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Official

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton has made the following appointment:

Father Thomas R. Nau, pastor of Triumph of the Cross Parish, Steubenville, has been reappointed to the **Priests' Retirement Board** for a five-year term effective Jan. 1, 2018. This term will expire Jan. 1, 2023.

News Briefs

Pope Francis names two new bishops

WASHINGTON — Pope Francis has named Father J. Mark Spalding of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky, as the new bishop of Nashville, Tennessee. Father Spalding is currently vicar general for the archdiocese, 2011-present.

Pope Francis has also named Father Shawn McKnight, a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, as the new bishop of Jefferson City, Missouri, after accepting the resignation of Bishop John R. Gaydos.

Father McKnight formerly served as executive director of the Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2010-15. He has also held numerous academic, professional and academic society positions.

Cardinal, veteran diplomat, dies at 92

VATICAN CITY— A seasoned and successful Vatican diplomat and expert in heraldry, Italian Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo died Nov. 19 in Rome at age 92.

As a Vatican diplomat, Pope Francis said the cardinal “dedicated himself with wisdom to the good of the people” in the countries he served. And, as archpriest of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the cardinal strengthened the “spiritual vitality” of the basilica and its “ecumenical vocation” as the burial place of the apostle.

Named apostolic delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine in 1990, he was instrumental in establishing diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel in 1993.

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Donnelly speaks at Faith in the Future breakfast



Former major league baseball coach Rich Donnelly speaks to participants at “Faith in the Future” prayer breakfast at Froehlich’s Classic Corner in Steubenville. (Photo by Orsatti)

By Dino Orsatti
Editor

STEUBENVILLE— Rich Donnelly, a former major league baseball coach and Steubenville native, talked about his devout Catholic upbringing at the 13th annual Faith in the Future prayer breakfast at Froehlich’s Classic Corner in downtown Steubenville, Nov. 17.

Donnelly, a graduate of Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, and Xavier University, Cincinnati, was the keynote speaker at the breakfast, which brought together

more than 100 community and business leaders to pray for economic development in the area.

Donnelly coached in the majors for more than 30 years, including stints with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Seattle Mariners and the Florida Marlins.

Donnelly told attendees of the breakfast that he “learned the importance of faith from his parents and faith was important in the raising of his children.”

He told the shocking story of his two daughters who were
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Bishop Monforton attends priest’s beatification

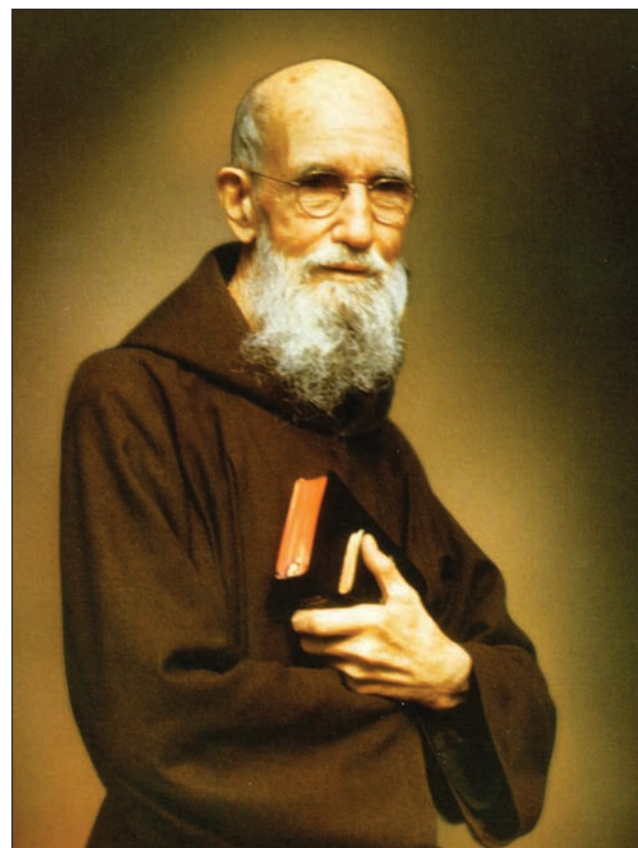
DETROIT/STEUBENVILLE (CNS) — Blessed Solanus Casey always said that “as long as there is a spark of faith,” there can be no discouragement or sorrow, said Cardinal Angelo Amato, head of the Vatican’s Congregation for Saints’ Causes.

His words were accompanied by “the concrete practice of faith, hope and charity in his everyday life,” said the cardinal in his homily during the Nov. 18 beatification Mass for the beloved Capuchin Franciscan friar who was known for his cures and wise counsel.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton attended the beatification Mass and wrote a blog on the diocesan website, www.diosteub.org, before the celebration of the Mass. In his blog, Bishop Monforton wrote, “How appropriate to travel to Detroit following the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ meetings, with the collegiality and fraternity, to now celebrate a holy soul, a friar who exemplified the spiritual shepherd’s disposition of humility and simplicity of heart.”

“He came from an Irish family of profound Catholic convictions. Faith for him was a very precious inheritance for facing the difficulties of life,” Cardinal Amato said. “When the young Bernard (his given name) Casey, entered the Capuchins, he passed from one community of faith to another.”

Blessed Solanus “focused on the poor, the sick, the marginalized and the hopeless,” Cardinal Amato said. “He
To Page 4



Blessed Solanus Casey

(CNS Photo)

'Ask the Bishop'

STEUBENVILLE — Students in kindergarten through 12th grade in the Diocese of Steubenville "Ask the Bishop" Jeffrey M. Monforton.

Q: Who wrote the most books of the Bible?

Anna Hendershot
St. Clairsville

A: Thank you for your question and while I do not intend to be clever here, the point of fact is that God wrote all of the books of the Bible. This being said, several writers share his word in different periods of Salvation History.

Much scholarship has gone into the Old Testament inquiring how many books Moses or David or Solomon would have penned. Unquestionably there are numerous writers in the Old Testament and a few of them received credit for writing more than others. As for the New Testament, this is a different story. While St. Paul is credited with providing the most letters (for our purpose, we will also consider them books), do you know that more words were written by St. Luke the Evangelist?

Let us not forget the purpose of the numerous letters from St. Paul, for he was evangelizing an ancient society immediately following Jesus' resurrection. We may wish to look at it this way: St. Paul utilized in the most effective way the social media of his time in order to get the word out that Jesus Christ suffered, died and rose from the dead and that the human race is at the doorstep of immense and eternal hope.

Q: Why do we see pictures and statues of angels in church?

Stella Huffman
Belpre

A: Throughout most of the Catholic Church history, paintings, stained glass and statues have decorated church buildings, but not simply for "interior decoration." Each item tells a story of our faith. Years and decades ago, many, if not most people in a parish community, were illiterate. The manner in which they learned about their faith was through catechetical instruction, through preaching, or through their gaze on the various religious objects and artwork in a church.

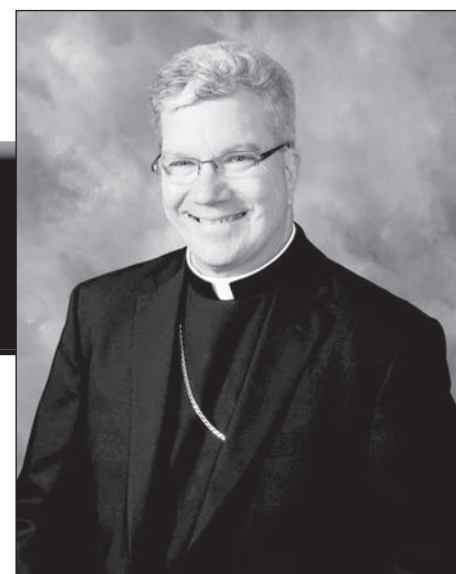
Our faith teaches us that angels are spiritual messengers of God. Angels also have the ability to choose, namely, they have both will and intellect. Hopefully you will learn more about that in your religious instruction. For our purpose, pictures and statues of angels reinforce the fact that they exist.

Moreover, providing visuals of our spiritual friends instructs us of not just their existence but of their nearness to you and to me. The existence of angels is further instruction that you and I are never alone.

Q: Why is Rome such a big part of Catholicism?

