 (postponed from Jan. 19) for a Mass celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert, followed by a "Lunch and Learn" presentation from several ministries that have applied to the society for grants.

Members of the society make a donation of \$350 to join, and the funds are then distributed as grants to nonprofit service organizations endorsed by the Diocese. Members will vote on which ministries should receive the grants.

The society enables women and girls to band together to make a positive impact on their communities. It is one example of how lay people are making a difference in the Diocese of Allentown.

The Mass will begin at 10:45 a.m. at St. Mary Church, 94 Walnut Road, Hamburg. The presentations by ministries applying for grants will take place during the luncheon.

To join the society or sign up for the Mass and luncheon, visit www.allentowndioecese.org/womens-giving or call the Office of Stewardship and Development at 1-800-831-4443.



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 allentowndioecese.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: allentowndioecese.org/youthprotection.



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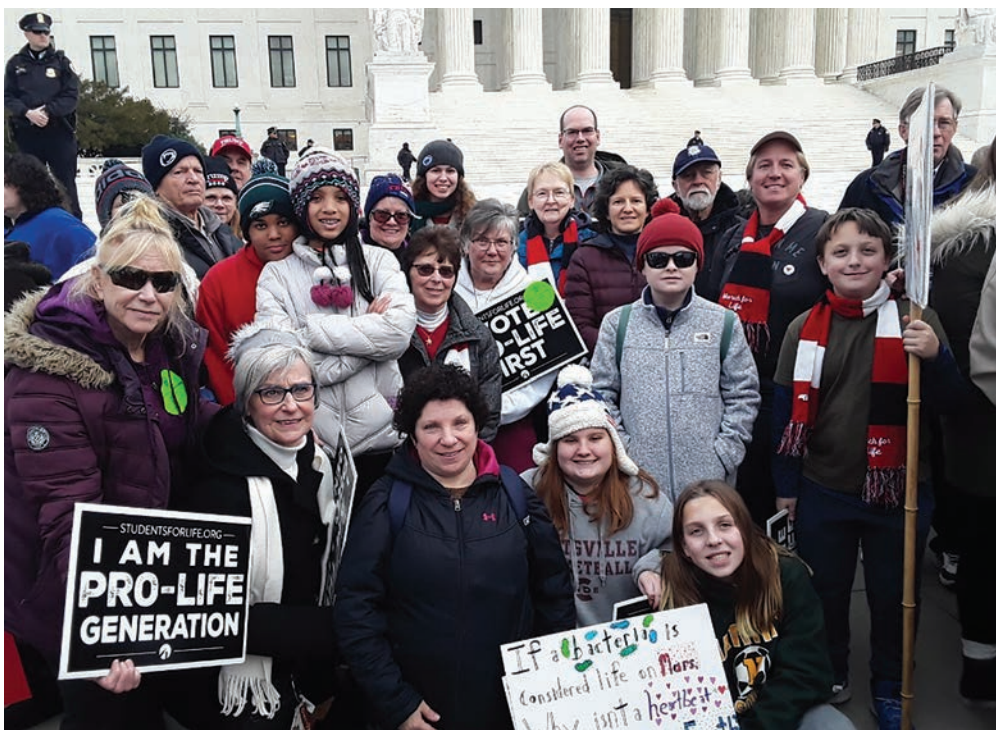
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Clockwise from top left: The Berks Catholic High School, Reading contingent displays its banner during the March for Life with the Washington Monument in the background. (Photo courtesy of Father Stephan Isaac, chaplain of Berks Catholic) The group from St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Orefield, many wearing orange scarves, pauses for a photo during the march. (Photo courtesy of Sue Mueller) Riders of the bus from Immaculate Conception Parish, Douglassville. (Photo courtesy of Angela Peterson) The group from Sacred Heart Parish, Bath. (Photo courtesy of Martin Brynildsen) The group from St. Columbkil Parish, Boyertown. (Photo courtesy of Candee Holzman) The contingent from St. Ambrose Parish, Schuylkill Haven. There were 51 people on the bus, ranging from 2 months old to 80. (Photo courtesy of Dana Seisler)

Hundreds from Diocese join historic 'March for Life'

"We were blessed to have a perfect day," said Candee Holzman of St. Columbkil Parish, Boyertown. "I've been there for the last dozen years or so and I really believe this drew the largest crowd yet."

Holzman and her group were among hundreds of Catholics from the Diocese of Allentown at the March for Life Jan. 24 in Washington, D.C., observing the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized most forms of abortion on demand.

Attendance estimates ranged from tens of thousands to

more than 100,000.

This year's march was also highlighted by U.S. President Donald Trump as the first president to speak in person at the march.

"It's easy to feel alone as a pro-lifer in the secular world," said Holzman, "but when you attend the march, you feel anything but alone and realize there's great hope for our country."

"The magnitude of the event hits you especially when you're walking up Capitol Hill and all you can see for blocks and blocks ahead of you, as well as behind you, are marchers."

Holzman also noted that Deacon Joe Petruskas was the group's spokesperson for a phone-in interview on WAEB AM790 as they were enroute to the march.

Students attend Mass

"The best part was the celebration of Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Baltimore Basilica of the Assumption," said Father Mark Searles, chaplain of Allentown Central Catholic

See MARCH, page 4



Clockwise from top left: The Crusaders of Notre Dame High School, Easton arrive at the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore, Maryland to pray for the sacredness of all human life. (Photo courtesy of Father Gene Ritz, chaplain of Notre Dame High School) The group from St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Parish, Easton and Knights of Columbus Council 345, Easton arrive in Washington, D.C. (Photo courtesy of Andrew Azan III) Sister Sophia and the ACCHS students in front of the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore, Maryland. (Photo courtesy of Father Mark Searles) The Baltimore basilica is filled with students from Allentown Central Catholic High School; Notre Dame High School, Easton; Marian High School, Tamaqua; and Berks Catholic High School, Reading. (Photo courtesy of Father Mark Searles)

More photos on the diocesan website www.allentowndiocese.org under "What's New" on the homepage.

MARCH

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High School (ACCHS).

"This historic church is America's first cathedral, so it is a perfect place to pray for our nation and an end to the genocide of abortion in America."

Celebrant was Father Gene Ritz, chaplain of Notre Dame High School, Easton. Homilist was Father Brian Miller, chaplain of Marian High School, Tamaqua.

Concelebrants were: Father Allen Hoffa, pastor of St. Joseph, Summit Hill; Father Stephan Isaac, chaplain of Berks Catholic High School, Reading; Father Frans Berkhout, chaplain of St. Luke's University Health Network, Bethlehem; and Father Searles.

