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the *Ad*times

VOL. 32, NO. 4 | FEBRUARY 20, 2020



Mass for World Day of the Sick at Holy Family Manor. (Photos by John Simitz)

Mass celebrated for World Day of the Sick *New logo unveiled at Holy Family Manor*

The administration, residents and staff of Holy Family Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Bethlehem were doubly blessed on Feb. 11, World Day of the Sick. Not only did Bishop Alfred Schlert come to celebrate Mass at St. Ann's Chapel and administer the anointing of the sick, but the administration also used this opportunity to reveal a new logo and tagline for the entity that operates the facility.

The World Day of the Sick was instituted by Pope St. John Paul II to be celebrated every year on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. "For all believers, it seeks to be a special time of prayer and of offering up one's suffering." The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was chosen because many pilgrims and visitors to Lourdes have been healed by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"Our Blessed Mother is a great intercessor and plays an important role in the healing of our minds, our bodies and our spirits," said Bishop Schlert during his homily.

"Today, we come to ask her intercession for each and every one of us, that we might always find our burdens in life to be bearable because of our Lord's helping hand.

"Christ is always present when we gather in his name, and

See *HEALING*, page 4



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Lent 2020

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As another Lenten Season unfolds for us, I would like to reflect upon something that is impacting our Church and society greatly: Anger.

It seems everywhere we look, we see expressions of anger. Anger in and at the Church; anger in and at Washington; anger in and among nations; anger in families; anger in social media. In my travels around the Diocese, I often hear many who are concerned about the coarseness in our society.

Perhaps during this Lenten Season, a good way for us to reflect upon the anger in our lives and in society is to do an examination of conscience based on that very popular Lenten devotion, The Stations of the Cross. In these fourteen stops along the way of Our Lord's Passion and Death, we see an example of patience and suffering combined in one total act of selfless love.

The First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death

- In my own speech, do I in anger condemn another and quickly draw conclusions about a person's motives and intentions?

The Second Station: Jesus Carries His Cross

- When I have a heavy burden placed on me, justly or unjustly, do I react with anger, blame, retribution, or avoidance?

The Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time

- Do I take delight in another's misfortune out of the anger I feel for him or her?

The Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Sorrowful Mother

- When trial and sorrow come into my life, do I react with anger, blaming God or others for my testing, or do I seek to be compassionate and accepting of the situation over which I have no control?

See *ANGER*, page 6

Lenten Ember Days

As the Season of Lent approaches, Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert asks the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Allentown to celebrate the Ember Days for the Season as a sign of reparation and healing for the Church.

Ember Days are quarterly observances with three days set aside (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) to pray in gratitude for the blessings of the season and human labor, to thank God publicly. There are 12 Ember Days in all.

Holy Mother Church provides many opportunities to refresh and renew. The Lenten Ember Days blend with the season of Lent, providing reminders to continue and persevere in the spirit of conversion and penance.

The fasting and abstinence would follow the current laws of the Church, with abstaining being from all meat, and fasting would be one full meal a day, with the allowance of two smaller meals that do not equal the main meal, and no eating between meals.

The Church no longer regularly ordains priests during the Quarterly Ember Days, but traditionally this is a special time, particularly Ember Saturday, to pray for priests and for seminarians.

The Lenten Ember Days for 2020 are as follows: Wednesday, March 4; Friday, March 6; and Saturday, March 7.

COLUMN] *Because We Are Catholic*

On Church projects, this woodworker mixes sawdust with prayer

Jeff Potylycki loves his Church and his woodworking hobby, and he combines the two by building custom cabinetry for churches in the Diocese.

His latest project is a wooden crosier for Bishop Alfred Schlert. After volunteering to create the piece, Potylycki spent about eight months shaping, carving and sanding various species of wood in his compact basement workshop.

"It's a labor of love," said Potylycki of his Church-related projects. "I often pray as I make things."

Bishop Schlert uses a crosier in processions, when conferring sacraments and at other times during the Mass celebration. Crosiers, typically staffs with a curved crook on top, are traditional reminders that Bishops stand among their flock and represent Christ, the Good Shepherd.

The crosier Potylycki built for Bishop Schlert is fashioned of mahogany, rosewood, satinwood, curly maple and oak. It's the second Bishop's crosier Potylycki has made. Previously, he built one for Bishop Thomas Welsh, second Bishop of the Diocese of Allentown.

Potylycki is a parishioner of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Whitehall. Among his other projects for diocesan churches are lecterns, pedestals for statues, chapel altars and tabernacle components.

"It's a beautiful crosier and a wonderful gift," Bishop Schlert told Potylycki. "Thank you so much." The Bishop used the crosier for the first time Feb. 4 at Confirmation at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena.

> 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.



A wooden crosier for Bishop Schlert is one of many Church-related projects built by woodworker Jeff Potylycki. More photos at www.ad-today.com/category/gallery. (Photo by Paul Wirth)

Catholic Home Missions Appeal 'Strengthening the Church at Home'

The weekend of Saturday, Feb. 29 and Sunday, March 1, our special collection supports the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Nearly half of our country is considered mission territory.

This appeal helps our brothers and sisters here in the United States who do not have access to basic pastoral services like Mass, the sacraments, and religious education.

Through your support, the Catholic Home Missions Appeal helps these mission dioceses form vibrant faith communities and strengthens the Church at home. Please be generous.

Llamamiento de Misiones Católicas 'Fortaleciendo la Iglesia en Casa'

El fin de semana del sábado 29 de febrero y el domingo 1 de marzo, nuestra colecta especial apoya el Llamado para las Misiones Católicas. Casi la mitad de nuestro país es considerado territorio misionero.

Este Llamado ayuda a nuestros hermanos y hermanas aquí en Estados Unidos quienes no tienen acceso a los servicios pastorales básicos como la Misa, los sacramentos y la educación religiosa.

Mediante su apoyo, el Llamado para las Misiones Católicas ayuda a estas diócesis misioneras a formar entusiastas comunidades de fe y fortalecer la Iglesia en casa. Por favor, sean generosos.



How to report abuse:

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

Cómo denunciar un abuso:

Si conoce algún incidente de abuso en la Iglesia o en otro lugar, por favor repórtelo llamando a la línea de *State Child* al 1-800-932-0313 o a la policía local. Para hablar con el coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis de Allentown, llame a su 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.



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Sen. Toomey visits Diocesan school, promotes tax credit bill

During a Feb. 14 visit to Sacred Heart School in Allentown, U.S. Senator for Pennsylvania Pat Toomey promoted a bill he has co-sponsored that would help Sacred Heart students – and tens of thousands more throughout Pennsylvania – attend the schools of their choice.

"I'll never be convinced that there's anyone who cares more about a child than the parent of that child," said the senator. "They'll make a good decision for their child if they have the opportunity to do so."

The Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act would expand elementary, secondary and vocational education options available to students, especially the most vulnerable.

It would provide a federal tax credit that encourages individuals and businesses to donate to nonprofit scholarships for individual students' education, according to a handout the senator's staff distributed at the event.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to families within the Diocese of Allentown who desire a Catholic school education for their children, could be a recipient of those funds.

Sacred Heart Principal James Krupka told the senator, "We serve a student population that is 84% Hispanic and 11% African-American. All of the students received scholarship assistance, but what we receive only funds part of the family financial costs."

Diocese of Allentown Superintendent of Catholic Education Dr. Philip Fromuth said the need is great.

"We provide \$3.4 million in scholarships to about 2,800 families through two Pennsylvania scholarship programs (the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program)," he said.

"The true need is in the area of \$12 million for those in our system and those who would like to attend."

Fromuth said that is why "we are both excited and supportive of the Education Freedom Scholarships."

Before speaking to the media and Sacred Heart School supporters in the school's preschool classroom, Toomey toured the school and visited several classrooms where he interacted with the students.



Top: Dr. Philip Fromuth, left, discusses the need for the Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act with Sen. Pat Toomey. Bottom: Students display their Valentine boxes when Toomey stops in their classroom. (Photos by John Simitz)

More photos at www.ad-today.com/category/gallery.