Max Harold
Steubenville

A: In the first century of the Church, two of the most prominent Apostles died in Rome, the capitol of the Roman Empire. St. Peter, the first pope, was given the task to lead Jesus Christ's Church as the Vicar of Christ. St. Paul, who converted after Jesus rose from the dead, was named the apostle to the Gentiles, or in St. Paul's time, those who were not Jewish. Both of these holy men



Bishop Monforton

gave their lives in Rome, but that was only the beginning. The blood of these two martyrs lives on as a declaration of Jesus Christ's enduring presence in our world.

Furthermore, Rome is the city of the pope, the successor of St. Peter. From the time St. Peter was martyred on Vatican Hill to the 21st century, popes have had residency as bishops of Rome from St. John Paul II to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI to Pope Francis. Rome has a distinguished place in Catholicism because Jesus himself made it so from the very beginning.

Questions for "Ask the Bishop" are channeled through the Diocese of Steubenville Office of Christian Formation and Schools, Permanent Deacon Paul D. Ward, director.

To "Ask the Bishop," contact Carolyn A. Crabtree, catechetical consultant, Diocese of Steubenville, Office of Christian Formation and Schools, P.O. Box 969, Steubenville, OH 43952; 422 Washington St., Steubenville; telephone (740) 282-3631; email ccrabtree@diosteub.org.

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Students, pictured from left, Brooklyn Lengyel, Alchamy Toth, Caden Horvath, Jacob Powell, Abby Giffin, Yona Helt and Aiden Tarr, and families at St. Mary Central School, Martins Ferry, participate in charitable service projects. The students and families created a project for each month of the current school year, helping raise funds and collecting donations for charitable causes. In September, five “dress-down Fridays” raised \$1,989 for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. In October, students donated \$2,150.08 to the St. Jude Project in Kenya, Africa. They also performed Halloween songs and presented hand-crafted fall decorations to the residents of East Ohio Regional Hospital Continuous Care, Martins Ferry. Also, the students collected and delivered personal hygiene items for veterans in local nursing homes in November, and donated food and distributed 25 Thanksgiving baskets for families in need. The students plan to collect new and gently used toys and new socks for the Salvation Army Christmas family baskets in December. Also, they plan to craft 150 Christmas placemats for residents of local nursing homes and perform Christmas songs for the residents of East Ohio Regional Hospital Continuous Care. In addition to the service activities, the students and their families raised nearly \$26,000 at an annual Tiger Trot Walk-A-Thon, to support their school. (Photo provided)

Bishop Monforton’s Schedule

December

- 2 Founders’ Association dinner, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 6 p.m.
- 3 Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Carrollton, and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Morges, at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 8:30 a.m.
Blessing of Nutcracker Village Nativity, Old Fort Steuben, Steubenville, 1 p.m.
- 4 Catholic Central High School Lady Crusaders, basketball game, CCHS, gymnasium, Steubenville, 7:15 p.m.
- 5 Franciscan University of Steubenville, 6 p.m.
- 6 St. Nicholas Day school visit, St. Mary Central School, St. Clairsville, 8:45 a.m.
St. Nicholas Day school visit, St. Benedict School, Cambridge, 11:30 a.m.
- 7 WAOB radio segment, 7:40 a.m., 8:40 a.m. and 6:40 p.m.
St. Nicholas Day school visit, St. John Central School, Churchtown, 10 a.m.
St. Nicholas Day Mass, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 12:05 p.m.
St. Nicholas Day school visit, St. Mary School, Marietta, 1:30 p.m.
- 8 School Mass, Catholic Central High School, Berkman Theater, Lanman Hall, Steubenville, 9:30 a.m.
- 9 Catholic Central High School boys’ basketball game, CCHS, gymnasium, Steubenville, 7:15 p.m.
- 10 60th anniversary Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Wintersville, 9:30 a.m.
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 11 a.m.
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 6 p.m.

Donnelly speaks

From Page 1

at the concert this year in Las Vegas when a gunman opened fire and killed 58 people.

Women on either side of Donnelly’s two daughters, Leighanne and Tiffany, were shot in the face and chest. Donnelly explained that his daughters wouldn’t leave the shooting victims until emergency crews arrived because of their faith.

One woman, unable to speak, clung to Leighanne for comfort. The other woman was unable to move while Tiffany kept her awake. Both victims gave credit to Rich’s daughters for saving their lives.

Donnelly got emotional when he talked about his daughter, Amy, when she called to tell him she had a brain tumor. She said she was determined to fight but she eventually lost the battle at the age of 17.

He recalled a time during a visit to Children’s Hospital in Dallas, Texas. Amy witnessed young patients being taken in wagons to an area where they could view the city’s skyline. Donnelly said Amy left him a \$500 check with a note asking him to buy wagons for all of the children. Donnelly said she often put her family and others before herself.

Donnelly said his children often accompanied him at games during his coaching career.

When the then-Pirates third-base coach would crouch down, cup his hands and shout to the runner on second base, his daughter, Amy, once asked him, “Dad, what are you yelling to the runner, ‘The chicken runs at midnight?’” The statement had no specific meaning, yet became a buzz phrase in the Donnelly home.

Five years after Amy’s death, in 1997, Rich was the third-base coach for the Florida Marlins and his two sons were with him for the World Series games as bat boys. His

boys got a kick out of Marlins infielder Craig Counsel’s batting stance who they called “The Chicken Man.” Counsel scored the winning run for the Marlins in game seven of the World Series.

As the Marlins were celebrating on the field, Donnelly said he noticed his son, Tim, shouting, screaming and in tears. His son said, “Dad, look at the clock, the chicken ran at midnight.” Donnelly said he turned around, and it was true. Craig Counsel had scored the winning run two minutes after midnight, and Amy’s prophecy had finally come to light. He said the incident strengthened his faith in God.

Donnelly said, “Amy showed me more than anyone how to live and how to die.”

Tracy McManamon, Phyllis Riccadonna, Mike Florak, Kathleen Giannamore and Pete Zanetich organized this year’s breakfast.

Faith in the Future was initiated by former Diocese of Steubenville Bishop R. Daniel Conlon, now bishop of the Joliet, Illinois Diocese, in 2004. Bishop Conlon gathered area leaders to pray for the well-being of the community.

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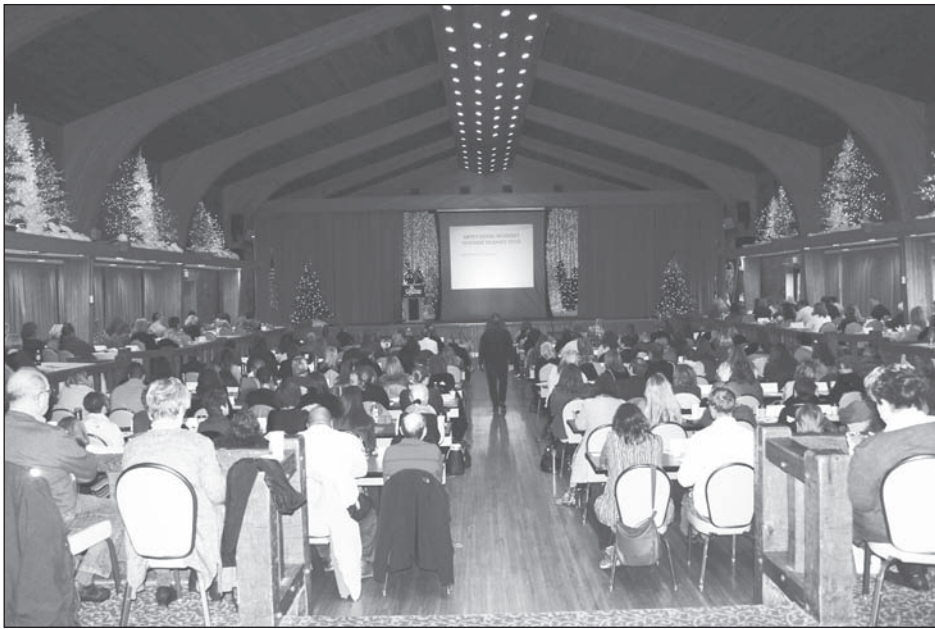
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Drug epidemic is focus of conference on promoting healthy attachments



More than 220 participants gather at Oglebay Resort and Convention Center, Wheeling, West Virginia, for the 27th annual conference on promoting healthy attachments. (Photo by Orsatti)

By Dino Orsatti
Editor

WHEELING, W.Va. — With drug addiction affecting so many families throughout the Ohio Valley and across the country, the opiate epidemic was the focus of the 27th annual conference on promoting healthy attachments at Oglebay Resort and Con-

vention Center, Wheeling, West Virginia, Nov. 20 and Nov. 21.