"Notre Dame, ACCHS, Berks Catholic and Marian high schools all had a great number of students present to fill the church and pray together before the march," said Father Searles.

"The march itself was bigger than ever before. We felt the

vast increase in the number of marchers from across the country, but as always, the march has a very peaceful and prayerful character.

"A few ACCHS students were able to travel to Washington the night before to attend the Pro-Life Vigil at Catholic University and the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. They had a great experience with other high school groups and were able to attend the speeches before the march.

"President Trump's words of encouragement were also very welcome and inspiring for many of our young people, emphasizing the dignity and value of every human life, especially those most vulnerable, the unborn."

Memorable experience

"St. Jane Frances de Chantal Respect Life Ministry and Knights of Columbus Council 345 made our bus trip possible to the 2020 Right for Life March," said Andrew Azan of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish, Easton. "Fifty-one faithful riders attended, included several first-time individuals.

"In a matter of minutes, the grounds were packed to hear President Trump speak. Overheard many times was 'Thank

you President Trump' for his brave stance for life and the unborn.

"As we approached the top of the hill, we looked back down to a beautiful sight of the massive number of individuals and groups in support of life.

"A Penn State college student, Andrew, graduate of Phillipsburg High School (New Jersey), who attended the march by himself, read our banner stating that our group was from Easton ... marched with us and made our day.

"Our first-time passengers said it was a most memorable experience. It is amazing to speak to other groups and individuals who come from much farther distances to Washington, D.C. and share the same values – 'Life is a gift from God.'"



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for those who have had an abortion experience

God gives mercy

A beautiful poem by Mary Oliver, "Six Recognitions of the Lord," shares a glimpse of God's mercy. The reader prays through the poem:

"Lord God, mercy is in your hands, pour me a little. And tenderness too. My need is great. Beauty walks so freely and with such gentleness. Impatience puts a halter on my face, and I run away over the green fields wanting your voice, your tenderness, but having to do with only the sweet grasses of the fields against my body.

"When I first found you, I was filled with light, now the darkness grows and it is filled with crooked things, bitter and weak, each one bearing my name" (Oliver, Mary (2006) "Thirst: Poems by Mary Oliver." Beacon Press, Boston).

The words in this section of the poem speak to the heart of a woman (or man) who, despite having made a decision that is beyond troubling, still speaks to God and desires an intimacy with God's understanding.

Invoking God, shyly requesting, "mercy, pour me a little..." and "maybe some tenderness too," how could God deny such a genuine plea.

A woman or man who has had an abortion experience is worthy of making a plea to God for mercy, as abortion is covered under the umbrella of God's mercy and unconditional love.



It is in great humility that an individual who has had an abortion appeals to God. They often acknowledge they have no merit to plead their cause, but their deep emotional pain and seeping wound is one that can only really be healed by the Divine Healer.

So to you who have had an abortion experience, you are invited to come and stand forgiven before God. Come to a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (RVR) weekend and have a holy conversation with God about that fateful day your abortion changed your life.

Coming to an RVR will allow you to put words with your pain. The weekend of God's mercy, grace and tenderness is the only voice that will dominate this time of grace and spiritual enrichment.

If a weekend retreat seems to be too great a leap, there

is also the possibility of individual counseling sessions called Project Rachel. The sessions will also allow you to express the grief you carry within yourself over your own sense of shame that accompanied the experience of having an abortion.

God gives mercy. God wants an individual who has had an abortion experience to know that God's forgiveness is available and self-forgiveness is also within reach.

There will be an RVR in the Diocese of Allentown the weekend of March 6-8. Contact mcole@allentowndiocese.org or projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org.

>By Sister Meg Cole, Catholic Charities Therapist

There will be an RVR on the weekend of March 6-8 in the Diocese of Allentown. Contact mcole@allentowndiocese.org or projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org.

Nationally known speaker, author, to offer public programs on bullying

A nationally known author and expert on school bullying will give a series of presentations for parents and children at Catholic schools across the Diocese of Allentown. The programs are free and open to the public.

Jodee Blanco is a bullying survivor, expert, advocate and the author of The New York Times best-selling book "Please Stop Laughing at Me." Her presentations are full of advice and information for anyone concerned about school bullying.

"We are pleased to be able to open these programs to the community at large as a public service," said Dr. Brooke Tesché, chancellor of Catholic education. "It's another way that we in the Diocese of Allentown fulfill our mission, which includes bringing the Light of Christ to each other and to our



communities."

Programs were held earlier this week at LaSalle Academy, Shillington and St. Anne School, Bethlehem.

Upcoming programs at Catholic schools in the Diocese:

Thursday, Feb. 6, 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, 3221 Santee Road, Bethlehem.

Monday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. at St. Ignatius Loyola Regional School, 2700 St. Albans Drive, Reading.

Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Nativity BVM High School, One Lawtons Hill, Pottsville.

Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas More School, 1040 Flexer Ave., Allentown.

Blanco also will be giving a seminar for diocesan Catholic school leaders at an upcoming in-service day. For more information on Blanco, visit her website, <https://www.jodee-blanco.com/>.

LEAD retreat will inspire men to fatherly greatness

A one-day retreat called "L[E]A[D]: 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.



HIS WOUNDS, OUR HEALING

Women's day of reflection for Lent March 14

You're invited to receive healing and refreshment with other women from the Diocese of Allentown at "His Wounds, Our Healing," a Lenten reflection on our identity as beloved, Saturday, March 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Shrine of St. Therese of Lisieux, Nesquehoning.

Father John Frink, pastor of St. John XXIII Parish, Tamaqua, will share his rich and practical insights on the topic of healing and "FiveKeys to Freedom," a message of hope and healing found in the heart of the Father and revealed in the five wounds of Jesus Christ.

The day is sponsored by the Commission for Women of the Diocese of Allentown.

Registration is \$15 and includes breakfast. Deadline to register is Saturday, March 7 at www.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality or call Michele at 484-515-5281.



Clockwise from above: Sisters attending the Mass listen to Bishop Schlert's homily. Sister Virginelle Makos, left, and Sister Regina Anne Rokosny enjoy the luncheon. All the sisters attending gather for a photo.

SISTERS

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great joy and great love."

The Church celebrated the Presentation of the Lord on this Sunday, which is also known as Candlemas Day. During Mass, Bishop Schlert blessed a table filled with candles. These candles will be used in the cathedral throughout the year.

"Today we celebrate religious life in the Church," said the Bishop. "But we also remind ourselves that none of us are exempt from being ministers of the Gospels, workers in the vineyard and a light to the nations.

"Today we ask God's blessing on all consecrated men and women who work every day in our Diocese. We pray for more vocations to the religious life, and we pray that each one of us will be aware that we are to be a bearer of Christ's light to all."