LEAD retreat will inspire men to fatherly greatness

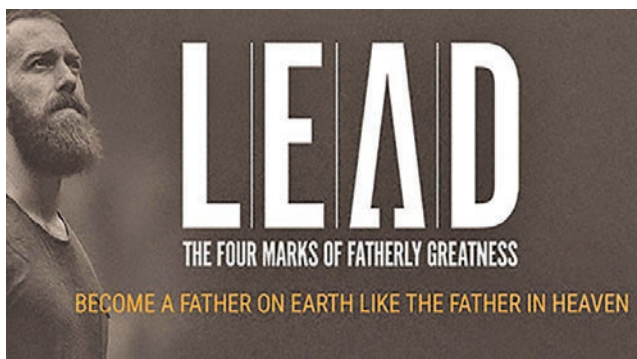
A one-day retreat called "LEAD: The Four Marks of Fatherly Greatness" will inspire men to embrace God's purpose and plan for their life.

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.

Sunday Scripture

Sunday, Feb. 23

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
Psalms 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13
1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

Sunday, March 1

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel

First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7
Psalms 51:3-6, 12-13, 17
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11



Left: Father Anthony Drouncheck, front, and Father Luigi Palmieri anoint residents with oil. Right: Bishop Schlert admires the new logo, with Joseph Shadid at right.

More photos at www.ad-today.com/category/gallery.

HEALING

> continued from page 1

today we welcome him as physician and healer. We pray that the sick may be restored to health by the gift of his mercy and made whole in his glory."

During the Healing Mass, the Bishop and priests anointed those in attendance on their foreheads and the palms of their hands with the oil of the sick. "May God's mercy ease the sufferings and comfort the weakness of your servants whom the Church anoints with this holy oil," Bishop Schlert prayed.

The Bishop thanked all those who made many sacrifices so that the Church can provide dignified health care. He also thanked the staff, volunteers, administration, relatives and friends who support all the residents.

"We ask God to bless all of us in our work and in our suffering," he said. "Bless all of us through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary so that we can know God's will and offer all of our sufferings, longings and infirmities in thanksgiving and for the salvation of the world and the conversion of sinners."

After Mass Bishop Schlert was asked to unveil the new logo

so the residents would be among the first to see it.

Commenting on the logo, the Bishop said, "When you look at the logo, the cross is in the very center. This is because everything we do is focused on Jesus and the salvation that he brought us by his cross.

"When we embrace the cross – whether through our work, illness, loneliness or through our sickness – we develop like Jesus, a great love for our brothers and sisters. So from the cross comes the heart. We are proud of our Catholic family of faith who allows us to provide such quality senior living."

"I thought that the Mass was wonderful. I could see the residents and their expressions and how grateful they were to the Bishop and how much of a celebration this was for them," said Joseph Shadid, CEO of Catholic Senior Housing and Health Care Services, Inc., now to be known as Holy Family Senior Living.

"The new logo focuses on the heart of the ministry. It is the cross and the heart coming out of the cross. We are Holy Family, and we truly are a family here."

Sister Caroline Micrichka, a three-year resident, said, "I really appreciated the Bishop coming here today. I think the new logo is beautiful. We are Catholic and we welcome all."

Another resident, James Schwar, who attended Notre Dame High School, Easton at the same time as Bishop Schlert,

"The new logo focuses on the heart of the ministry. It is the cross and the heart coming out of the cross. We are Holy Family, and we truly are a family here."

said, "I'm happy that he is here to anoint us today. It's nice that he gets a chance to spend some time and see what's going on around the Diocese."

After the liturgy and the unveiling of the logo, the Bishop toured the facility, and visited and prayed with many of the residents.

Concelebrating the Mass were Father Anthony Drouncheck, chaplain of the manor; and Father Clifford Bishop, Father Luigi Palmieri and Father William Seifert, who are residents.

For more information, visit website www.cshhcs.org.

> By Karen Corpora

Next First Friday adoration for vocations March 6

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

Upcoming First Friday events will be 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 Bless-

ed 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, 610-437-0755, or visit www.allentowndiocese.org/vocations.



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Pope shares his 'dreams' for Amazon region, its Catholic community

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis said he dreams of an Amazon region where the rights of the poor and indigenous are respected, local cultures are preserved, nature is protected, and the Catholic Church is present and active with “Amazonian features.”

In his apostolic exhortation “Querida Amazonia” (Beloved Amazonia), Pope Francis made no mention of the idea of ordaining married men to the priesthood so that far-flung Catholic communities would have regular access to the Eucharist.

Instead, he said “every effort should be made to ensure that the Amazonian people do not lack this food of new life and the sacrament of forgiveness.”

“A specific and courageous response is required of the church” to meet the needs of Catholics, he said, without dictating what that response would be.

However, Pope Francis opened the document saying he wanted “to officially present the final document” of October’s Synod of Bishops for the Amazon.

The final document asked for criteria to be drawn up “to ordain as priests suitable and respected men of the community with a legitimately constituted and stable family, who have had a fruitful permanent diaconate and receive an adequate formation for the priesthood, in order to sustain the life of the Christian community through the preaching of the word and the celebration of the sacraments in the most remote areas of the Amazon region.”

Speaking about the final document, Pope Francis wrote that

the synod “profited from the participation of many people who know better than myself or the Roman Curia the problems and issues of the Amazon region.”

Having a church with “Amazonian features,” he said, also will require greater efforts to evangelize, official recognition of the role women have and continue to play in the region’s Catholic communities, a respect for popular forms of piety and greater efforts to inculturate the Catholic faith in Amazonian cultures.

In the document, Pope Francis did not mention the theft during the synod of wooden statues of a pregnant woman, usually referred to by the media as “pachamama” or described as a symbol of life and fertility by synod participants.

But he insisted, “Let us not be quick to describe as superstition or paganism certain religious practices that arise spontaneously from the life of peoples.”

The pope devoted several long passages to the theme of “inculturation,” the process by which the faith becomes “incarnate” in a local culture, taking on local characteristics that are in harmony with the faith and giving the local culture values and traits that come from the universal church.

“There is a risk,” he said, “that evangelizers who come to a particular area may think that they must not only communicate the Gospel but also the culture in which they grew up.”

Instead, he said, “what is needed is courageous openness to the novelty of the Spirit, who is always able to create something new with the inexhaustible riches of Jesus Christ.”



Copies of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, “Querida Amazonia” (Beloved Amazonia) at a news conference for the release of the exhortation at the Vatican Feb. 12. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

One of the characteristics of many Catholic communities in the Amazon, he wrote, is that, in the absence of priests, they are led and sustained by “strong and generous women, who, undoubtedly called and prompted by the Holy Spirit, baptized, catechized, prayed and acted as missionaries.”

While the idea of ordaining women deacons was mentioned at the synod, it was not included in the bishops’ final document.

In his exhortation, Pope Francis said the idea that women’s status and participation in the church could come only with ordination “would lead us to clericalize women, diminish the great value of what they have already accomplished and subtly make their indispensable contribution less effective.”

Instead, he called for including women in roles “that do not entail holy orders,” but that are stably established, publicly recognized and include “a commission from the bishop” and a voice in decision making.

Peppered with poetry praising the region’s beauty or lamenting its destruction, much of the document looks at the exploitation of the Amazon region’s indigenous communities and poor inhabitants and the destruction of its natural resources.

Bishop Schlert’s statement

“The Holy Father reminds us of our shared responsibility to be good stewards of the earth which God created for us to properly use and protect.

“In his decision to maintain the discipline of celibacy, even in remote parts of the world like the Amazon, the Holy Father emphasizes the need to foster native vocations to the Priesthood, greater missionary activity, and persistent prayers for vocations to the Priesthood.”

COLUMN] *Understanding Our Faith*

About the blessing of the throats

Every year around this time we are invited to the altar to have our throats blessed. The priest or deacon says:

“Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

St. Blaise was a bishop in Sebastea, Armenia, who was martyred in the year 316. While not much is known about him for certain, he is said to have blessed a young boy who was choking to death on a fishbone lodged in his throat, curing him.

Eventually, the custom of the blessing of the throats arose. The crossed candles used to impart the blessing may be a reminder of the kindness of a woman who brought candles to him so that he might have light while suffering persecution for his faith in a prison cell.

The Memorial of St. Blaise is Feb. 3. The throat blessings are offered at weekend Masses around that date.

The annual blessing of the throats is a traditional sign



of the Christian struggle against illness. With faith, we follow the lead of the Church in asking for St. Blaise’s protection.

> By Paul Wirth, Diocesan Communications Staff

Bishop Alfred Schlert blesses the throat of Sister of Christian Charity Mary Margaret Miller during a Mass Feb. 3 at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. At left is Sister Sophia Marie Peralta. (Photo by John Simitz)



Our Lenten obligation

Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who himself recommended it as necessary to his followers, and gave them the example of his prayer and fasting.

The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Who must fast?