Michele A. Santin, Diocese of Steubenville Office of Catholic Charities and Social Concerns, director, organizer of the event, said more than 220 counselors, social workers and health care professionals participated in the workshop designed to

learn more about the treatment of addicts. Santin said, "The drug addiction problem is so widespread in our country. That's why we felt it was important to sponsor such a workshop with this focus."

The keynote speaker was Sam Quinones, journalist and author of "Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic." Quinones shared the insights he gained while writing his book.

Participants understood the role of doctors and pharmaceutical companies. They were also educated about changes in the American culture that contributed to this epidemic and our growing heroin market that is making the drug easily accessible to the public.

Quinones said communities have to get involved in battling the drug epidemic. He referred to clergy, teachers, coaches and others who see firsthand what is going on in their neighborhoods.

Timothy E. Schaffner, executive director of Trumbull County Children Services in Warren, Ohio, discussed "The Impact of the Opiate Crisis on Families and How to Help." Schaffner addressed the short and long-term trauma effect on children.

Another topic of importance in the conference was "The Effects of Heroin on Society," presented by Maureen Dee. This

workshop provided an understanding of the extent of the heroin epidemic locally and nationally.

Dee gave a clinical perspective of addiction as a treatable illness. She also discussed medication assisted treatment as well as screening and assessment tools.

"Drugs, Alcohol, Pregnancy and Parenting" and "The Mystery of Risk: The Impact of Prenatal Substance Exposure on the Growing Child" were the topics discussed by Dr. Ira J. Chasnoff.

Dr. Chasnoff is one of the nation's leading researchers in the field of child development and the effects of maternal alcohol and drug use on the newborn infant.

This session addressed the treatment necessary for substance abusing women to succeed in recovery. Participants at the conference said Dr. Chasnoff provided guidance, wisdom and hope for families of "at-risk" children.

Santin said this year's event was "a huge success with the maximum number of participants."

For information regarding future conferences and events, contact Santin at the chancery office, by telephoning (740) 282-3631, or visit www.diosteub.org/offices/catholiccharities.

Bishop Monforton attends

From Page 1

always fasted in order to give others their lunch. For hours upon hours, he patiently received, listened and counseled the ever-growing number of people who came to him."

The friar saw people "as human beings, images of God. He didn't pay attention to race, color or religious creed," the cardinal said.

A congregation of more than 60,000 filled Ford Field, home of the NFL's Detroit Lions, which was transformed for the Mass. The altar, placed at midfield, was created originally for St. John Paul II's visit to the Pontiac Silverdome in 1987. To the right of the altar was a large painting of Blessed Solanus. It was unveiled after the beatification rite, which took place at the beginning of the Mass.

Dozens of bishops, priests and deacons processed into the stadium for the start of the liturgy. The music was provided by a 25-member orchestra and a choir of 300 directed by Capuchin Franciscan Father Ed Foley. The singers were members of parish choirs from across the Detroit metro area.

Cardinal Amato was the main celebrant, joined at the altar by Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, and Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, himself a Capuchin Franciscan.

In the congregation were 240 Capuchin friars and at least 300 members of the Casey family from across America and their ancestral country of Ireland. The Casey family's Irish roots were reflected in the Irish hymns chosen as part of the music for the liturgy.

"What a witness was our beloved Solanus," said Father Michael Sullivan, provincial minister of the Capuchin Franciscan

Province of St. Joseph in Detroit, as the ceremony began. "He opened his heart to all people who came to him. He prayed with them, he appreciated them, and through him, God loved them powerfully again and again."

"For decades countless faithful have awaited this moment," said Archbishop Vigneron before asking Cardinal Amato to read the decree from Pope Francis declaring Father Solanus "Blessed."

He is the second American-born male to be beatified, after Blessed Stanley Rother, a North American priest from Oklahoma, who in 1981 was martyred while serving the people of a Guatemalan village. He was beatified Sept. 23 in Oklahoma City.

As a fellow Capuchin, Cardinal O'Malley was inspired that one in his ranks is now "Blessed." "It's very encouraging to see the first American to be beatified in our community (the Capuchins). It's a great honor for us," he told The Michigan Catholic following Mass.

Among the hundreds, if not thousands, of healings attributed to Blessed Solanus during and after his lifetime, Pope Francis recognized the authenticity of a miracle necessary for the friar to be elevated from venerable to blessed after a review by the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes was completed earlier this year.

The miracle involved the healing — unexplained by medicine or science — of a woman with an incurable genetic skin disease, Paula Medina Zarate of Panama. She was only recently identified publicly and she was at the Mass. As it began, she walked up to the altar with a reliquary holding a relic of Blessed Solanus.

Zarate was visiting friends in Detroit and stopped at Father Casey's tomb to pray for others' intentions. After her prayers, she felt the strong urging to ask for the friar's

intercession for herself, too, and received an instant and visible healing.

The miraculous nature of her cure in 2012 was verified by doctors in her home country, in Detroit and in Rome, all of whom confirmed there was no scientific explanation. Father Casey himself died of a skin disease July 31, 1957.

Born Nov. 25, 1870, in Oak Grove, Wisconsin, Bernard Francis Casey was the sixth of 16 children born to Irish immigrants Bernard James Casey and Ellen Elizabeth Murphy. He enrolled at St. Francis High School Seminary near Milwaukee in 1891 to study for the diocesan priesthood. But because of academic limitations, he was advised to consider joining a religious order instead.

He went to Detroit to join the Capuchin order in 1897. He was given the religious name Solanus.

He continued to struggle academically but was finally ordained in 1904 as a "simplex priest," meaning he could celebrate

Mass but could not preach doctrinal sermons or hear confessions.

He went to New York and served for two decades in friaries and churches there and was transferred back to Detroit in 1924, where he began working as the porter, or doorkeeper, of St. Bonaventure Monastery.

Father Casey co-founded the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in 1929 and today it serves the Detroit metro area by providing food, clothing and human development programs to the people of the community. In addition to preparing and serving up to 2,000 meals a day, the facility has an emergency food pantry, service center and a tutoring program for children.

He spent his life in the service of people, endearing himself to thousands who would seek his counsel. From 1946 to 1956, he was at the Capuchin novitiate of St. Felix in Huntington, Indiana, then was transferred back to Detroit for what was the last year of his life.

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Diocesan Seminarian Education Endowment Challenge nearing its goal

STEUBENVILLE — With only four weeks remaining in the yearlong Seminarian Education Endowment Challenge, parishioners throughout the Diocese of Steubenville have contributed \$36,346.36 toward the challenge's \$50,000 goal. Up to \$50,000 of qualifying donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar by Catholic Extension.

The Seminarian Education Endowment Challenge was granted to the Diocese of Steubenville for the year ending Dec. 31, with the goal of assisting the diocese in establishing a Seminarian Education Endowment.

Catholic Extension agreed to match, dollar-for-dollar, every individual donation of \$1,000 or more toward the endowment, up to a total of \$50,000.

A successful challenge could mean a total of \$100,000 to seed the Seminarian Education Endowment, a fund that can grow to sustainably fund generations of seminarians in the future.

In 2016, Catholic Extension granted the Diocese of Steubenville mission status: a status denoting the

diocese is sparsely Catholic, economically challenged and of modest means.

Given a special "targeted engagement" with the diocese, Catholic Extension agreed to support efforts that are capacity building, i.e., programs and initiatives that will assist the diocese in becoming more financially sustainable. The Seminarian Education Endowment Challenge is one such capacity-building initiative. Only eight dioceses in the country were granted this generous challenge by Catholic Extension.

Catholic Extension has a long history with the Diocese of Steubenville, funding many churches and initiatives in the diocese from 1947 through 2002. A total of \$5.57 million in grant funding (adjusted for

inflation) has been received from Catholic Extension throughout the years.