After Mass, the sisters in attendance were invited to a luncheon.

"I thank you for your service in the Diocese, and I thank you for coming today to celebrate with us today," said Monsignor Thomas Koons, vicar for religious in the Diocese, speaking at



the luncheon.

"We give praise and thanks to almighty God for the gift of all religious and consecrated life. We ask for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who inspired Simeon and Anna in the temple, that by that same Spirit you may always shine the light of Christ in your lives for the salvation of the world and the greater glory of God."

Sister Donna Pascarella of the Angelic Sisters of St. Paul was happy that she and the members of her community were given the opportunity to attend.

"This is great," she said. "This is a nice way to get to know each other. We all work hard for one goal here in the Diocese and we are a family. This is a special grace for us to be together to share this special day."

"I think what we are doing today is beautiful," said Sister Sophia Marie Peralta, a Sister of Christian Charity who works in campus ministry at Allentown Central Catholic High School. "We are all different branches but we are all part of the same tree. We are bringing Jesus to others in different ways.

"It is wonderful to be able to share with other religious communities because sometimes we are in ministry by ourselves. It is nice to know that there are other people out there working toward the same goal."

At the luncheon, all the sisters were given a rosary blessed by the Holy Father during Bishop Schlert's recent trip to Rome.

> By Karen Corpora

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'The Beginner's Guide to Defending Your Faith'

"Sometimes we think we need to have all the answers in order to share our faith, but we just need to have the right questions," Trent Horn began his Jan. 29 presentation, "The Beginner's Guide to Defending Your Faith." It was part of the Winter Webinar Series offered by the Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization.

Horn, a Catholic convert and staff apologist for "Catholic Answers," discusses defense of the faith every week on the radio program "Catholic Answers Live," as well as on his own podcast, "The Counsel of Trent."

"When we throw our reasons at people, it can go in one ear and out the other. But when we ask questions, it challenges them to confront the issue themselves, even long after the conversation has ended," he said.

When engaging in religious discussions with those from opposing viewpoints, Horn advocated for use of the Socratic method, which focuses on discovering answers by asking questions. He explained that we often see this approach used in the Gospels, and that Jesus himself often used questions to respond to inquiries.

"Jesus wanted to get people to think for themselves," said Horn. "Questions are very powerful for finding out what people believe, why they believe it and ultimately for directing them to the truth."

Three types of questions guide Horn in his dialogues, which he refers to as gather-questions, clarify-questions and challenge-questions.

Gather-questions

The first type, gather-questions, is geared toward understanding what the other person believes and why they believe it.

"Don't think of yourself as the apologist ready to debate the other person," advised Horn. "You are the reporter looking to hear their testimony."

"When we ask questions, it challenges them to confront the issue themselves."

Horn believes that if you aren't sure what to say in a conversation, remember that most people will be eager to share their beliefs if you ask genuine, open questions. Sometimes in asking people to explain what they believe, he said, you can help them see where their viewpoints might contain problems or inconsistencies.

Horn mentioned a discussion he once had with someone who believed the world was overpopulated. When Horn asked what number they thought would reflect the ideal population size, the person was not sure how to respond.



Members of the Diocesan Commission for Young Adults – along with Bishop Alfred Schlert, third from left – watch the Trent Horn webinar during their Jan. 29 meeting at the Diocesan Chancery. (Photo by Alexa Smith)

Next two webinars on 'The Art of Conversion'

"The Art of Conversion" will be the topic of the next two installments of the Winter Webinar Series – Part 1, Monday, Feb. 10 and Part 2, Monday, March 2, both at 7 p.m.

In Part 1 Douglas Bushman will guide you through an engagement of scriptural stories of conversion and relate them to your life.

In Part 2 Bushman will explain what conversion is in light of the New Evangelization.

Bushman is a professor of theology, Pope St. John Paul II Chair of Theology for the New Evangelization, at the Augustine Institute in Denver, Colorado.

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 rebroadcast.

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



"This may reveal to the person that they haven't fully thought the issue through," he said.

Clarify-questions

While gather-questions are meant to unpack what a person believes, clarify-questions go a step further, asking people to define their terms.

"This is not about telling them to prove me wrong, but asking them to help me understand where they're coming from," he said. "Sometimes in trying to help me understand, they will realize on their own that there are flaws in their argument."

Challenge-questions

Finally, challenge-questions seek to reveal the inconsistencies in a flawed argument. These types of questions are often used when someone presents a double standard.

"A moral relativist might say that there is no such thing as

absolute truth," explained Horn. "I would ask them if they believe it is an absolute truth that there is no absolute truth."

Guiding others

Though Horn is skilled in defending the faith, his focus is on guiding others toward the truth. "Our goal in these conversations is not to win the argument, it's to win their soul," he said.

"We're not on a race to the truth. It's a journey, and we are walking shoulder-to-shoulder with the other person, being a trusted place they can go to ask questions."

"Just like learning an instrument or craft, it might feel uncomfortable at first. It's all about cooperating with God and the divine appointments he has planned for you."

> By Alexa Smith, Director of the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry.

Collection for relief after earthquake in Puerto Rico

We are all aware of the plight of the residents of Puerto Rico after recently experiencing a serious earthquake followed by numerous aftershocks. This new round of destruction comes on the heels of the catastrophic damage caused by Hurricane Maria that has still not been totally repaired and has only intensified the conditions created by the hurricane.

In response to this disaster, Bishop Alfred Schlert has asked that each parish in the Diocese of Allentown take up a collection between now and March 15 to provide relief for Puerto Rico.

The funds contributed to this collection will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services to be administered by them.



Clockwise from top left: Bishop Schlert talks to the students during the Catholic Schools Week Mass at Holy Family School, Nazareth. Holy Family School student sing the entrance hymn. Bishop Schlert presents Emily Olsen with her eighth grade pin. Also participating are Father Joseph Tobias, pastor, and Christine Bruce, principal. "It was great to have the Bishop here when we got our class pins," said Gianna Caiazzo, eighth grade student and president of the Student Council.

SCHOOLS

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always feel it or see it, but Jesus is here, and he is working."

He continued, "We do our best through our Catholic schools to help you listen and learn how to pray because that is also how we figure out what Jesus is calling us to do. If we don't talk to Jesus in prayer, we don't know what to do with our life."

Near the end of Mass the eighth-graders received their class pins, which are traditionally presented each year at Mass on Friday of Catholic Schools Week, this year Jan. 26-Feb. 1. The pins are given as a memorial of their last year at Holy Family School.