All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60th year on his/

See *OBLIGATION*, page 7

Nuestra obligación de cuaresma

La ley eclesial considera todos los viernes y el tiempo de Cuaresma como los días y tiempo de penitencia. La práctica de la penitencia es una parte de nuestra fe y vida cristiana. Cuando hacemos penitencia, imitamos a Jesús, Él mismo recomendó como necesario para sus seguidores y les dio el ejemplo de su oración y ayuno.

La obligación de Cuaresma, según lo determinado por los católicos en los Estados Unidos por nuestros obispos, requiere que se observe el ayuno el miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo. La ley de la abstinencia se observa el miércoles de Ceniza y todos los viernes de Cuaresma.

¿Quién debe ayunar?

Todos los católicos que están entre las edades de 18 y 59. La obligación cesa cuando se haya cumplido los 59 años.

¿Quién debe abstenerse?

Todos los católicos que tienen 14 años y mayores.

¿Qué significa el ayuno?

La observancia del ayuno significa que los obligados pueden tomar sólo una comida completa en el día de ayuno. Dos comidas más ligeras (que no igualen a una comida completa) pueden tomarse para mantener la fuerza de acuerdo a las necesidades de uno.

¿Qué significa la abstinencia?

La ley de la abstinencia prohíbe el consumo de carne, incluidas las aves de corral. Abstinencia voluntaria se refiere a abstenerse de los placeres lícitos en un espíritu de penitencia.

¿Puede alguien ser dispensado o excusado de ayunar y/o la abstinencia?

Los individuos de una causa justa pueden ser dispensados por su párroco o un sacerdote con facultad para hacerlo. En nuestra diócesis todos los sacerdotes pueden dispensar las personas que están comprometidos con su cuidado pastoral.

Los que están enfermos o tienen una razón similar sería están excusados de la observancia del ayuno y la abstinencia.

ANGER

> continued from page 1

The Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

- Does anger overcome me when asked to do something or circumstances demand that I get involved, preferring rather to watch from a comfortable distance, resentful that I have been asked to contribute my time, talent, or treasure?

The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

- Does my anger keep me from showing compassion, especially if I have experienced a lack of compassion from someone else?

The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls the Second Time

- Am I patient with myself when I make the same mistake again, or do I become angry with my lack of perfection and give up?

The Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

- Does my anger lead me to be hardened to the plight of others, convincing myself that somehow they are to blame for their situation and therefore absolving myself of any charity toward them?

The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls a Third Time

- Do I create an angry standard in my mind of what persons are worthy of being helped based on my own prejudices and misconceptions?

The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes

- In my anger, do I strip someone of his or her dignity or good name by what I say about them, what I post on social media, or how I act toward them?

The Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

- How does my interior anger disfigure my soul and nail my humanity to the cross of hatred, arrogance, and selfishness?

The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

- Does my anger rage to the point that I see another person as irredeemable or without the human dignity of one created by God and saved by the Blood of Christ?

The Thirteenth Station: The Body of Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

- Do I show respect for the human person or do I judge another as an object of my anger or to be used in a selfish way?

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

- In my anger, do I emotionally bury a family member, friend, co-worker, or classmate by treating them as if they are "dead to me," shutting them out of my life with no intention of reconciling with him or her?

The anger we sense in the world today is real and powerful. It is not easily rooted out, especially if we see the cause in someone else. This Lent, I ask myself and all the faithful to look inwardly to see how the anger in the world is really rooted in our personal anger, and seek to be reconciled with Our Lord and with those from whom we are estranged.

Psalm 34 tells us,

Calm your anger and forget your rage;
do not fret, it only leads to evil.
For those who do evil shall perish;
the patient shall inherit the land.

May God grant all of the peace and forgiveness of a Lenten Season truly lived well so that the Love of Christ will wash over us, bring us to be forgiven and inspire us by His forgiveness to forgive.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of Allentown

Se les recuerda a los católicos que no deben excusarse a sí mismos de esta obligación.

¿Existen otras obligaciones que debemos cumplir?

Los católicos están obligados a cumplir con lo que se ha llamado su "deber de Pascua." Ellos están obligados a recibir la Sagrada Comunión durante el tiempo de Pascua. En los Estados Unidos esta obligación puede ser cumplida a partir del Primer Domingo de Cuaresma hasta el Domingo

de Trinidad (1 de marzo hasta el 7 de junio del 2020). Los que tienen conciencia de pecado grave se les recuerda de la obligación de confesar sus pecados al menos una vez al año durante este tiempo.

También se les anima a los católicos a hacer de la Cuaresma un tiempo de oración más intensa y de practicar la limosna y otras obras de caridad. Se anima a las parroquias a continuar su participación en la Operación Plato de Arroz.

OBLIGATION

> continued from page 6

her 59th birthday.**Who must abstain?**

All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

What does fasting mean?

The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

What does abstinence mean?

The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/or abstinence?

Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor

or by a priest with the faculty to do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care.

Those who are ill or have a similar serious reason are excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

Are there other obligations which we should fulfill?

Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their "Easter Duty." They are required to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (March 1 until June 7, 2020). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time.

Catholics also are encouraged to make Lent a time of more intense prayer and to practice almsgiving and other works of charity. Parishes are encouraged to continue participation in Rice Bowl.

Homeschool families to gather

Homeschool Families of the Diocese of Allentown are invited to a First Friday gathering on Thursday, March 5 at St. Thomas More Church, 1040 Flexer Ave., Allentown.

Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. by Father Kevin Bobbin, chaplain to the Homeschool Community. Mass will be followed by a period of Adoration and Confessions until 7:30 p.m., then an informal social.

Please join us for this opportunity to meet each other as we come together for prayer and fellowship. Questions: Father Bobbin, 610-866-0791 ext. 332 or kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org.

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.



RESERVA LA FECHA

RETIRO ESPIRITUAL PARA Mujeres

"Mujer de fe, no tengas miedo a la tormenta: ¡Levántate!"
"Dios dispone todas las cosas para el bien de los que lo aman"
 (Rom. 8,28)

Fecha: Sábado 16 de mayo, 2020
Hora: 9:00 AM a 4:00 PM
Lugar: Centro de Conferencias y Espiritualidad McGlinn
 460 Saint Bernardine St. Reading, PA 19607

INVITADOS

Desde España
GISELLA MARIA ZALAMEA AMADOR
De la Asociación Mater Vitae

DIOSSANTA REYES MAMFT
De Agape Servicios de Consejería y Educación de PA

REV. MONS. THOMAS ORSULAK
Celebrante de la Santa Misa

SE REQUIERE INSCRIPCIÓN PREVIA
 Inscripciones cierran el 24 DE ABRIL esta fecha no garantiza el cupo
NO SE ACEPTAN INSCRIPCIONES EL DÍA DEL EVENTO
 Para más información, Inscripciones y pagos, visite nuestra página web:
www.allentowndiocese.org/oha
 O llamando a la Oficina de Asuntos Hispánicos 610-289-8900 ext. 2025

oha@allentowndiocese.org
www.allentowndiocese.org/oha

RESERVA LA FECHA

RETIRO ESPIRITUAL EN PREPARACIÓN A LA SEMANA SANTA
"MI ALMA TIENE SED DE DIOS"
"Mi alma tiene sed de ti, por ti suspira mi carne como tierra sedienta, reseca y sin agua" (Sal 63,2).

Presentador: Reverendo Frank Kaminski, SJ
SÁBADO 4 DE ABRIL DE 2020
Hora: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Lugar: CENTRO JESUITA
 501 N. Church Rd, Wernersville, PA 19565

CUPO MUY LIMITADO
 Inscripciones cierran el 16 de marzo.
 Se requiere inscripción previa.
PARA INSCRIPCIONES Y PAGOS

www.allentowndiocese.org/oha
 610-289-8900 ext. 2025.
 OHA@allentowndiocese.org

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 (St. John's Russell Building)

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 (No Dinner on Good Friday)

Full Course Dinner including the best
 Homemade New England Clam Chowder
 Full Salad Bar—Choice of Vegetables
 Choice of Macaroni & Cheese
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 Better prices for all of this cannot be found anywhere!

Adults:

Baked Haddock	\$15.00
Baked Salmon	\$15.00
1 Lump Crab Cake	\$15.00
2 Lump Crab Cakes	\$18.00

Adult Special:
 Lump Crab Cake & Choice of Fish \$18.00

Children: (under 12)

Baked Haddock	\$8.00
Baked Salmon	\$8.00
Lump Crab Cake	\$8.00

TAKE-OUTS AVAILABLE

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

Day of healing with Father Blount

A day of healing with Father James Blount will be offered Saturday, March 22 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown.