There is still time to give a gift for the Seminarian Education Endowment Challenge: simply send your gift, to arrive by Dec. 31, with the "Commitment Card" to Sister Mary Brigid Callan, Office of Stewardship and Development, Diocese of Steubenville, PO Box 969, Steubenville, OH 43952. Checks should be made out to the "Diocese of Steubenville" with "Seminarian Challenge" in the memo line.

Also, you can donate online to the endowment challenge with a credit card or bank account at the Diocese of Steubenville website, www.diosteub.org; click on the tab marked "Give On Line."

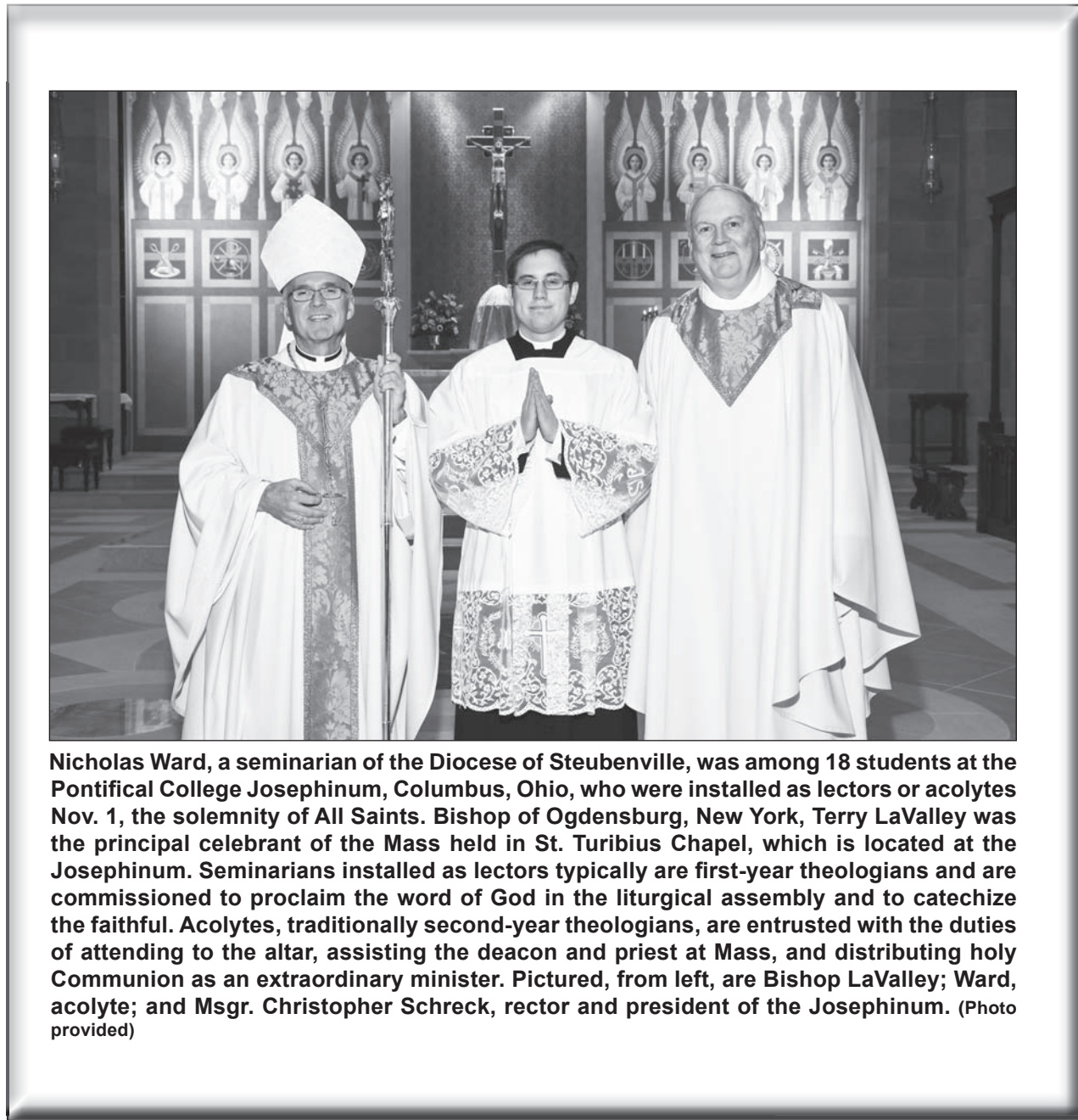
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CATHOLIC EXTENSION WILL MATCH ALL DONATIONS OF \$1,000 OR MORE



Nicholas Ward, a seminarian of the Diocese of Steubenville, was among 18 students at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio, who were installed as lectors or acolytes Nov. 1, the solemnity of All Saints. Bishop of Ogdensburg, New York, Terry LaValley was the principal celebrant of the Mass held in St. Turibius Chapel, which is located at the Josephinum. Seminarians installed as lectors typically are first-year theologians and are commissioned to proclaim the word of God in the liturgical assembly and to catechize the faithful. Acolytes, traditionally second-year theologians, are entrusted with the duties of attending to the altar, assisting the deacon and priest at Mass, and distributing holy Communion as an extraordinary minister. Pictured, from left, are Bishop LaValley; Ward, acolyte; and Msgr. Christopher Schreck, rector and president of the Josephinum. (Photo provided)

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St. John Paul II 'From the Father and the Son'

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

St. John Paul II continues his reflections on the Holy Spirit in the Creed, elaborating on the article: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father *and the Son*. ..." (Emphasis added). The original Nicene Creed (AD 325) said, simply: "I believe in the Holy Spirit." The later Constantinopolitan Creed (AD 381) added "who proceeds from the Father." In recognition of the wording already extant in many ancient formulas of faith, "and from the Son" (Latin: "Filioque") was inserted in later formularies and confirmed finally by later councils, notably that of Florence (AD 1439). As we saw in the last article (Nov. 17), it became one of the items of disagreement later between the Western (Roman) part of the church and the Eastern (Greek or Byzantine) part. Most of the latter would eventually break with Rome. This is known as "The Great Eastern Schism," which took place initially in the ninth century, led by Photius, the patriarch-archbishop of Constantinople. There were several off-and-on attempts at reconciliation, but in AD 1054, a successor of Photius, Michael Caerularius, citing a number of relatively minor doctrines and practices, broke again with Rome, this time to last to our own day. This technically "schismatic" church is known (debatably) as the "Orthodox Church." The alienation was further exasperated by the conduct of western Crusaders who later plundered Constantinople while supposedly coming to defend their fellow Christians against the Moslems.

Again, as has been pointed out, the difference may seem inconsequential to the average believer, but to the theologian it has important implications. We are speaking here about the *nature* of the

Holy Spirit, not his *origin*. Where God is concerned, we cannot really talk about origins, because God is eternal and the three persons in God existed from all eternity. Any term that supposes a time element is misleading because, outside the universe of matter, there is no such thing as time and space. In John Paul's words, when referring to God, "... (W)e must free the word 'origin' from all refer-

ence to created and temporal origin." "Origin" implies a cause and effect, a *before-and-after* dimension, that simply does not apply to God. The procession of the Holy Spirit from Father and Son existed as God existed throughout eternity. "Procession" states it better than "origin."

The pope offers this analogy: As God existed from eternity, he always thought and loved. These actions, which underlie the generation of the Son and the procession of the Holy Spirit, did not occur in sequence. They were both there when God existed, and that was forever. (We are entering deep theological water here, so readers are advised to put on their mental water wings!) Pope John Paul analyzes these actions of thought (or of knowing) and of love. Of the two, thought is easier to grasp as an action of the mind that produces ideas, concepts! It expresses these ideas or concepts in *words*. Before he created anything, what was God thinking about? Planning the universe? It certainly didn't take eternity to plan a finite universe, however large and complicated. What else could he be thinking about but the only thing that existed – himself: an infinite thought about an infinite object. But, along with an idea goes its expression: a *word*. We often speak about "conceiving" an idea, as if giving birth to it. "In principio erat Verbum. ..." "In the beginning was the Word ..." (Jn 1:1). Our human ideas, once "conceived," remain in existence in our mind (at least as long as memory functions). But what of the expression of an *infinite* mind "conceiving" an *infinite* thought? We must speculate a bit here and say that such a thought and its expression would be infinite, also, and exist eternally with the divine thinker. Read on in John's Gospel: "... (A)nd the Word was with God and the Word *was* God" (Jn 1:1).