Father Joseph Tobias, pastor of Holy Family Parish, concelebrated the Mass with the Bishop and helped present the pins to the eighth grade students saying, "Pins have always served as something special to set people apart. These pins celebrate the fact that you are part of a special group – the

class of 2020 from Holy Family School."

Gianna Caiazzo, an eighth grade student and president of the Student Council said, "It was great to have the Bishop here when we got our class pins, and it was nice to hear what he had to say to us. It made the week special. I love all the activities that we have during Catholic Schools Week. It is a good way to get everyone together and to have fun."

Principal Christine Bruce said Catholic Schools Week is an exciting time. The weeklong activities began with a prayer service, which was very important to set the tone for the week.

"We are all very excited when the Bishop comes to celebrate Mass with us. This gives our students an opportunity to do some public speaking and a great time for them to express their faith," she said.

She also noted that a celebration of faith is important, but

just as important is celebrating the students' gifts and talents. Students participated in many activities and presentations throughout the week to make it special.

"This has been a wonderful week for the teachers and staff as well," she said. "It is a great way to celebrate our faith and Catholic education."

Bishop Schlert closed by saying, "I am very proud of our Catholic schools, the teachers, administration and all those who make a sacrifice for their children to be here. We try every day through our schools to help our young generation to know Christ, to love Christ and to serve Christ.

"That is our whole purpose. What I see when I go into our schools is a love of Christ and bringing Christ to the students around them."

> By Karen Corpora

More photos on the diocesan website www.allentowndiocese.org under "What's New" on the homepage.

Sunday Scripture

Sunday, Feb. 9

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel

Isaiah 58:7-10

Psalms 112:4-9

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Matthew 5:13-16

Sunday, Feb. 16

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel

Sirach 15:15-20

Psalms 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Matthew 5:17-37

Diocesan schools celebrate National Catholic Schools Week



More photos on page 10

Clockwise from top left: The 40 schools and nearly 1,000 faculty and staff of the Diocese of Allentown celebrated Catholic Schools Week Jan. 26-Feb. 1 with open houses, Masses, recognition events and lots of fun activities. Students at Good Shepherd Catholic School, Northampton have a great time with their prayer partners working on a service project, decorating placemats to send to the local assisted living facilities and bookmarks to send to all their parishes. Fifth through eighth grade students at Holy Infancy School, Bethlehem make rosary bracelets as a ministry for their pastor, Father Andy Gehringer, to take to home-bound parishioners and for the parish to distribute to service members from the parish. Immaculate Conception Academy, Douglassville students posing for a wax figure activity are Lakota Keeler as Pocahontas, left, and Skylar Cava as Misty Copeland. Taking a buddy to breakfast at Trinity Academy at the Fr. Walter J. Ciszek Education Center, Shenandoah. Students at St. Peter School, Reading write letters to their benefactors. Middle school students at St. Joseph the Worker School, Orefield coordinate a service project for the Allentown Rescue Mission.

Diocesan schools celebrate National Catholic Schools Week



More photos on page 9

Clockwise from top left: Nothing says school spirit like a pep rally at **Bethlehem Catholic High School**. Enjoying the movie night and sleepover tradition at **John Paul II Center for Special Learning, Shillington** are, from left, Xavier, Logan, Alex and Angel. Fifth-graders lead the rosary at **Sacred Heart School, Bath**: Raymond Grover, left, who started the rosary, and Julian Augello, right, with teacher Allison Hammer. Students have a blast playing dodgeball at **St. John Vianney Regional School, Allentown**. Putting their feet together for Crazy Hat and Sock Day at **St. Elizabeth Regional School, Whitehall**. Students dressed up like the career they want to be when they grow up for Vocation/Career Day at **Holy Guardian Angels School, Reading**. Parents came in to speak about their careers, including a fire truck, a SWAT truck, a state trooper and an ambulance.

Lay Dominicans work for the salvation of souls

Prayer, study, community and apostolate

There came a time in John Tucker's life when he realized he "wanted to be more than a regular Catholic," so he began looking into the various orders of lay people, sometimes called Third Orders, within the Church.

A retired utility company engineer, Tucker was drawn to the Lay Dominicans, in part because of their commitment to praying, studying and sharing the fruits of that study.

Lay Dominicans study Scripture, Church teachings and contemporary issues in light of the Catholic faith, and then share what they learn for the salvation of souls – in their workplaces, schools, homes, local communities and especially within their own parishes.

"The order opened to me a tremendous respect and reverence for Church, its teachings, Scripture and the lives of the saints that I didn't have before," he said.

"It gives me a purpose and vision beyond myself, and provides a happiness that transcends what I expected."

Tucker is president of Region 4 of the Lay Dominicans, which includes nine fraternities in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. There are two fraternities in the Diocese of Allentown, at Notre Dame of Bethlehem and Sacred Heart in Bath.



THE DOMINICAN LOGO

There are 15 to 20 men and women perpetually professed or in various stages of formation in the two fraternities in the Diocese.

St. Dominic was a Spanish priest and founder of the Dominican Order of Preachers. The organization of his lay followers, now formally called the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic, was founded in 1285.

Today, Lay Dominicans are part of a worldwide organization, consisting of men and women, singles and couples, living a Christian life with a Dominican spirituality in the secular world.

Lay Dominicans have a passion for the Word of God, and are committed to the order's four pillars – prayer, study, community and apostolate.

Their apostolates include such things as visiting hospice patients and nursing home residents, supporting women in pro-life agencies, and assisting at food banks. They lead the rosary and prayer, and work with people in their parishes to teach the Catholic faith.

Lay Dominican life is a vocation, said Tucker, and as such it requires a life-long commitment. It requires a time of preparation and formation.

It's not a decision made lightly, he said, but rather, one made in a series of steps, first answering the question: "Is God inviting me to contact a Lay Dominican Fraternity and learn more?"

If you sense that invitation, visit the Lay Dominican website for more information and to learn how to contact a fraternity: www.laydominicans.org.

> By Paul Wirth, Diocesan Communications Staff





2020 *Gala*

At Home With Catholic Charities

There is still time for you to support this year's Catholic Charities Gala honoring Reverend Monsignor John J. Martin and Anthony & Mary Martocci.

Purchase a Gala Raffle ticket, be part of the fun, support a wonderful cause PLUS you AND YOUR PARISH might win a fantastic prize!

FIRST PRIZE: AN EVENING IN MANHATTAN! Includes 2 EXCLUSIVE tickets for the Broadway preview performance of "DIANA" on March 16 at the Longacre Theatre. This new musical is based on the life of Princess Diana. Package includes limousine service as well as a pre-show reception with New York Luminaries! VALUE: Priceless! • Donor: Anthony & Evelyn Carfagno and Corporate Limousine PLUS! Winner's Parish will receive a \$500 cash prize!