Father Blount is a gifted spiritual director, confessor and charismatic preacher endowed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He speaks of living a life and relationship with each of the three persons of the Holy Trinity.

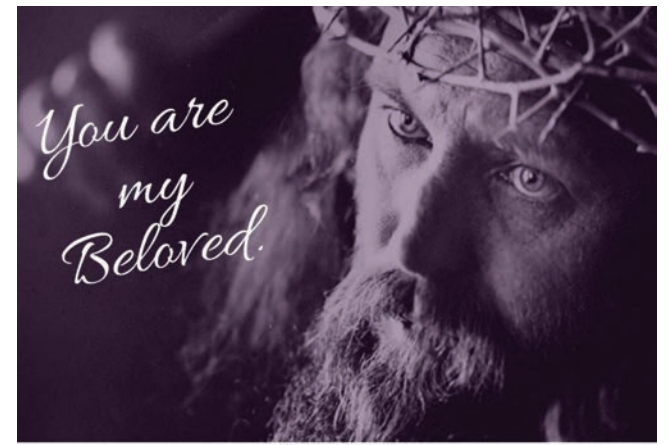
His teachings depict his deep love for the Eucharist and his intimate relationships of love and devotion to both Jesus and Mary. Father Blount is a spiritual advisor to the Flame of Love Movement of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the United States.

Everyone is invited to come learn how to help our Lord saving souls.

The day will include 9 a.m. Mass, followed by a talk,



healing ministry. Confessions will be available from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Bring your own lunch. Refreshments will be available throughout the day in the church hall.



HIS WOUNDS, OUR HEALING

Women's day of reflection for Lent March 14

'His Wounds, Our Healing'

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.

Children's book criticized as encouraging Satanism

A children's book that invites 5- to 10-year-olds to summon demons has come under fire as inappropriate, especially for Catholics.

"A Children's Book of Demons" says, among other things, "Summoning demons has never been so fun." It was published in the United States last year.

"Whoever invites a child to summon demons is like a person who puts a hand grenade into the hands of a child to play," said Father Francesco Bamonte, president of the International Association of Exorcists.

Father Bamonte warns that the book normalizes contact with demons and presents Satanism in a positive light.

"The words of the Lord apply here, perhaps more than anywhere else," he said.

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea' (Matt. 18:6)."



ST. FRANCIS CENTER FOR RENEWAL

395 Bridle Path Road Bethlehem PA 18017
610.867.8890 stfranciscenter@gmail.com www.stfranciscctr.org

The Wounded Healer A Lenten Evening of Reflection

March 18 6:45-9:00PM OFFERING: \$25

Henri Nouwen says that "a Christian community is, therefore, a healing community not because wounds are cured and pains are alleviated, but because wounds and pains become openings or occasions for a new vision." The liturgical season of Lent is this kind of "occasion." Each year it challenges us to open our eyes to a new and renewed vision of life that enables us to see our own experience through the lens of the Paschal Mystery. You are invited to join us this evening as we reflect on this mystery through the experience of Jesus and to discover how his healing touch can empower us to become, like him, a blessed presence in our broken and wounded world.

Facilitator: **Sr. Clare Andrew D'Auria, OSF**

Lenten Taizé Freewill Offering

March 31 6:45 ~ 9:00 PM

The Lenten season is a special time to calm our minds and gentle our spirits. Join us for an evening of prayer that will include Taizé music, scripture readings and periods of tranquil silence. Led by **S. Barbara DeStefano, OSF & S. Anita Kuchera, OSF**

Healing the Earth ~ Our Common Home **April 2 9:30-11:30AM OR 7:00-9:00PM**

Freewill Offering

Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis were called. YOU are called to respond to the whispers and cries of our Earth and her poor and vulnerable communities. This workshop will heighten your awareness and will offer simple steps to help alleviate the effects of drought, flooding, poor air quality, ocean waste, and more. Breakout sessions presented by local speakers will provide practical, cost-effective solutions to questions about energy efficiency, sustainability, reducing waste, storm water runoff, and water quality. The schedule will integrate time for personal reflection and Q&A. Please join us! Both sessions cover the same topics. Registration is required. Presenters: **Marie North, CSBA, Laudato Si' Animator, Team of Local Speakers**

Free to Be Ourselves

April 27 6:45-9:00PM

A retreat is an opportunity to step back, unwind and exhale. It gives us time to enter that place where we are free to be ourselves ~ to hear the music of our souls ~ to move with Spirit ~ to DANCE as if no one is watching! Come away for an evening of prayer, music and DANCE ~ an evening of fun and laughter, moved by the Spirit. Lee Ann Womack said it best, "Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance. And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance! I hope you dance!" I hope you will join us!

Facilitator/DJ: **Alexandria Cirko OFFERING: \$25**



Most Blessed Sacrament

610 Pine Street, Bally
Invites You To Our Annual Lenten Fish Fry!
Feb. 28th, March 6, March 20th,
March 27 & April 3
11 AM - 6 PM
Carnival building next to St. Francis Academy

We offer a full menu, including baked & fried fish, crab, scallops, shrimp, multiple soups, kid friendly items such as mac & cheese, pierogies, french fries & desserts

We will be featuring Bishop Robert Barron's latest Pivotal Players series in Fr. Schneider Hall at 1 PM & 5 PM. Bring some friends, grab your Lenten meal, sit and enjoy the videos
Feb. 28 - Venerable Fulton Sheen
March 6 - Flannery O'Connor
March 20 - St. Benedict
March 27 - St. Augustine

All also invited to the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 6 PM followed by Stations at 7PM

Call in your orders on Fridays @ 610-248-2171, walk ins also welcome

COLUMN] *Lightposts*

In the beginning

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

The Creation story of Genesis 1 is well-known, as well as highly contested. Did God really create heaven and earth in six days? How was light created before there was a sun to give light?

To understand the Biblical text, we need to ask what the author is trying to tell us. We also need to remember that this is the beginning of not just a story, but *our* story.

The ancient Israelites lived in a time where the sun, moon, stars, trees and animals were worshiped as deities. The creation story is subversive in showing that these things are not gods, but rather are created by God, who brought order out of chaos and created because it was "good." He created by speaking, by his Word, not by some physical action using pre-existent cosmic "stuff."

The order of creation is important. The first three days of Creation correspond to the latter three days. On the first day, God made light and darkness, day and night. On the

Last, God created man and woman, giving them dominion over the rest of creation. Humanity is invited to take part in the creative action of God, "to fill the earth and subdue it." We are called to create and maintain order that it might be offered back to God.

The creation of humanity is subversive in the ancient context. In many ancient societies only the king was reckoned created in the image of God. Here, all people are created in his "image and likeness," though we have become corrupted through sin.

This foreshadows Jesus' mission on earth: to bring us back to God so that we may be his adopted children and become like God. In the worthy reception of the Sacraments, we receive graces from God, which are a sharing in his blessed life.

We must consider the implications on our daily lives. Do we act in accordance with the dignity bestowed on us as created in the image and likeness of God? Do we tend to God's creation with a view to creating and maintaining proper order, or do we abuse our dominion?

Day 4: Sun, Moon & Stars	Day 5: Birds & Sea Creatures	Day 6: Animals & Creeping Things
Day 1: Light & Dark / Day & Night	Day 2: Sky & Sea	Day 3: Land & Vegetation

third day, he made the sun, moon and stars to rule over day and night.

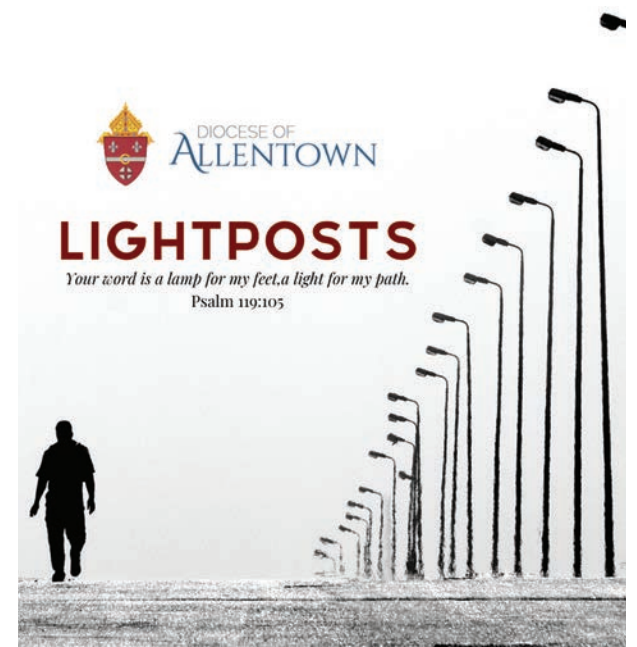
The second day introduces the sea and the sky, and the fourth brings the birds and water-creatures to rule over the sky and sea. Finally, the third day yields the creation of dry land and vegetation. The corresponding sixth day brings about the land animals and creeping things to rule over the land. The creative action of God is one of providing order (see box).