"Where God is concerned, we cannot really talk about origins, because God is eternal and the three persons in God existed from all eternity."

Behold: the second person of the Blessed Trinity! But one might object: a thought does not exist independently of the thinking mind. Quite true. But what about the thought or idea of an *infinite* mind? At this point, we must resort to faith in divine revelation, as found in the Gospels.

The Gospels do not attempt to explain the Trinity. The words and concepts that we use did not exist when they were written, and if they did, few persons of Semitic culture would have understood them. Nor is this to imply that we can really understand it today, only that we can at least



Bishop Sheldon

understand the words we use; but it's still a mystery! The Gospel does say things, however, that point in the same direction. Consider Jesus' words: "I and the Father are one" (Jn 10:30); "Whoever sees me, sees the Father" (Jn 14:9).

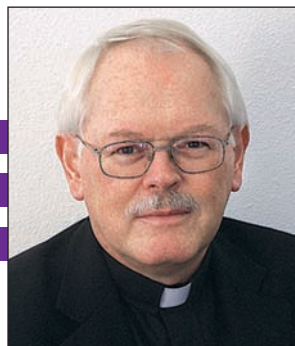
Let's apply the same scenario to the other faculty of a rational being: the will, which chooses and loves. The Holy Spirit is an infinite act of divine love between Father and Son. The mystery here, if anything, gets deeper. John Paul tells us: "That is due to the interior nature of love. Since it proceeds from the will or heart, it is not as clear and self-conscious as is an idea which proceeds from the mind." The expression of the mind as idea is easier to grasp than the expression of love as – what? In some cases it is the act of pure will, as in forgiving one's enemies. In other cases, the feelings and emotions are very much involved, as in romantic love. But there we have a hint in the word, "sigh": the sound of a drawn breath (recall the Latin: "spiritus": wind, breath). Such expression is a joint act of Father and Son (otherwise the Son would not be on the same plane as the Father). Consider: "The Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name ..." (Jn 14:26); "Everything that the Father has is mine; for that reason ... he will take what is mine and declare it to you" (Jn 16:14-15). In the upper room after his resurrection, Jesus "breathed on them and said, 'receive the Holy Spirit...'" (Jn 20:22). What occurs when an infinite being emits an infinite act of love? Something similar to that infinite act of knowing: a person – the Holy Spirit! Scholastic theologians offer the term, "subsisting relations," which is not so much an explanation as a description of the Trinity in Aristotelian terms.

Paralysis, Exasperation and Helplessness as Prayer

By Father Ron Rolheiser

Several years ago I received an email that literally stopped my breath. A man who had been for many years an intellectual and faith mentor to me, a man whom I thoroughly trusted, and a man with whom I had developed a life-giving friendship, had killed both his wife and himself in a murder-suicide. The news left me gasping for air, paralyzed in terms of how to understand and accept this as well as how to pray in the face of this.

I had neither words of explanation nor words for prayer.



Father Rolheiser

My heart and my head were like two water pumps working a dry well, useless and frustrated. Whatever consolation I had was drawn from an assurance from persons who knew him more intimately that there had been major signs of mental deterioration in the time leading up to this horrible event, and they were morally certain that this was the result of an organic dysfunction in his brain, not an indication of his person. Yet ... how does one pray in a situation like this? There aren't any words.

And we have all experienced situations like this: the tragic death of someone we love by murder, suicide, overdose or accident. Or, the exasperation and helplessness we feel in the face of the many seemingly senseless events we see daily in our world: Terrorists killing thousands of innocent people; natural disasters leaving countless persons dead or homeless; mass killings by deranged individuals in New York, Paris, Las Vegas, Florida, San Bernardino, Sandy Hook, among other places; and millions of refugees having to flee their homelands because of war or poverty. And we all know people who have received terminal sentences in medical clinics and had to face what seems as an unfair death: young children whose lives are just starting and who shouldn't be asked at so tender an age to have to process mortality, and young mothers dying whose children

still desperately need them.

In the face of these things, we aren't just exasperated
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Watching, Waiting, Looking Above 'A reflection on Adventide'

By Father Paul J. Walker

You would be hard pressed these days to find many homes (and churches) pushing the Christmas theme back as far as late October – but there are some! One assessment I saw last week listed Christmas and Halloween as the biggest profit incentives of the entire year! The day after Thanksgiving, known now as “Black Friday” is the biggest and busiest (and most dangerous) shopping day of the entire year! Shop till you drop in our consumer consumed culture! This secular consumer culture has hijacked this holy season of Advent and is not about to negotiate its release.

Particularly disturbing is this loss or diminishment of arguably the richest season in the whole church year. For many folks, Advent is merely a preparation to commemorate “Jesus’ birthday,” and allow at least three weeks given over to frenzied shopping, cooking, baking and decorating. (“I’m so busy!”).

Advent is the only season of the entire church year set aside to focus on the end of the world and the second coming of Jesus Christ in great power and glory! True enough; the season does not lose sight of the first coming, but what is presented within the liturgy of the Advent season is its eschatological dimensions. What we popularly name the “Christmas Story” is much more than that. Listening year after year to the Luke/Matthew narratives, we are hearing something far more profound than mere reporting. The late biblical scholar Father Raymond Brown notes in the forward of the original edition of his monumental work, “The Birth of the Messiah,” “... the infancy narratives are worthy vehicles of the Gospel message; indeed, each is the essential Gospel story in miniature” (“The Birth of the Messiah,” Page 7). Brown further notes that the appreciation people have of these narratives “... reflects a true instinct recognizing in the infancy narratives the essence of the good news.”

To catch the heart and soul of Adventide, even its doc-

trinal content, we need to attend closely to how the church prays during Advent. This close attention is grounded in the ancient formula “lex orandi,” “lex credendi” – the church prays as she believes and believes as she prays.

So to best catch what Advent is about, consult the Roman Missal’s collects and prefaces; the Lectionary readings and the hymns for Advent. Just for example, the most powerful hymns include my favorites:

*The Coming of Our God;
Wake, Awake the Night is Dying;
Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending;
Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding;
Comfort, Comfort O My People.*

In all fairness I have to recognize that both events (the first and the second coming) are part of the Advent season. The first part of the season (First Sunday of Advent to Dec. 16) is eschatological in nature, while the second part (Dec. 17 to Dec. 24) carried on the marvelous “O Antiphons,” prepares the church for the full celebration of Christmas. There is, then a “movement” from eschatological expectation to the local church’s celebration of Christmas.

The crass consumerism of this season obscures this waiting for the Lord of history. The dominant culture’s view is often sentimental and narrow – waiting for “baby Jesus.” Perhaps this is so because focus on a God who merely takes the form of a baby demands very little from us. It is safe, no risk involved. This focus on the baby Jesus coming is an Advent tradition that developed only later in Christianity. Maybe what is needed is balance. Too limited a focus may keep us from hearing the full power of the biblical proclamation. Jesus came to proclaim, primarily, one thing: the reign of God – in one sense already here; in another, yet to come.

And so we wait. We wait because salvation is always near. “Watching and waiting, looking above ...,” words



Father Walker

from the hymn “Blessed Assurance,” place us as pilgrims – people who do indeed belong to this world but who are also aware that their true home is this world transformed. To wait, to watch, is not just a duty, rather it defines who we truly are.

The great 19th century churchman Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman put it this way:

*This then is to watch:
to be detached from what is present,
and to live in what is unseen;
to live in the thought of Christ as he came once,
and as he will come again;
to desire his second coming, from our affectionate
and grateful remembrance of his first.*
(From “Parochial and Plain Sermons,”
Volume 4, Page 941).

Father Walker is a Diocese of Steubenville priest and a former director of the diocesan Office of Worship. Retired from active parish ministry, he is a resident in his hometown, McConnellsville, where he often celebrates Mass at St. James Church, there. Father Walker writes a regular column for The Steubenville Register.