SECOND PRIZE: DIAMOND BRACELET VALUE: \$1,000 • Anonymous Donor PLUS! Winner's Parish will receive a \$300 cash prize!

THIRD PRIZE: HOTEL BETHLEHEM GETAWAY Package includes an overnight stay for two at the Historic Hotel Bethlehem, tickets for the Hotel's Sunday Musical Brunch and \$200 spending money. VALUE: \$500 • Donor: Gary Iacocca, Yocco's PLUS! Winner's Parish will receive \$200 cash prize!

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20.
Contact Lucia De Marco-Kruse at 610-871-5200, ext. 2113 to purchase yours today!

Winners will be drawn at the Gala on March 8. You do not have to be present to win.





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Designer Purse
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Sunday, February 16th, 2020
(Snow Date: Sunday, February 23rd, 2020)

**Doors Open:
11:30**

**Games Begin:
12:30**



**Good Shepherd Catholic
School Gymnasium**
1300 Newport Ave, Northampton

Advanced Ticket Sales: \$20.00
Tickets at Door: \$25.00
Extra Games: \$5 each
Special Games: \$2 each
Food and Drinks • 50/50 Raffle • Bake Sale

For Tickets Call Pete: 610.972.5407

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Left: Father Mike Schmitz. (Photos courtesy of Alexa Doncsecz) Right: Some of the seminarians and others from the Diocese of Allentown.

Father Mike Schmitz: Evangelization is about telling stories

More than 700 faithful descended upon St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia Jan. 27 for the Cardinal Foley Lecture on The Church and Social Communications, part of an annual series that began in 2011 in memory of Cardinal John Foley.

Among those gathered in St. Martin's Chapel were 14 seminarians preparing for priesthood in the Diocese of Allentown. This year, the keynote speaker was Father Mike Schmitz.

Ordained in 2003, Father Schmitz wears many ministerial hats, but may be best known for his YouTube videos on the Catholic faith, which have over 309,000 subscribers and 1.9 million views. Through his channel, Ascension Presents, Father Schmitz discusses everything from why we fast during Lent to how to discern a vocation, and he has gained national recognition for his approachable yet orthodox content.

"Evangelization is about telling stories," said Father Schmitz. "The heart of the kerygma [Gospel message] is telling true stories about Jesus and what he has done, but also about what he has done in your life and in mine."

Father Schmitz reminded his listeners that evangelization is not always about having the largest platform. "We've already been given a commission. We've been baptized and told what to do, to go out into all the world and make disciples of all nations," he said.

"Some speakers will travel across the country to give a talk,

but aren't comfortable talking to the person sitting next to them about Jesus. If I can't live my faith where I'm planted, then I can't live my faith at all."

Father Schmitz explained that his reach in ministry started small, on the college campus where he was assigned as Newman Center Chaplain. One day a student asked if he would be willing to record some of his homilies. "It was a student who started that," said Father Schmitz, "who said I'm going to teach myself how to record podcasts, how to make a website, how to upload on iTunes.

"People always ask, 'How do you become a Catholic speaker?' I tell them, 'You get baptized, and then you start talking.'"

Next, a father and son asked if they could make a compilation of his sermons related to the Eucharist. "Then, I had brought a group of teens to a Steubenville Youth Conference, and the celebrant for one of the Masses couldn't make it, so they asked if I would preach," he said.

Steubenville asked Father Schmitz to return the next year, and then Ascension Press asked him to be part of a new catechetical DVD program, writing two or three of the lessons and appearing in the series. "Then, when someone from Ascension asked if I wanted to make short, five- to seven-minute videos for YouTube, because the young people are living online, I said yes," he said. "And that's how I got here tonight."

"We've been baptized and told what to do, to go out into all the world and make disciples of all nations."

While Father Schmitz has made great strides spreading the Gospel message with new media, he believes the heart of evangelization does not require high-tech devices. "How do we evangelize with the new media?" he asked. "We don't, if we're not willing to evangelize without the new media."

"I hear from people all the time who grew up in other religious traditions, or who are atheist, and they want to become Catholic," he said. "They ask me where they should go and what they should do next." He explained that when these conversations occur, it is his duty to point these individuals to the Catholic parish in their neighborhood.

"When that person shows up at the parish, what's going to happen?" he asked. "Who are they going to meet? Is someone at that parish going to be willing to welcome them and tell their story?"

>By Alexa Smith

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ALL FAITHS WELCOME

Calendar of events

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

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

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

Thursday, Feb. 6

- Homeschool Families First Friday Gathering, St. Ambrose Church, 201 Randel 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.

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

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.

Wednesday, Feb. 12

- "Fashion Show," Cathedral St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, Women's Alliance, parish activity center, 7 p.m., tickets \$15, 610-437-5933.

Sunday, Feb. 16

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

Wednesday, Feb. 19 – Sunday, March 1

- "Tartuffe," DeSales University, Center Valley, Act 1 performing arts, Wednesdays-Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m., tickets \$21-\$27, www.desales.edu/act1, 610-282-3192.

Sunday, Feb. 23

- Altar Rosary Spaghetti Dinner, Holy Family, Nazareth, parish center, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. or 3-6 p.m., adults \$10, children 6-12 \$5, under 6 free, 610-759-4488.

Saturday, Feb. 29 – Sunday, March 1

- Catholic Home Missions Appeal, including Black and Indian Missions.

Sunday, March 7

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

Sunday, March 8

- "Opus One/Celebration of Women Concert," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, adults \$15, students \$5, tickets available at the door, mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, www.jesuitcenter.org/arts.
- "At Home with Catholic Charities" Gala 2020, DeSales University Center, Center Valley, 5 p.m., www.allentowndiocese.org/gala, jscheck@allentowndiocese.org or 610-871-5200 ext. 2216.

Lenten events

Wednesdays, Feb. 26, April 1; Friday, March 20

- Lenten Dinners, Divine Mercy Parish, Shenandoah, at St. Casimir Church Hall, 3-5:30 p.m., take-out only, \$8, place order with parish office, 570-462-1968 or info@dmparish.com.

Friday, Feb. 28

- Lenten Fish Fry, St. John Fisher, North Catasauqua, 4-7 p.m., advance

adults \$10, children 5-10 \$5; at door adults \$12; 610-264-4758.

Fridays, Feb. 28; March 6, 13, 27, April 3

- Lenten Fish Dinner, Knights of Columbus Union Council 345, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, 4-7 p.m., adults \$11, seniors \$10, children 5-12 \$6, under 5 free, advance tickets or group seating dipaolojd@rcn.com, 484-821-7325.