Genesis 1:2 tells us, "The earth was without form and void." The first three days provide form and the later three fill the void.

On the seventh day, we are told that God rested, hence the Sabbath. St. John Paul II indicated that this rest is not a state of inactivity, rather, he is looking on creation with "a gaze full of joyous delight" ("Deus Domini," 11). He is looking on *you* with this gaze.

Unlike the other six days of Creation, there is no end of the seventh day indicated in Genesis. Even among the great works of God, as well as the brokenness and depravity of sinful man, recounted throughout Salvation History, God continues his joyous gaze.

We are called to return that delightful gaze. At Holy Mass, all of the great events of Salvation History, including Cre-



ation, and especially the Paschal event, are made present. Here we are to gaze in joyous delight on the wonders that God has wrought. The greatest of these wonders is the re-creation that happens on the eighth day, the day of the Resurrection, the day after the Sabbath (Luke 16:1).

As we worthily receive the Sacraments, we are re-created in the "image and likeness" of Christ. Perhaps the return of the "gaze full of joyous delight" is what St. Paul intended when he said, "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

> By Rick Dooley, Director, Adult Catechesis and Evangelization

What we must believe

The Church has no quarrel with the hard sciences regarding Creation. In a document titled "Humani Generis," the Church lists only a few things that we must believe about the Creation accounts of Genesis:

There is one God who created everything and set any evolutionary process into motion; God deliberately created man and gave him a soul; humanity comes from one set of parents; there was some form of original trial and fall that brought evil and disorder into the world.

You are free to believe in a literal six-day creation or to believe in a creation taking place over billions of years.

Mass for St. Patrick's Parade March 22

Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert will celebrate a Mass for St. Patrick Sunday, March 22 at 9:15 a.m. at Immaculate Conception BVM Church, Allentown, in conjunction with the Allentown St. Patrick's Parade.

The Mass will feature a procession led by the MacKay bagpipe band that includes former parade kings and queens, and the 2020 king and queen.

For more information on the parade and other events, go to www.allentownstpatricksparade.com.



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ALL FAITHS WELCOME



‘Unbound’ conference for wounded hearts

Join us for the “Unbound” one-day conference Saturday, April 18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. John XXIII Church, 307 Pine St., Tamaqua.

Everyone is fighting an invisible battle: negative thoughts, secret sins and unhealthy relationships; destructive habits, idols and false identities; resentments and bitter wounds that never seem to heal.

“Unbound” ministry releases the power of Jesus into wounded hearts. This one-day conference will empower you to break the powerful chains in your life, so you can walk in the fullness of freedom.

Neal and Janet Lozano have more than 45 years experience helping people find freedom in Christ. Neal is executive director of Heart of the Father Ministries and is



the author of “Unbound: A Practical Guide to Deliverance” along with eight other books. Janet is assistant executive director.

Register online at www.sj23tamaqua.org/unbound.html,

deadline Monday, March 23. Fee of \$50 includes lunch. Late registration is March 24~April 10, fee \$65. There will be no registration at the door.

Death

Father Edmund Brennan

Father Edmund Brennan, 66, of Girardville died Feb. 12 at St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem.

Born in Ashland, Father Brennan was the son of the late John and Margaret (Purcell) Brennan. Surviving are two brothers, John Brennan, Allentown, and Michael Brennan, Girardville; four sisters, Mary Eleanor Brennan, Bethlehem; Margaret Anne Buchanan and husband Robert, Easton; Patricia Brennan, Girardville; and Rose Marie Smallwood, Girardville; nieces and nephews.

Father Brennan attended St. Joseph School, Girardville, and



is a graduate of Cardinal Brennan High School, Ashland. He attended St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy; and Mary Immaculate Seminary, Northampton, where he received a master of divinity degree in theology.

He was ordained to the priesthood March 20, 1982 by Bishop of Allentown Joseph McShea at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown.

Father Brennan's first priestly assignment was assistant pastor pro tempore at Annunciation BVM Parish, Shenandoah, followed by assistant pastor, St. Paul Parish, Reading; associate professor, Reading Central Catholic High School; professor, Cardinal Brennan High School, Ashland; assistant pastor, St. Ursula Parish, Fountain Hill; assistant pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Bethlehem; assistant pastor, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Allentown; assistant pastor, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown; and assistant pastor, St. Ann Parish, Emmaus.

His first pastoral assignment was pastor, St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish, Branchdale, followed by pastor, Sacred Heart

Parish, Newtown.

During the course of his priestly ministry, Father Brennan served as a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. He retired in May 2019.

Mass of Christian Burial for Father Brennan was celebrated Feb. 19 at St. Joseph Parish (St. Ann Church), Frackville by Bishop of Allentown Alfred Schlert. Homilist was Father Martin Cioppi, pastor of Mother of Divine Providence Parish, King of Prussia.

Main concelebrants were Father Adam Sedar, secretary for clergy; Monsignor Thomas Baddick, pastor of Notre Dame of Bethlehem Parish; Monsignor Edward Coyle, pastor of St. Ann Parish, Emmaus; and Father Robert Finlan, pastor of Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Reading.

Calling hours and Vigil Service were Feb. 18 at Thomas M. Sullivan Funeral Home, Girardville. Monsignor William Glosser, vicar forane of the Schuylkill Deanery, presided. Calling hours were also Feb. 19 before Mass at the church.

Burial took place in St. Joseph Cemetery, Fountain Springs.



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Holy Savior Cemetery
2575 Linden Street
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Resurrection Cemetery
547 N. Krocks Road
Allentown, PA 18106

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COLUMN] Christian girls and abortion

When Mother Teresa visited New Bedford, Massachusetts in June 1995, she told those of us gathered at St. Lawrence Martyr Church: "Abortion is the greatest evil of today." Never one to mince words, Mother Teresa's courage, truthfulness and charity were palpable.

Parents today need similar fortitude, honesty and love to be able to discuss the hard topic of unplanned pregnancies and abortion with their children.

Parental input and advice are critical when these situations arise. Even as children profess independence, parents exercise influence over them, whether for good or for ill.

If a mother says to her daughter, for example, "You can't have a kid now, because you've got your studies, your career and your whole future ahead of you, so I'll give you money for an abortion," she is not merely offering advice, but being coercive and taking away any real choice her daughter might have had.

Likewise, when a boyfriend learns that his girlfriend is pregnant and informs her he doesn't want to be a father right now, and will drive her to the abortion clinic, he abandons both his child and the mother of his child in their moment of greatest need.

To read testimonies of young women who have had abortions is heart-wrenching. Many times they seem to have less responsibility for the abortion than their parents or others close to them.

One woman described being only 12 years old when she had an abortion:

"When Saturday came my mom drove me back across town, walked me in, paid for the abortion with money my boyfriend



gave her and left the building. I didn't know it then, but they wouldn't allow her to stay. The nurse told her I would be ready about 3:00, so I was there alone....

"It's been 35 years since my baby was aborted, and I still think about it every day. It wasn't a quick fix, and it wasn't a solution to my pregnancy. It was a panicked response to our fears."

Fear often stands behind the decision to abort. Young women are understandably frightened when they discover they are pregnant:

"I'm afraid I'm not ready and I won't be a good mother." "I'm fearful my boyfriend won't stand by me and support me – he's just a kid himself." "What will Mom and Dad think of the fact I've been having sex?" "My friends are people of faith and I'm afraid they'll look down on me for this if they find out."

Whenever we let fear direct our moral thinking, we tend to make bad judgments and poor choices that can haunt us long afterwards. Even good people who believe in love, life and family can make panicked choices when they feel cornered by shame and guilt.

Major decisions are better made when emotions have calmed and the order of reason can once again fill our minds. This happens most readily when a person is surrounded by an abundance of loving support.