Black Elk and the Need for Catechists

By Bishop Robert Barron

I write these words as the annual November meeting of the United States bishops comes to a close. We bishops discussed many significant matters – from racism and immigration to the liturgy for the baptism of children. But I would like to emphasize one theme in particular that came up frequently in our conversations, namely, the catechesis of our young people. I have a rather intense personal interest in the topic since, at the conclusion of this gathering, I officially became chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis.

In his formal address to us at the commencement of the conference, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, reiterated statistics that I have often remarked regarding the growing number of “nones”



Bishop Barron

or religiously unaffiliated in our country. He especially noted the rise of this cohort among people under 30 years of age. For every one person who joins the Catholic Church today, he reminded us, six are leaving. We must make a renewed commitment, he concluded, to the indispensable work of handing on the faith. The archbishop’s intuition in this regard was confirmed, over and over again, by bishops who spoke, in various sessions and forums, of a crisis of catechesis in our church.

I had this wake-up call from the pope’s representative very much in mind as my friend, Bishop Robert Gruss, the bishop of Rapid City, South Dakota, who rose to speak on the second day of the meeting. Bishop Gruss’ happy task was to present to us the case for the beatification and canonization of Nicholas Black Elk, a Lakota Indian medicine man who, at midlife, converted to Catholicism. After hearing the bishop’s impassioned presentation, we enthusiastically voted to approve the advancement of Black Elk’s cause. What especially struck me in Bishop Gruss’ brief biographical sketch is that Black Elk, after his conversion, eagerly took up the task of catechesis within his community. Due to his impressive memory and acute mind, he was able to convey the complexities of the Bible and church teaching to his fellow Lakotans who had embraced the faith. And very much in line with the Catholic conviction that grace builds on and perfects nature, Black Elk endeavored to incorporate his mystical sensibility and healing power into the fuller context of his Catholicism. It was his holiness and prayerful connection to God, even

more than his learning, that brought his people closer to Christ.

My prayer is that, if the cause of Black Elk moves forward, we might one day invoke him as a real icon for catechists in the Catholic Church. There is an army of volunteers across our country who give generously of their time to pass on the faith to our young people, but I wonder how many of these laborers in the vineyard of the Lord truly realize the sacredness of their task. Without good catechists, more and more of our young people will fall into secularism and indifferentism. And as these unaffiliated in ever greater numbers come of age, our society will be adversely affected, for Christian ideas and values will be less and less at play.

So what can catechists today take from the example of Nicholas Black Elk? First, they can commit themselves to the assiduous study of the faith. As I have argued before, huge numbers of the young identify intellectual problems and questions as the reasons they are leaving the faith: religion in relation to science, the existence of God, the objectivity of moral values, etc. Without smart catechists, the kids abandon the faith. It’s as blunt and as simple as that. My nephew, who is starting his first year at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) this fall, went through religious education as he was coming of age. To be frank, he found the vast majority of his training superficial and remembers almost none of it. But one year stays in his mind. In his sixth-grade religious education class, he had

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Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton's Advent Message

"The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him" (Lk 1:49-50).

These words from Mary instruct hope is eternal. It even can be hidden from an untrained eye without the perspective of faith, faith in an ever-present and all merciful God. In the land of Palestine over 2,000 years ago, a young virgin was pregnant with a little boy who by his very presence would recreate a world made to be good.

Advent reminds us that the success of our Christian mission directly depends on our ability to embrace and to share the immense love of Mary, the Mother of God. Together, as fellow pilgrims on a journey, we venture with humble hearts readying us to kneel at our Savior's cradle this Christmas morn.

Paralysis, Exasperation

From Page 6

by the senselessness of the situation; we struggle, too, to find both heart and words with which to pray. How do we pray when we are paralyzed by senselessness and tragedy? How do we pray when we no longer have the heart for it?

St. Paul tells us *that when we don't know how to pray, the Spirit in groans too deep for words prays through us*. What an extraordinary text! Paul tells us that when we can still find the words with which to pray, this is not our deepest prayer. Likewise when we still have the heart to pray, this, too, is not our deepest prayer. Our deepest prayer is when we are rendered mute and groaning in exasperation, in frustration, in helplessness. Wordless exasperation is

often our deepest prayer. We pray most deeply when we are so driven to our knees so as to be unable to do anything except surrender to helplessness. Our groaning, wordless, seemingly the antithesis of prayer, is indeed our prayer. It is the Spirit praying through us. How so?

The Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, is, as Scripture assures us, the spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, longsuffering, fidelity, mildness, faith and chastity. And that Spirit lives deep within us, placed there by God in our very makeup and put into us even more deeply by our baptism. When we are exasperated and driven to our knees by a tragedy which is too painful and senseless to accept and absorb our groans of helplessness are in fact the Spirit of God groaning in us, suffering all that it isn't,

yearning for goodness, beseeching God in a language beyond words.

Sometimes we can find the heart and the words with which to pray, but there are other times when, in the words of the Book of Lamentation, *all we can do is put our mouths to the dust and wait*. The poet, Rainer Marie Rilke, once gave this advice to a person who had written him, lamenting that in the face of a devastating loss he was so paralyzed that he did not know what he could possibly do with the pain he was experiencing. Rilke's advice: *Give that heaviness back to the earth itself, the earth is heavy, mountains are heavy, the seas are heavy*. In effect: Let your groaning be your prayer!

When we don't know how to pray, the Spirit in groans too deep for words prays

through us. So, every time we are face-to-face with a tragic situation that leaves us stuttering, mute, and so without heart that all we can do is say, *I can't explain this! I can't accept this! I can't deal with this! This is senseless! I am paralyzed in my emotions! I am paralyzed in my faith! I no longer have the heart to pray*, it can be consoling to know that this paralyzing exasperation is our prayer – and perhaps the deepest and most sincere prayer we have ever offered.

Father Rolheiser, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate priest, is president of the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio. Additional information about Father Rolheiser's ministry is available on his website at www.ronrolheiser.com.

Black Elk

From Page 7

a catechist who had a master's degree in theology and who took the young people, with some rigor, through a study of the Bible. Please don't tell me that the kids can't handle that sort of challenge; on the contrary, it's what they remember – and savor.

Secondly, they can see their work as a

true vocation, a sacred calling, a mystical obligation. As Pope Paul VI put it so memorably, men and women of today listen to witnesses more than to teachers, and to teachers in the measure that they are also witnesses. Or as the cliché has it: The faith is caught more than taught. Some years ago, I read a study that indicated what drew young people to the faith were not

gimmicks or histrionics or the pathetic attempt to be "relevant" to them. What drew them were teachers who knew their subject matter and were obviously committed to it.

Catechists, the church needs you! We're losing our kids to secularism. If anyone of sharp mind and faithful heart is reading these words, take seriously the possibility that God is calling you to this sacred work.

And I pray that one day catechists can look to Nicholas Black Elk as exemplar and heavenly friend.

Bishop Barron is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. Additional information is available on his website: www.wordonfire.org.

Pope Francis calls Pope Emeritus Benedict's teaching 'precious heritage'

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The theological work and papal teaching of retired Pope Benedict XVI "continue to be a living and precious heritage for the church," Pope Francis said.

The pope met with the winners of the 2017 Ratzinger Prize, named for the retired pope to honor those who make significant contributions to theology and culture.

The three winners had met the day before with Pope Benedict in his residence in the Vatican gardens.

Pope Francis told the group that Pope Benedict's "prayer and his discreet and encouraging presence accompany us on our common journey."

The Ratzinger Prize is awarded each year by the Vatican-based Joseph Ratzinger-Benedict XVI Foundation, and Pope Francis urged the foundation to pay tribute to the retired pope not only by promoting the study of his writings, but to continue the spirit of his work by "entering into new fields in which

modern culture asks for dialogue with the faith."

"The human spirit always has an urgent and vital need for this dialogue," the pope said. And faith needs dialogue as well to ensure that it does not become abstract, but "incarnates in time."

"Joseph Ratzinger continues to be a master and friendly interlocutor for all those who exercise the gift of reason to respond to the human vocation of searching for truth," he said.

"Co-workers of the truth," the motto the retired pope chose in 1977 as his episcopal motto, "expresses well the whole sense of his work and his ministry," the pope said.