Fridays, Feb. 28; March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3

- Baked Fish Dinners, St. John the Baptist, Pottsville, Russel Building, 4-7 p.m., adults \$15 or \$18, children under 12 \$8.

Friday, March 6

- Lenten Fish Dinner, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, parish hall, 4-7 p.m., in advance adults \$11, children \$5, under 5 free; at door adults \$13, children \$7; 610-266-0695 or dirreled@sercc.org.

Sunday, March 22

- Lenten Taize Service (night of prayer and meditation through music, Scripture and silence) and Closing of 40 Hours Devotion, St. Benedict, Mohnton, 7 p.m., 610-856-1006, andang@hgaschool.org.

Retreats

Saturday, Feb. 15

- "Tis a Gift to be Simple ... Tis a Gift to be Free," St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 6:45-9 p.m., \$25, 610-867-8890.

Monday, Feb. 24

- "A Baptismal Spirituality for Lent," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 6 p.m., \$30, register by Monday, Feb. 17, www.stfrancisretreathouse.org, 610-258-3053, ext. 10.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

- "Rend Your Hearts." Ash Wednesday day of prayer, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, www.jesuitcenter.org/AshWednesdayDayofPrayer.

Friday, March 6 – Sunday, March 8

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

Monday, March 23

- "Learning to Trust God: From Control to Trust," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 6 p.m., \$30, register by Monday, March 16, www.stfrancisretreathouse.org, 610-258-3053, ext. 10.

Saturday, March 28

- "Lenten Day of Prayer on Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, www.jesuitcenter.org/LentenDayPrayer.

Friday, April 3 – Sunday, April 5

- "I Carry Your Heart," Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, www.jesuitcenter.org/holy-week-2020.

Monday, April 27

- "Remembering and Celebrating the Spirit in the Church," St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 6 p.m., \$30, register by Monday, April 20, www.stfrancisretreathouse.org, 610-258-3053, ext. 10.

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.

Saturday, Feb. 15

- Tricky Tray/Basket Social, St. John the Baptist, Whitehall, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., kitchen open, 610-262-2260.

Sunday, Feb. 16

- Cash Bingo, Holy Family, Nazareth, Knights of Columbus, 12:45 p.m., doors open noon, \$20, kitchen open, 610-759-0870.
- Bonanza Bingo, St. John the Baptist, Allentown, social hall, 1 p.m., kitchen and doors open noon, \$12, 610-432-3505.

Sunday, Feb. 23

- Designer Handbag Bingo, Notre Dame High School, Easton, gymnasium, 12:15 p.m., doors open 11:30 a.m., advance \$25, notredametheatrecompany@ndcrusaders.org.

- Meat Bingo, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, 1 p.m., doors open 11:30 a.m., \$15, kitchen open, 610-266-0695.
- 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.

Sunday, March 15

- Designer Handbag Bingo, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, 1 p.m., doors open noon, \$20, kitchen open, 610-433-6102.
- Bonanza Bingo, St. John the Baptist, Allentown, social hall, 1 p.m., kitchen and doors open noon, \$12, 610-432-3505.

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.

Saturday, March 21

- "Night at the Races," Mercy School for Special Learning, Allentown, 6 p.m., doors open 5 p.m., learning@mercyschool.org, www.mercyschool.org, 610-797-8242.
- Purse Bingo, St. Catharine of Siena, Reading, 6:30 p.m., doors open 5:30 p.m., \$30, BYOB, food for purchase, scsbingosquad@gmail.com.

Friday, March 27 – Sunday, March 29

- Basket Social, Annunciation BVM (St. Mary's), Catasauqua, parish center, Friday 6-9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., kitchen open and bake sale, 610-264-0332, stmaryscatty@verizon.net.

Saturday, March 28 – Sunday, March 29

- Basket Raffle, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, parish activity center, Saturday noon-6 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-2 p.m., food available Sunday, 610-433-6461.

Trips

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

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

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

Newly announced

Wednesday, Oct. 7

- St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to Penn's Peak, Jim Thorpe, "The Jersey Beach Boys," \$75, 610-791-1758 or dfe60@msn.com.

Friday, Oct. 9

- St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Knoebels Craftfest, Elysburg, \$38, 610-392-2957, suemueller45@gmail.com.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Silver Birches Germanfest, Hawley, \$82, 610-392-2957, suemueller45@gmail.com.

Monday, Oct. 19 – Wednesday, Oct. 21

- St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to New York State, 610-392-2957, suemueller45@gmail.com.

Thursday, Nov. 5

- St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to Hollywood Casino, Grantville, \$25, 610-791-1758 or dfe60@msn.com.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

- St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to "Christmas Show," American Music Theater, Lancaster, \$85, 610-791-1758 or dfe60@msn.com.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

- St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to "Christmas Show," American Music Theater, Lancaster, \$95, 610-392-2957, suemueller45@gmail.com.

Previously announced

Tuesday, March 24

- St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown, Seniors to "Queen Esther" Sight and Sound Theatre and Hershey Farms, Lancaster, \$115, 610-360-3738.

Wednesday, March 25

- St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown to "Queen Esther," Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, \$113, 610-433-6102, sepler@stfrancisallentown.org.

Friday, March 27

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

Wednesday, April 1

- St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to "Esther," Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, \$115, deadline Feb. 10, 610-392-2957, suemueller45@gmail.com.



Monsignor Andrew Baker with Marie Mazzini, district governor of Serra District 80 (Allentown Diocese), who helped plan and organize the conference/pilgrimage.

Serra clubs hold regional event

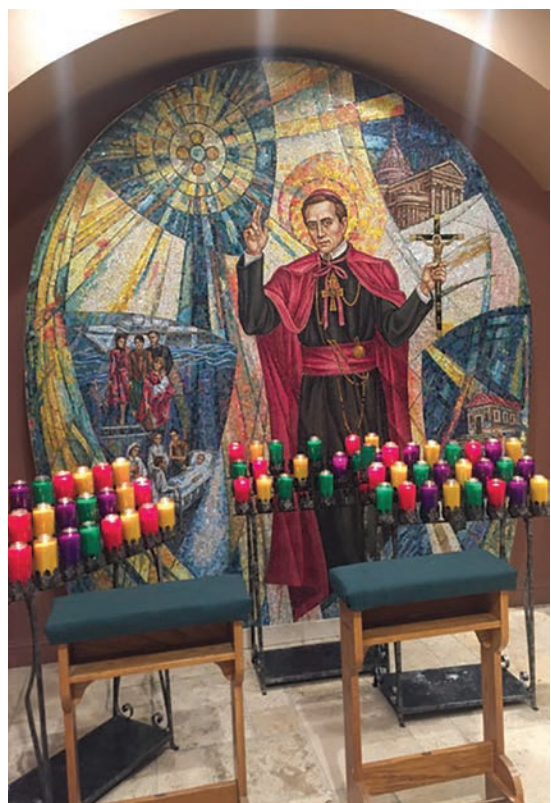
The St. Junipero Serra Clubs of the Northeast Region of the United States held a conference and pilgrimage at the National Shrine of St. John Neumann in Philadelphia.