Wendy Bonano serves as director of several pregnancy support centers in North Carolina. She regularly works with students from area universities and colleges, and in a recent article in the Family NC magazine, challenged parents to reflect on what their own sons and daughters are really up against in today's society:

"I imagine you are thinking, 'This would never be my daughter.' I beg you to think again. More often than not, 'good' Christian girls in relationships are determined to abstain

from intercourse and therefore are not actively using contraception. Therefore, it takes just one poor decision by either your son or daughter to create an unplanned pregnancy, regardless of all you've taught them."

So why are good Christian girls getting abortions? Those who should be at their side in a moment of crisis may not be present. Mothers and fathers may not have fostered close relationships with their daughters. They may have never discussed the possibility of an unplanned pregnancy to let them know ahead of time that, even if they act contrary to their advice and conceive a child, they will still be there for them.

After more than 10 years of helping single mothers at her clinics, Bonano makes precisely this point:

"Quite often there's a piece missing from the 'talks' parents have with their daughters and sons. Without knowing it, we are leaving no doors open for our children to come back to us should they stray.

"We are making good, strong cases for purity until marriage and yet neglecting to communicate the message of grace: that we are there for them no matter what, and should they make a mistake – in this case, get pregnant – it is safe for them to come to us for help and support."

Today more than ever, Christian children need to hear those supportive and reassuring words from their Christian parents.

> "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.

Upcoming Issues of The A.D. Times

Publication Date	Ad Deadline	News Deadline	April 2	March 23	March 26	May 14	May 4	May 7
March 5	Feb. 24	Feb. 27	April 16	April 6	April 9	May 28	May 18	May 21
March 19	March 9	March 12	April 30	April 20	April 23	June 18	June 8	June 11

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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, ad-times@allentowndiocese.org; fax, 610-439-7694; The A.D. Times, P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538.

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.
- “Fraternal Benefits and Life and Long-Term Care Planning Seminar,” presented by Knights of Columbus, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, auditorium, 1:30 p.m., free; concluding with spaghetti dinner, \$10; RSVP by Friday, Feb. 21, 484-357-2539, Dennis.Tobash@kofC.org.

Saturday, Feb. 29 – Sunday, March 1

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

Sunday, March 1

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

Thursday, March 5

- Homeschool Families First Friday Gathering, St. Thomas More Church, 1040 Flexer Ave., Allentown, 6:30 Mass celebrated by Father Kevin Bobbin, followed by adoration and confessions until 7:30 p.m., and informal social, 610-866-0791 ext. 332 or kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org.

Friday, March 6

- “Catholic Questions and Answers,” Dunkin’ Donuts, Pottsville, First Fridays evangelization effort by Monsignor Edward O’Connor and Father Barnabas Shayo of St. Patrick Church, Pottsville, 6 p.m., 570-622-1802.
- Eucharistic Adoration, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, after 8:15 a.m. Mass until 10 p.m. with benediction, Divine Mercy Chaplet 3 p.m., rosary 7:30 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 April 3 and May 1, msearles@allentowndiocese.org, 610-437-0755, www.allentowndiocese.org/vocations.

Saturday, 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.
- Spaghetti Dinner, Knights of Columbus Father DeNisco Council 3862, Council Home, West Bangor Road, Washington Township, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., tickets at door, adults \$10, children under 8 free.

Saturday, March 14

- “The Large Flowerheads,” St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, church hall, 7-10 p.m., \$14, 610-433-6102.

Saturday, March 21

- St. Joseph Feast Day Polka Mass, St. Joseph historical Slovenian church, Bethlehem, 10:30 a.m., Father David Kozak celebrant, followed by reception, Saucon Valley Acres, adults \$25, children \$12.50, stjosephcommittee@gmail.com, 484-821-3550.
- “If I Left the Zoo,” Choral Chamelon concert and fundraiser, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., general admission \$35, seniors \$25, students \$10, mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org, www.jesuitcenter.org/2020JCSGConcert.
- Spaghetti Dinner, Holy Ghost, Bethlehem, social hall, 5-6:30 p.m., adults \$10, children 12-under \$6.

Sunday, March 22

- Family Bowl-a-Thon, benefit Mary’s Shelter, Reading, Berks Lanes, Sinking Spring, 12:30-2:30 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., office@marysshelter.org, 610-603-8010.
- Concert “Stabat Mater” by Pergolesi, sung by soprano Cristine Nassif and mezzo-soprano Lauren Curnow, Notre Dame of Bethlehem Church, 7 p.m., free-will offering, 610-390-4049.
- Parish Breakfast and Bake Sale, Assumption BVM, Slatington, church hall, 9 a.m.-noon, adults advance \$7, at door \$8, children 5-12 \$4, under 5 free, sponsored by Altar and Rosary and Holy Name societies.

Wednesday, March 25

- Men of the Kingdom Regional Meeting, St. Paul, Allentown, presenter Deacon Angelino Rodriguez, 7-8:30 p.m., Office of Hispanic Affairs 610-289-8900 ext. 2038.

Saturday, March 28

- “Pay It Forward,” reception and student art sale, GoggleWorks, 201 Washington St., Reading, hosted by St. Catharine of Siena, Reading, 5-8 p.m., aimpellizzeri@scsreading.org.

Lenten events

Wednesday, Feb. 26; Fridays, March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3; Wednesday, April 8

- Homemade Pierogi Sale, St. Clare of Assisi, St. Clair, church basement, use Hancock Street entrance, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., frozen \$7.50, uncooked \$8.50, orders in advance by Feb. 24 or preceding Wednesday, 570-429-0863, 570-429-0343 or 570-429-1942.

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 and 13

- Lenten Fish Bake, Knights of Columbus Council 4050, St. John the Baptist, Whitehall, social hall, 5-7 p.m., adults \$10, children \$7, pierogi dinner \$7, 814-694-4050.

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

- Lenten Pierogi Sale, St. Mary, Reading, under the church, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., \$8 per dozen.
- Baked Fish Dinners, St. John the Baptist, Pottsville, Russell Building, 4-7 p.m., adults \$15 or \$18, children under 12 \$8.

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, 20, 27; April 3

- Fish Fry, Most Blessed Sacrament, Bally, carnival building next to St. Francis Academy, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., call-in orders on Fridays 610-248-2171, walk-ins also welcome; featuring Bishop Robert Barron’s latest “Pivotal Players” series in Father Schneider Hall, 1 and 5 p.m.; confession 6 p.m.; Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3

- “A Penitential Procession,” Lenten choral music and prayer, Schola Cantorum, DeSales University, Connelly Chapel, 7 p.m., dennis.varley@desales.edu.

Wednesday, March 4

- “A Penitential Procession,” Lenten choral music and prayer, DeSales University Schola Cantorum, at Holy Ghost Church, Bethlehem, 7 p.m., dennis.varley@desales.edu.

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1

- Lenten Community Rice Bowl Meal, Assumption BVM, Slatington, 6 p.m., followed by daily Mass and Eucharistic exposition 7 p.m., Stations of the Cross and benediction 7:30 p.m., 610-767-2214.

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.

Fridays, March 6, 20; April 3

- Lenten Dinners, Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart, Bethlehem, Father King Hall, 4:30-7 p.m., adults \$10, children 6-12 \$5, under 6 free.

Wednesday, March 18

- “The Wounded Healer, A Lenten Evening of Reflection,” St. Francis Center for Renewal, 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, 6:45-9 p.m., Sister Clare Andrew D’Auria, \$25, stfranciscenter@gmail.com, 610-867-8890.

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.

Tuesday, March 31

- Lenten Taize Service, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 6:45-9 p.m., Sister Barbara DeStefano and Sister Anita Kuchera, stfrancis-center@gmail.com, 610-867-8890.

Retreats

Monday, March 23

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

Saturday, April 4

- Holy Week Spiritual retreat, Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth,

Wernersville, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Father Frank Kaminski, www.allentowndiocese.org/oha, Office of Hispanic Affairs, 610-289-8900 ext. 2025.

Monday, April 20

- “Healing the Earth – Our Common Home,” St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 7-9 p.m., Marie North, Laudato Si Animator and team of local speakers, freewill offering, www.stfranciscctr.org, 610-867-8890.

Monday, April 27

- “Remembering and Celebrating the Spirit in the Church,” St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, 6 p.m., Oblate Father Kevin Nadoski, \$30, register by Monday, April 20, www.stfrancisretreathouse.org, 610-258-3053, ext. 10.
- “Free to be Ourselves,” St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, 6:45-9 p.m., Alexandria Cirko, \$25, www.stfranciscctr.org, 610-867-8890.