Pope Francis said he was happy the three winners for 2017 come from different Christian traditions and he was pleased to approve the expansion of the prize to include the arts because it "corresponds well to the vision of Benedict XVI, who so often spoke in a touching way about beauty as a privileged path for opening us up to transcendence and an encounter with God."



Theodor Dieter, a German Lutheran theologian, displays his certificate as one of three winners of the 2017 Ratzinger Prize, during an audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican. Pope Francis met with the three winners of the prize, which is named for retired Pope Benedict XVI and honors those who make significant contributions to theology and culture. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

The prize winners were German Lutheran theologian Theodor Dieter, German Catholic theologian Father

Karl-Heinz Menke and the Estonian composer Arvo Part, an Orthodox Christian.

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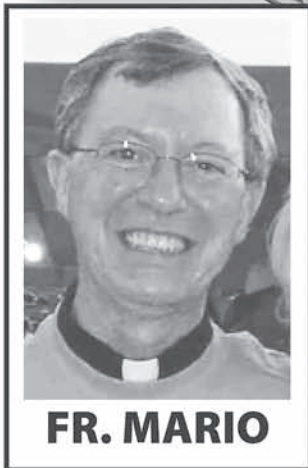
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Adena — An Advent penance service will be held at 7 p.m., Dec. 14, at St. Casimir Church.

Orders for nut, apricot and poppy seed rolls, baked by members of St. Casimir CWC, are being accepted; cost \$10 each. To place an order, telephone Jeanette Kelley at (740) 769-0225, or the church rectory, (740) 546-3463. Rolls will be available for pickup following the celebration of the Dec. 16 and Dec. 17 Masses.

"Enjoy Coupon Books" are being sold by St. Casimir Parish CWC for \$40 each. To reserve a book, telephone the rectory office at (740) 546-3463.

Athens — The Athens Catholic community CWC will sponsor a cookie walk from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Dec. 9, at Holy Family Center, located at Christ the King University Parish. Hot chocolate and cinnamon rolls will be available at the event. To preorder a cookie tray, email Wanda Sheridan, at shamrockauction@aol.com. A raffle will also be held that day.

Bellaire — A Christmas cantata "Emmanuel: Celebrating Heaven's Child" will be presented at 7 p.m., Dec. 10, at St. John Church.

Beverly — An Advent penance service will be held at 7 p.m., Dec. 12, at St. Bernard Church.

Caldwell — St. Stephen Parish will have an Advent penance service at 7 p.m., Dec. 19.

Cambridge — An Advent penance service will be held at 7 p.m., Dec. 11, at St. Benedict Church.

Churchtown — Throughout the Advent season, a Latin Mass will be celebrated at 12:30 p.m., Sundays, at St. John the Baptist Church.

An Advent penance service will be held at 7 p.m., Dec. 15, at St. John the Baptist Church.

Colerain — There will be an Advent penance service at 7 p.m., Dec. 17, at St. Frances Cabrini Church.

Dillonvale — St. Adalbert Parish will have an Advent penance service at 7 p.m., Dec. 12.

St. Adalbert parishioners are collecting hats, gloves, mittens and books for boys and girls 3 through 5 years of age. Items will be delivered to the Adena Head Start; do not wrap donated items.

Ironton — A breakfast, with seminarians, will be held following the celebration of the 9 a.m., Dec. 2 Mass, at St. Joseph Church, in the church undercroft.

An Advent penance service will be held at 7 p.m., Dec. 17, at St. Joseph Church. Confessions will be heard Dec. 18, from 1-2 p.m., at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church and from 2-3 p.m., at St. Joseph; Dec. 20, from 2-3 p.m., at St. Lawrence, and from 3-4 p.m., at St. Joseph; and on Dec. 22, from 3-4 p.m., at St. Lawrence, and 4-5 p.m., at St. Joseph.

Little Hocking — St. Ambrose Parish will have an Advent penance service at 7 p.m., Dec. 14.

Lowell — Our Lady of Mercy Parish CWC are selling one-pound bags of noodles for \$6. For more information, telephone Marilyn Peters, (740) 896-2726.

Marietta — The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption will have an Advent penance service at 7 p.m., Dec. 13.

Martins Ferry — St. Mary Parish will host the Martins Ferry Community Choir for a Christmas cantata at 4 p.m., Dec. 3, at the church.

An Advent penance service will take place at 2 p.m., Dec. 10, at St. Mary Church.

Mingo Junction — St. Agnes Parish will have an Advent penance service at 7 p.m., Dec. 13.

St. Clairsville — A Christmas cantata "Where Are You Christmas?" will be presented at 7 p.m., Dec. 17, at St. Mary Church.

Confessions will be heard at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 11, at St. Mary Church.

Mass will be celebrated in Spanish at 2:30 p.m., Dec. 17, at St. Mary Church. The sacrament of reconciliation will precede Mass at 2 p.m.

Steubenville — The Advent penance service at Holy Family Church will be held at 1:30 p.m., Dec. 18.

Steubenville — There will be an Advent penance service at 7 p.m., Dec. 14, at Holy Rosary Church.

Steubenville — The Catholic Central High School Band will present a Christmas concert Dec. 14. The



St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Colerain, Catholic Woman's Club recently honored and visited Stefania "Anne" Tesniarz, second from left, a member and active worker of the St. Frances Cabrini Parish CWC since the early 1960s. Tesniarz was presented with the gift of an angel for her years of work. Joining Tesniarz for a visit, from left, are Irene Kepreos, Sherri Rogers and Marcia Runkel. (Photo provided)

CCHS and Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School choirs will perform at 7 p.m., in the high school cafeteria. Following the presentation, bands will perform in Berkman Theater, Lanman Hall, at the high school. Tickets will be sold at the door.

Tiltonsville — An Advent penance service will be held at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 14, at St. Joseph Church.

Toronto — Nut, apricot and poppy seed rolls will be sold after all Masses at St. Joseph and St. Francis of Assisi churches Dec. 2, Dec. 3, Dec. 9, Dec. 10, Dec. 16 and Dec. 17. Rolls cost \$10.

Confessions for the Advent season will be heard at 7 p.m., Dec. 13, and from 3-4 p.m., Dec. 15, at St. Joseph Church, and from 7-8 p.m., Dec. 20, at

St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Wintersville — The Cantic Singers Catholic Youth Choir will hold an Advent and Christmas music concert at 5:30 p.m., Dec. 10, at Blessed Sacrament Church. Admission for the concert is free; a freewill offering will be taken at intermission.

An Advent penance service will take place at 7 p.m., Dec. 18, at Blessed Sacrament Church.

Yorkville — St. Lucy Parish is selling luminaries for \$5 "in loving memory of" or for a "special prayer intention." Luminaries will be lit before the celebration of Mass at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 13. For additional information or to purchase a luminary, telephone (740) 859-4018.

Around and About

Athens — The Pregnancy Resource Center will sponsor a bling show Dec. 7, from 6-9 p.m., at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 555 E. State St. There will also be a silent auction that evening, with collectibles; refreshments will be provided by local bakeries. All proceeds from the event will benefit the resource center.

Carrollton — A square dance, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Carroll County Council 15401, will be held from 7:30-10:30 p.m., Dec. 2, at the Our Lady of Mercy Church hall. Admission is \$5 each or \$9 for couples. For families, the cost is \$10. For additional information, telephone Dan Hitchcock at (330) 324-7635.

Martins Ferry — Knights of Columbus Mother of God Council 1421 will sponsor a fish fry from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Dec. 1, at the council hall, 25 N. Fourth St. Takeout orders will be available by telephoning (740) 633-0528.

St. Clairsville — The St. Clairsville Area Council of Churches clothes closet is in need of new and gently used children's shoes. Donations can be dropped off at the St. Mary Church parish offices, 212 W. Main St. For additional information, telephone Marie Crumbacher at (740) 526-0115.

St. Clairsville — The Belmont County Humane Society will sponsor a bingo and barbecue fundraiser from 4-8 p.m., Dec. 10, at St. Mary Church Marian Hall. Bingo starts at 5 p.m., and the packet price is \$20. The barbecue buffet is

free, but donations will be accepted. The event will include vendors of crafts, food and jewelry.