The daylong event included speakers, panel discussion on saints and blessed of the region, and workshops. The program also included Eucharistic adoration, opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a vigil Mass.

One of the speakers was Monsignor Andrew Baker, rector at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland and a priest of the Diocese of Allentown.

He also gave a discussion on Blessed Father Stanley Rother, who is being considered for sainthood.

About 60 people attended the event, which was inspiring and informative.



A meditation area in the chapel of the St. John Neumann Shrine.



From left are Knights Chair Kevin Collins, Christine Duddy of Cay Galgon Life House, Notre Dame Parish Chair Anne Muething, Pastor Monsignor Tom Baddick and Grand Knight Ron Moser.

Notre Dame donates \$13,579 to Baby Bottle Campaign

Knights of Columbus Trinity Council 313 combined forces with Notre Dame of Bethlehem Parish to raise \$13,579.73 for the Cay Galgon Life House in Bethlehem.

Parishioner Anne Muething and the Knights' Kevin Collins led the Baby Bottle Campaign, in which people make donations into baby bottles, on behalf of Notre Dame during this past Advent Season.

The Cay Galgon Life House provides much-needed assistance to young mothers with nowhere else to turn during and

after pregnancy.

Christine Duddy, who leads operations at the house, expressed appreciation for the Knights and parish support. She also emphasized how their programs continue to reach out to the young families beyond their stay.

All monies raised in this campaign stay to support the Bethlehem-based organization.

Campaign organizers thanked everyone for their generous donations, support and volunteer time.

~ Notre Dame Theatre Company ~
presents



Sunday, February 23, 2020
Snow date of 03/08/20

Doors open at 11:30 AM
with first game starting at 12:15 pm sharp!

Notre Dame (Green Pond) High School Gymnasium
3417 Church Rd., Easton PA 18045

Tickets only \$25 per person in advance through Email:
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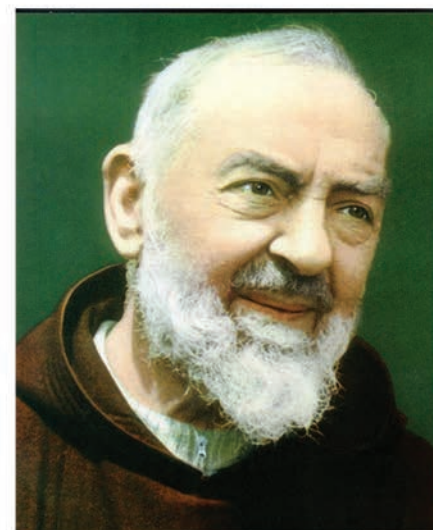


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Julia Calandra-Lineberg:
610-636-5618 | julia@journeywithpadrepio.org

One Family Gala of St. Paul, Reading to highlight Gethsemane Cemetery

St. Paul Church, Reading will hold its Fourth Annual One Family Gala on Sunday, Feb. 23 at the Inn at Reading, 1040 Park Road, Reading. The evening will begin with a cash bar at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m.

The focus of this year's annual event is the 125th anniversary of Gethsemane Cemetery, founded by Monsignor George Bornemann in 1895. This observance will feature a display of photos and information about notable people interred or entombed in the cemetery over the past 125 years.

Among the most recognizable names in the cemetery: Michael O'Pake, a popular long-time Pennsylvania state senator; Joe Toye, a Marine belonging to the "Band of Brothers" of World War II heroism; George "Whitey" Kurowski, a World Series hero while playing for the St. Louis Cardinals; and Lindy Vacari, race car driver.

Also: Manford O. Lee, founder of Lee Jeans; Albert Paris, the flamboyant, affable traffic police officer who appeared on "Candid Camera" on March 11, 1962; Emidio Vagnoni, a country music songwriter and singer known as "Shorty Long"; and Byron Vazakas, a poet nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1947.

Some of the features of the cemetery include a special sec-

tion for infants and fetuses, a section for green burials and a veteran section being developed (making available to families a local place honoring veterans, instead of having to travel to Indiantown Gap).

There are two mausoleum facilities, each with a chapel, and indoor and outdoor columbarium niches.

Featured speaker for this year's gala will be Father Thomas Bortz, pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring and vicar forane of the Berks County Deanery.

His mother, Janet Bortz (nee Borst), grew up in St. Paul Parish, where she married Ronald Bortz, her spouse of 62 years. Also, he was a Reading Central Catholic High School classmate of two members of Gethsemane's Board of Directors, James Didyoung and Matthew Lloyd, who is board president.

Before entering the seminary, Father Bortz was employed for 21 years by the state Bureau of Parks as an environmental technician and was owner/operator of a screen printing business for 17 years. He was ordained a priest in June 2004, a



Father Bortz

month before his 46th birthday.

He continues the tradition of distinguished featured speakers at past galas: Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, George Meiser IX, and Bishop Alfred Schlert.

He will be speaking about the cemetery, his mother's roots in St. Paul Parish and the evolution of the parish from a vibrant German-speaking parish to an English, Vietnamese and Spanish trilingual parish.

Each year's gala is an opportunity to present an award for contributions to church and community. Past recipients of the award were Dr. Richard Flannery, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and local EMS personnel.

This year's recipient of St. Paul's One Family Award will be representatives of the three language groups at St. Paul: English with German roots, Vietnamese and Spanish. Honorees will be William Borst and Barry Sweigart (posthumous), Mr. and Mrs. Mai Van Thuc and Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen Dinh Thu, and Domingo Tejada (posthumous) and Deacon Francisco Najera.

For more information, contact Monsignor John Grabish at 610-372-1531 or jig239@gmail.com.

New film about a search for Padre Pio and his miracles

Two boys intrigued and united by the strength of friendship and faith embark on a journey in search of Padre Pio – a Holy Friar from Southern Italy – and his miracles.

The two boys travel the country with their bicycles and begin their research by interviewing those who have known Padre Pio – real witnesses of his miracles, charisms, extraordinary gifts and his sufferings.

The story is now a film from Aladino Productions called

"We'll Rise at Dawn," set to premiere in the Philadelphia area Thursday, March 12.

There will be an introduction at 6:30 p.m., and the film will start at 7 p.m., at Ambler Theatre, 108 E. Butler Ave., Ambler.