Saturday, May 16

- Spiritual Retreat for Women, McGlinn Spirituality and Conference Center, Reading, Monsignor Thomas Orsulak, Gisella Maria Zalameaamador, Diossanta Reyes Mamft, www.allentowndiocese.org/oha, Office of Hispanic Affairs 610-289-8900 ext. 2025.

Socials

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, trickytrayfhhsa@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.

Friday, April 3 – Sunday, April 5

- Tricky Tray Auction, Our Lady Perpetual Help, Bethlehem, Marian Inn, Home and School Association, Friday 5-9 p.m., Saturday 1-8 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Lenten dinners Friday, breakfast Sunday, www.facebook.com/olphraffle, olphttauction@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 25 – Sunday, April 26

- Basket Party, Assumption BVM, Slatington, sponsored by Altar and Rosary Society, Saturday 1-6 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. until drawing 1 p.m., refreshments available for purchase Sunday.

Thursday, April 30; Wednesday, May 13

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

Trips

Newly announced

Monday, May 18

- St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Right to Life March, Harrisburg, \$10, 610-392-2957, suemuel45@gmail.com.

See *CALENDAR*, page 14

Reino de Dios

Jesucristo es el Rey de reyes, el Señor de señores; el Señor es el único Dios verdadero, no hay nombre a través del cual podamos ser salvados. Sólo el nombre de Jesús salva, su nombre significa su misión, Dios salva, Él nos ha salvado, comprado con su sangre derramada en la cruz del calvario por nuestros pecados. Jesús vino a establecer un Reino eterno, su Reino no tendrá fin (Lc 1:33), esto dijo el Arcángel Gabriel en la anunciación cuando dialogaba con María.

Nosotros somos miembros de ese Reino eterno, Dios nos ha llamado, él nos ha elegido para participar activamente en este Reino de justicia y paz, Reino de alegría y de gozo, aleluya.

"Después que Juan fue preso, marchó Jesús a Galilea; y proclamaba la Buena Nueva de Dios: 'El tiempo se ha cumplido y el Reino de Dios está cerca; convertíos y creed en la Buena Nueva' (Mc 1:15).

"Cristo, por tanto, para hacer la voluntad del Padre, inauguró en la tierra el Reino de los cielos. Pues bien, la voluntad del Padre es elevar a los hombres a la participación de la vida divina. Lo hace reuniendo a los hombres en torno a su Hijo, Jesucristo. Esta reunión es la Iglesia, que es sobre la tierra el germen y el comienzo de este



Reino" (CIC, no. 541).

El catecismo en esta cita nos muestra, cuando Jesús inició, inauguró el Reino de Dios, el Reino inició con pocas personas y desde su inicio, no ha dejado de crecer a pesar de todas las contradicciones y luchas, continúa hacia delante; porque es Dios Padre el que va delante, conquistando cada vez más personas.

Nosotros sólo somos los instrumentos, Él lo lleva todo de la mano, por medio del Espíritu Santo nos indica el camino con Jesús.

"Todos los hombres están llamados a entrar en el Reino. Anunciado en primer lugar a los hijos de Israel, este reino mesiánico está destinado a acoger a los hombres de todas las naciones. Para entrar en él, es necesario acoger la palabra de Jesús: La Palabra de Dios se compara a una semilla sembrada en el campo: los que escuchan con fe y se unen al pequeño rebaño de Cristo han acogido el Reino; después la semilla, por sí misma, germina y crece hasta el tiempo de la siega" (CIC, no. 543).

"El Reino pertenece a los pobres y a los pequeños, es decir a los que lo acogen con un corazón humilde. Jesús fue enviado 'para anunciar la Buena Nueva a los pobres' (Lc 4:18). Los declara bienaventurados porque de 'ellos es el Reino de los cielos' (Mt 5:3); a los 'pequeños es quienes el Padre se ha dignado revelar las cosas que ha ocultado a los sabios y prudentes. Jesús, desde el pesebre hasta la cruz comparte la vida de los pobres; conoce el hambre, la sed y la privación. Aún más: se identifica con los pobres de todas clases y hace del amor activo hacia ellos la condición para entrar en su Reino" (CIC, no. 544).

"Jesús invita a los pecadores al banquete del Reino: 'No he venido a llamar a justos sino a pecadores' (Mc 2:17). Les invita a la conversión, sin la cual no se puede entrar en el Reino, pero les muestra de palabra y con hechos la misericordia sin límites de su Padre hacia ellos y la inmensa 'alegría en el cielo por un solo pecador que se convierta' (Lc 15:7). La prueba suprema de este amor será el sacrificio de su propia vida 'para remisión de los pecados' (Mt 26:28) (CIC, no. 545).

Busca el Reino de Dios y su justicia y todo lo demás se dará como añadidura. Alabado sea Jesucristo.

> Por Diácono José M. Santos

CALENDAR

> continued from page 14

Friday, June 12 – Monday, June 22

- Holy Trinity, Whitehall to Oberammergau Passion Play, Hungary, Austria, Germany, 610-905-7817 or spundt1@ptd.net.

Friday, July 3 – Monday, July 13

- Holy Trinity, Whitehall to Paris, Rome and Athens, 610-905-7817 or spundt1@ptd.net.

Previously announced

Tuesday, March 24

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

Wednesday, March 25

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

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, April 15

- St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Mount Airy Casino, Mount Pocono and "Bill Haley Jr. Rock Around the Clock," \$80, suemueller45@gmail.com, 610-392-2957.

Thursday, April 23

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

Thursday, April 30 – Sunday, May 3

- St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to "Parade of Nations" and "Virginia International Tattoo Military Show," Norfolk, Virginia, \$569, suemueller45@gmail.com, 610-392-2957.

Wednesday, May 6

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

Wednesday, May 6 – Thursday, May 7

- St. Thomas More, Allentown, Prime Time to Dover Casino/Harrah's, Dover, Delaware, \$145, 610-791-1758 or dfe60@msn.com.

Monday, May 11 – Monday, May 18

- St. Teresa of Calcutta, Mahanoy City, cruise to Hamilton and St. George, Bermuda, 570-280-7002.

Tuesday, May 12

- St. Joseph, Limeport to "Queen Esther," Sight and Sound Theatre, Lancaster, \$113, 610-797-6240.

Wednesday, May 13 – Thursday, May 14

- St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield to Dover Downs Hotel and Casino, Dover, Delaware, \$165, 610-392-2957, suemueller45@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 14

- Holy Trinity, Whitehall, Seniors in Action to "I Left My Dignity in My Other Purse," Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, \$85, 610-262-6058.

Tuesday, May 19

- St. Thomas More, Allentown to "Queen Esther," Sight and Sound Theatre, Lancaster, \$100, 610-791-1758, dfe60@msn.com.

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St. Benedict Parish 8th Annual Lenten Taize Service & Our Closing of 40 Hours Devotion

Sunday, March 22, 2020 7:00 pm

St. Benedict Roman Catholic Church
2020 Chestnut Hill Road, Mohnton (Plowville)
610-856-1006

This will be a night of prayer and meditation through music, scripture, and silence. During the time of Lent we must think about God's biggest sacrifice; giving up His only Son's life so that we may live. This will be a night to truly meditate upon this unbelievable gift from God. You will be able to place all your worries, burdens, and problems before of Lord as you truly place yourself in the presence of Jesus Christ.



Any questions please contact
Andrew Angstadt
at 610-856-1006
or email at andang@hgaschool.org

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.

Deadline for registration is March 1. For information about the retreat experience, visit the national website, www.rachelsvineyard.org



Over 70 people gathered at St. Mary, Hamburg for Following Christ.

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.

Plazo de inscripción es el 1 marzo. Para más información acerca de la experiencia del retiro, visite el sitio web nacional, www.rachelsvineyard.org.



Star Award for Knights Queenship Council

Knights of Columbus Queenship of Mary Council 4050 was honored with a presentation of the Star Council Award by State Deputy Mark Jago, third from left. Also pictured above are, from left: Dennis Sullivan, district deputy; Bill Fonzone, grand knight; and Monsignor Daniel Yenushosky, council chaplain. Queenship is one of 17 councils of more than 600 in the state to have won this award for 100% achievement of their goals. Holy Trinity in Whitehall is the council's home base for meetings. For more information on the council, call Grand Knight Bill Fonzone at 610-262-7135. (Photos by John Simitz)



ChristLife Conference will prepare leaders to evangelize

The Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization invites representatives from all parishes to participate in a training experience that will equip them to share the Gospel message in their parish community.