In attendance will be the film's writer and director, Father Jean-Marie Benjamin, who met Padre Pio with his parents as a boy.

Also in attendance will be Andrea Solombrino, who played Luca, one of the young breakout stars.

The film is in Italian with English subtitles. It has amassed many awards from film festivals around the world and in the United States.

Ticket are \$10 per person. To purchase tickets or to view the trailer, visit website <https://www.amblertheater.org/films/well-rise-at-dawn.php>.

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning



St. Joseph Center for Special Learning Director of Development

St. Joseph Center in Pottsville, PA is seeking a motivated, enthusiastic and caring person to conduct all phases of comprehensive development and marketing programs. The individual will provide strong leadership and work in collaboration with the Administration, Board of Directors and volunteers. This person must be passionate about advocating for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Responsibilities

- Development program, with focus on donor identification and cultivation
- Manage comprehensive donor database
- Marketing, including newsletter, press releases, website, social media, brochures, and the annual report
- Fundraising programs including Annual Appeal, Gala, Golf Outing, and 5KRun
- Major gifts and planned giving initiatives

- Research and prepare grant applications
- Raise donor funds for scholarships through PA's EITC/OSTC Tax Credit Program for businesses and individuals
- Support the activities of the Board. Ensure meeting reminders, agendas, and minutes.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree preferred
- A minimum of 5 - 7 years' experience in not-for-profit development and marketing
- A high level of familiarity and involvement in the Schuylkill County community
- Proven volunteer leadership capabilities
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Strong partnership and team building skills
- Ability to develop and manage budgets
- Self-motivated, work well under pressure and able to handle several projects at one time

This is a full-time, year-round position with benefits. The Center is sponsored by the Diocese of Allentown and is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified candidates should send resume and references to Robert Giba, Principal, rgiba@stjosephctr.com.

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Contact Lori Anderson

at landerson@allentowndiocese.org

or 610-871-5200 ext 2273

St. John the Baptist Church

3024 S. Ruch Street
Whitehall (Stiles)

Tricky Trays

Saturday, February 15th, 2020
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

\$5/sheet (26 perforated tickets)
Special raffle for big ticket items
Plenty of parking behind the church
Kitchen will be open

Small games of Chance: #0163R19

Archbishop Chaput retires; Pope names Bishop Perez successor

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia and appointed Bishop Nelson J. Perez of Cleveland, Ohio as his successor.

Archbishop Chaput, who has headed the Philadelphia Archdiocese since 2011, turned 75 last September, the age at which canon law requires bishops to turn in their resignation to the pope. Archbishop Perez, 58, was installed as the 11th bishop of Cleveland Sept. 5, 2017.

The resignation and appointment were announced in Washington Jan. 23 by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

The new archbishop said he was looking forward to returning to the Archdiocese where he was ordained as a priest.

"I am deeply grateful to the Holy Father for this appointment and his confidence in me," Archbishop Perez said in a statement released by the Diocese of Cleveland. "It is with great joy tinged with a sense of sadness that I accept the appointment – joy that I will be returning to serve the Archdiocese in which I was ordained to the priesthood ... and sadness that I will be leaving an area and the incredible people in Northeast Ohio I have come to love deeply."

Archbishop Perez will be installed in ceremonies set for Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul.

He was born in Miami June 16, 1961, to David and Emma Perez and is the brother of the late Dr. David Perez and Louis Martin Perez. He was raised in West New York, New Jersey and earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Montclair State University in 1983.

After entering St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, he earned master of divinity and master of arts in theology degrees in 1988 and 1989, respectively. He was ordained a priest for Philadelphia May 20, 1989.

He ministered as a parochial vicar at St. Ambrose Parish in Philadelphia; was assistant director of the Archdiocesan Office for Hispanic Catholics; founding director of the Catholic



Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput, right, applauds alongside Bishop Nelson Perez of Cleveland during a news conference after Pope Francis appointed Bishop Perez to head the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Jan. 23. (CNS photo/Sarah Webb, CatholicPhilly.com)

Institute for Evangelization; pastor of St. William Parish in Philadelphia; and pastor of St. Agnes Parish in West Chester.

His work in education included teaching psychology and religious studies at La Salle University and developmental psychology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Named a monsignor by St. John Paul II in 1998 and a prelate of honor by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009, he was ordained an auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, in 2012.

As a member of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Perez is chairman of the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church and formerly chaired the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs. He also served as the lead bishop for the V Encuentro process for the USCCB and is a former member of the Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

He serves as a member of the Administrative Committee and the religious liberty committee for the USCCB. In November

2018, he began a three-year term as the bishop liaison for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

Bishop Schlert's statement

"I offer my sincere congratulations to Archbishop-designate Nelson J. Perez on his appointment by Pope Francis as the next Archbishop of Philadelphia.

"I am delighted for Archbishop-designate Perez. He is an excellent choice, and has many gifts to offer the Archdiocese and the Province [the Province comprises the dioceses in Pennsylvania]. I am very much looking forward to working with him.

"I also offer my heartfelt thanks to Archbishop Charles J. Chaput for his leadership over these past eight years, and I wish him well in retirement. I thank Archbishop Chaput for his service to the Province, and for his kindness to me personally."

Discernment retreat for young men March 6-8

Young men of the Diocese of Allentown ages 15-plus, including young adults, are invited to a "Come and See" weekend discernment retreat Friday, March 6 through Sunday, March 8 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia.

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

The weekend will include Holy Hour, Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, time with seminarians and a visit to the shrines of Philadelphia.

All meals will be included, plus a stop for cheesesteaks.

Deadline to register is Thursday, Feb. 27; call the Office for Vocations Promotion at 610-437-0755 or visit www.allentowndiocese.org/come-and-see-weekend.



Learn to evangelize all people to Jesus Christ

Over 1,000 Catholic parishes have discovered a Christ-centered, relational process to evangelize and form missionary disciples. Come and be trained in ChristLife's three-part evangelization process – Discovering Christ, Following Christ and Sharing Christ.

The conference will be at St. Mary, Hamburg, Friday, March 27 from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with closing Vigil Mass with Bishop Alfred

Schlert at 4:30 p.m.

This conference will help you revitalize the Catholics in the pews, reach fallen-away Catholics and evangelize all people to Jesus Christ.

ChristLife Director Dave Nodar and his team will help train you, your parish leaders, staff and pastors about the ChristLife Evangelization Process and how to run the proven process in your parish.

Cost for Diocese of Allentown participants is \$50; participants from other dioceses, \$75. Admission includes dinner on Friday, and continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

It is suggested that each parish send two to five people to be trained. Learn more at www.allentowndiocese.org/ChristLife.