The ChristLife Training Conference, being held March 27-28 at St. Mary, Hamburg, will prepare leaders to take part in the work of evangelization with the goal that all people might encounter Christ and be transformed into his missionary disciples.

Over 1,000 parishes nationwide have used ChristLife to revitalize the Catholics in the pews, reach those who have fallen away from the faith and more effectively evangelize those in their midst. Participants in the conference will be trained in ChristLife's three-part evangelization process: Discovering Christ, Following Christ and Sharing Christ.

"As a pastor, I sense that people are searching for deeper meaning in their faith, especially in light of the current challenges in the Church," said Father Don Cieniewicz, pastor at St. Mary, Hamburg. "Parishes and pastors are being called ever more so to spread the richness of the faith that the Lord gave to his Church.

"The ChristLife program offers yet another means to experience deeper faith and healing, in addition to the traditional means of what Christ already offers through his Church in the sacraments, Scripture, prayer and reconciliation."

The ChristLife program is already alive and well at St. Mary in Hamburg. "The series helped me to be more committed to my prayer life," said one parishioner who participated in the program.

Another parishioner added, "I enjoyed this positive experience with increased joy knowing that God is with us and that I can always find him. The deeper experience of the Holy Spirit was the most wonderful part."

The ChristLife program partners with parishes, priests, religious and lay leaders interested in responding to the

Church's call to a new evangelization and outreach. It does this by providing a relational context in which missionary disciples can be formed at the parish level.

ChristLife is designed to become the "core curriculum" for parish evangelization. By helping individuals discover Jesus, begin to follow him, and finally learn to share him, the cycle repeats itself as disciples desire to invite more people into a transformative experience in Christ.

The program is broken into three seven-week experiences designed to guide participants through the stages of discipleship. Discovering Christ, the first segment, invites every person, baptized or unbaptized, to enter into or renew a personal relationship with Jesus.

The second part, Following Christ, inspires those who have completed Discovering Christ to deepen their relationship with Jesus, learning the basic disciplines and truths that constitute the Catholic faith.

In the third segment, Sharing Christ, participants are equipped with practical skills to proclaim the Gospel through friendship, drawing others into relationship with Jesus and challenging them to become his disciples.

"I wholeheartedly recommend the ChristLife program," said Father Cieniewicz, whose parish has completed the first seven-week journey and just began Sharing Christ. "It is like a local mini-experience of Pentecost, in that the Spirit wishes to enter our lives in a more personal way, and thereby strengthening the community of faith."

Details and registration can be found at www.allentowndiocese.org/christlife. Parishes are encouraged to send two to five parishioners to be trained.

The training will be Friday, March 27 from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday will conclude with a Vigil Mass celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert.

Young adult readers to discuss Archbishop Fulton Sheen book

"Lehigh Valley Inklings," a book club for young adult Catholics in their 20s and 30s, will discuss a book by Archbishop Fulton Sheen at its next meeting.

Join the club for a bookish Leap Day lunch, reading "The World's First Love: Mary Mother of God," **Saturday, Feb. 29** at 11 a.m. at Jumbar, 1342 Chelsea Ave Unit 1, Bethlehem.

The club meets once a month to explore a classic through the lens of Catholicism.

We start each meeting with a synopsis of the book, so even if you don't have time to read it, feel free to join us.

Follow the group on Facebook and Instagram @lehighvalleyinklins. Contact: lehighvalleyinklins@gmail.com.

Roar from congregation greets Philadelphia's new shepherd

New metropolitan for province of Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) – Archbishop Nelson Perez placed a mark of familiarity on the formality of rites in the Mass that installed him as new Archbishop of Philadelphia Feb. 18 in the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia.

Ascending to the basilica's cathedra, the Greek word for the chair of authority as bishop of a diocese, Archbishop Perez, 58, became the youngest Catholic archbishop in the United States and the nation's third archbishop of Hispanic heritage. His parents emigrated from Cuba.

A full-throated roar from the overflowing congregation in the basilica and its adjoining chapel of more than 2,000 people, plus more viewing on television and the internet, confirmed a welcome home for a native son. Archbishop Perez was ordained a priest for the Philadelphia Archdiocese in the same cathedral in 1989.

In a break with protocol in which before Mass the celebrant waits at the rear of a procession into church, Archbishop Perez stood by the door into the cathedral greeting each of the hundreds of archdiocesan and religious priests with warm handshakes, hugs and smiles. He was among his own, and it was not the first such expression of the day.

"Once a Philadelphia priest, always a Philadelphia priest," he said during his homily, delivered not from the elevated



Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson Perez smiles at the end of his installation Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia Feb. 18. (CNS photo/Sarah Webb, CatholicPhilly.com)

Philadelphia, Cardinal Justin Rigali and Archbishop Charles Chaput, whom he praised for his "great steadfastness" in making difficult decisions regarding parish life and archdiocesan finances during his eight-year administration, which "brought him great suffering and criticism," said Archbishop Perez.

He praised his predecessor's "faithfulness and courage," and said the archdiocese "owes this man a debt of gratitude," for which the congregation stood in applause.

Besides the more than 50 bishops from across the country, Archbishop Perez addressed the hundreds of priests and deacons in attendance directly, telling them "I need you" and referring to his brother priests as "us."

He did not shy away from the clergy sexual abuse crisis, "a sad betrayal of some of our own who deeply hurt those they were supposed to be serving." "We are deeply sorry," he said, pledging to "work with hope, that we will be the source of healing."

He built his theme to a crescendo with a challenge for the faithful in the archdiocese: "Wherever you find yourself on the journey, it is time – time to reach out and grab the Lord's hand."

Just as in the Gospel of Matthew (9:20) a woman with a hemorrhage touched the Lord's garment and was healed,

so now "it is time to reach out to him – he is there," said the archbishop. "It is time to reach out, to come back to church, to the Lord in his Word and to the altar."

As to his plan for a pastoral vision, "I have no plan," he said. "I want to visit, listen and learn. I do embrace the vision of Pope Francis in 'The Joy of the Gospel.'" The pope's 2013 apostolic exhortation called for "a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ" and, as Archbishop Perez echoed, a "church which goes forth as a community of missionary disciples."

He concluded by asking the people to remember a short sentence that he also asks the young people he sacramentally confirms: "Never underestimate the power of the Spirit of God working in you, through you and despite you."

The Mass proceeded with music both festive and sublime, performed by the archdiocesan and cathedral choirs, Philadelphia Catholic Gospel Mass Choir and the Coral Hispana de Filadelfia, along with talented musicians.

Numerous groups representing the many facets of Catholic life in the Philadelphia Archdiocese lined up to greet the archbishop during the Mass, including families, ethnic groups, religious, students, educators, Catholic social workers, young adults, ecumenical and interfaith representatives, and clergy.

Bishop Schlert tweeted his congratulations to Archbishop Perez the day of his installation: "Congratulations to our new Metropolitan Archbishop Nelson Perez! May God grant you many years of strength for the work that you begin today."

marble pulpit but from the first step of the sanctuary.

He thanked many planners for the liturgy and its participants in a relaxed style and physical warmth as he roamed the polished marble floor.

He noted the presence of the two now-retired archbishops of

In brief

Catholic Scout councils not affected

Boy Scout councils and units sponsored by Catholic parishes and other entities will not be affected by the Chapter 11 bankruptcy case filed by the Boy Scouts of America, said the chairman of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Jim Weiskircher told Catholic News Service in an email late Feb. 18 that all local Scout councils and units will continue "business as usual, while monitoring the situation."

The Boys Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy protection in federal court in Wilmington, Delaware, Feb. 18 in an attempt to work out a compensation plan in response to hundreds of sex-abuse lawsuits.

New Vatican finance laws

The decade-long process of updating the laws of Vatican City State is part of the Vatican's support for international commitments to protect people and safeguard vulnerable groups, who are "frequently the victims of new, odious forms of illegality," Pope Francis said.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have made major changes to Vatican City legislation to strengthen

laws against money laundering, tax evasion, child sexual abuse and child pornography.

Meeting officials of the Vatican City State court Feb. 15, Pope Francis repeated his conviction that the latest financial scandal being investigated by Vatican City police and tribunal is a sign of progress because the report of suspicious activity originated with Vatican general auditor.

Possible themes for 2022 synod

Pope Francis has decided the next general assembly of the Synod of Bishops will be held in fall 2022, but he has not announced the theme for the gathering, the Vatican said.