Steubenville — "Handel's Messiah" will be performed at 3 p.m., Dec. 17, at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1443 Bellevue Blvd. Anyone interested in singing in the chorus, can telephone (740) 282-1320.

Steubenville — An annual live Nativity will take place at 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Dec. 10, at Starkdale Presbyterian Church, 4600 Sunset Blvd. Following the presentation, homemade cookies and hot beverages will be served in the church fellowship hall.

Steubenville — Knights of Columbus St. John Neumann Council 11828 will hold a pancake breakfast from 9 a.m.-1:45 p.m., Dec. 3, in St. Peter Church hall. Proceeds from the breakfast will support the missionary work of Becky Smith, a parishioner of the Diocese of Steubenville, in Tanzania, Africa.

Steubenville — The Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus will pray a novena to the Immaculate Conception, patroness of our nation and the Diocese of Steubenville, every evening at 7 p.m., through Dec. 7, at their oratory, which is located at 700 Lovers Lane. The concluding evening will include a Holy Hour, exposition, recitation of the rosary, a homily and Benediction. Mass for the solemnity will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m., Dec. 8.



The Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity from St. Benedict Convent, Cambridge, attend the beatification of Father Solanus Casey at Ford Field in Detroit; pictured at St. Bonaventure Monastery Solanus Center near the statue of Father Casey, from left, are Sister Sharon Paul, Sister June Smith, Sister Carol Juckem, Sister Jan Villemure and Sister Helen Marie Paul. (Photo provided)



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, right, with Father David L. Huffman, pastor St. Joseph and St. Lawrence O'Toole parishes, Ironton, and administrator, St. Mary Mission, Pine Grove at Father Huffman's Knights of Columbus fourth-degree exemplification in Ironton. (Photo provided)

Mass is a time of silence and prayer, not idle chitchat, Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Mass is the highest form of prayer and not an appropriate moment for small talk, Pope Francis said.

At church, Catholics should spend their time in silence before Mass, preparing “to meet with Jesus” instead of engaging in “chitchat,” the pope said during his weekly general audience.

“Silence is so important,” he said. “Remember what I told you last time: We are not going to a show. Silence prepares us and accompanies us.”

The pope continued his new series of audience talks on the Mass, reflecting on the Eucharist as a form of prayer

that is “the highest, the most sublime and, at the same time, the most concrete” way of encountering God’s love.

“This is the greatest grace: to experience that the Eucharist is the privileged moment to be with Jesus and, through him, with God and with our brothers and sisters,” the pope said.

In the Gospels, he continued, Jesus teaches his disciples that the first thing needed to pray “is to know how to say ‘father’” and to trust in God with the humility of a child.

Christians also must allow themselves to be “surprised by the living encounter with the Lord,” he said, and not simply “talk to God like a parrot,” repeating the words of

prayers without thinking.

“The encounter with God is a living encounter,” the pope said departing from his prepared remarks. “It is not an encounter of a museum, it is a living encounter. And we go to Mass, not a museum! We go to a living encounter with the Lord.”

Pope Francis said the Mass is also a gift and a consolation where Christians discover that God’s greatest surprise is that he “loves us even in our weakness.”

“The Lord encounters our frailty,” the pope said. “This is the environment of the Eucharist. This is prayer.”

Pope, USCCB president pray for victims of Egyptian mosque attack

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis led pilgrims in prayer for the victims of a bombing at a mosque in Egypt’s northern Sinai region.

Pope Francis said he received news of the attack with “great sorrow.”

“May God deliver us from these tragedies and sustain the efforts of all those who work for peace, harmony and coexistence,” the pope said.

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, was among other Catholic leaders who condemned the attack, calling it a “monstrous terrorist attack on innocent people at prayer.”

The Nov. 24 attack took place at the Al-Rawdah Mosque in Bir al-Abd.

More than 300 people, including two dozen children, were killed when at least 40 attackers detonated a bomb, then gunned down worshippers as they fled. More than 120

others were wounded in what is being described as the deadliest modern-day attack in Egypt’s history.

The Egyptian prosecutor’s office said it believed the attack was coordinated by Islamic State militants and was targeting Muslims who practice Sufism, or Islamic mysticism.

Remembering the victims and the wounded, Pope Francis called on Christians to pray for those who were “so severely affected” by the attack that occurred during prayers at the mosque.

“Those people, in that moment, prayed. We, too, in silence, pray for them,” he said.

Following news of the bombing, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said the pope was “profoundly grieved” by the loss of life and condemned the attack as a “wanton act of brutality directed at innocent civilians gathered in prayer.”

Pope Francis, Cardinal Parolin wrote, “joins all people of good will in imploring that hearts hardened by hatred

will learn to renounce the way of violence that leads to such great suffering, and embrace the way of peace.”

In Washington the day of the attack, Cardinal DiNardo said: “Terrorist acts can never be justified in the name of God or any political ideology, and the fact this attack took place at a mosque, a place of worship, is especially offensive to God.”

“The Catholic Church in the United States mourns with the people of Egypt at this time of tragedy, and assures them of our prayerful solidarity,” Cardinal DiNardo said.

“We join with all those of goodwill in prayer that these acts of terror and mass killings – these acts of grave evil – will end and will be replaced with genuine and mutual respect for the dignity of each and every person,” he said.

In a televised address, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said the attack was “an attempt to stop us from our efforts in the fight against terrorism, to destroy our efforts to stop the terrible criminal plan that aims to destroy what is left of our region.”

Obituaries

Wilma K. Burkhardt, 96, St. Francis Xavier, Malvern, Nov. 12.

Michalina “Lina” Carducci, 88, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Nov. 18.

Perry Cunningham, 64, Steubenville, Holy Family, Nov. 19.

Marie Werk Devol, 86, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Nov. 14.

Ralph I. Dunbarger, 87, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Nov. 9.

Richard “Rich” Gillon, 79, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Nov. 16.

Carl J. Gyarmaty, 88, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Nov. 27.

Gregory C. “Whip” Lash, 55, Steubenville, Holy Family, Nov. 12.

Hester C. Oliver Offenberger, 87, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Nov. 5.

Joseph M. Orsini, 96, Our Lady of Lourdes, Winterville, Nov. 13.

Ann Sagun, 86, Steubenville, Holy Family, Nov. 16.

William A. Serafini, 91, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Nov. 27.

Mary Jo Viola, 70, Holy Family, Steubenville, Nov. 21.

To experience one of the holiest Christian sites, head to Washington

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the nation's capital, a \$15 museum ticket and pair of 3-D glasses is the passport Christian pilgrims and others need to experience what may be the holiest site in Christianity.

Employing state-of-the-art technology, the National Geographic Museum in Washington Nov. 15 opened an exhibit that virtually transports visitors to the streets of Jerusalem and through the doors of a small church that protects what is believed to be the site of Christ's burial and, to Christians, the site of his resurrection.

"We put you in the Old City, we talk to you a little about the walls of the city, how they move over time and where the Gospels say that the Crucifixion took place, and try to give you the context," said Kathryn Keane, vice president of exhibitions for National Geographic.

After an introductory video explaining some of the tumultuous history surrounding the tomb of Christ site, visitors walk toward a set where a virtual guide projected on a wall welcomes them to a courtyard just outside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

It's a visual appetizer to get them ready for the experience of, not just entering via 3-D through its doors, but also of flying over it and witnessing, from a bird's eye view, a time lapse of the structure's physical history.

"We're not only taking you in the church the way it looks today but we also go up above the church and we take you back through time," said Keane. "It's a bit of a time machine and we show you all the evolutions of the building, from the time that it was, under (Roman emperor) Hadrian, a pagan temple."

Last year, archaeologist Fred Hiebert witnessed various stages of a nine-month-long, \$3 million restoration of the small shrine within the Holy Sepulcher that protects the tomb of Christ. The shrine often is referred to as the "Edicule," Latin for "little house." During the process, the three religious groups with jurisdiction over the structure,



The "Tomb of Christ" exhibit at the National Geographic Museum in Washington. (CNS Photo)

and who had agreed on its restoration – the Armenians, the Franciscans and the Greek Orthodox – agreed to also allow restorers to put a moisture barrier around the tomb itself.

The tomb likely had not been opened in centuries and, at some point, marble slabs were placed on top, perhaps to keep pilgrims from taking home parts of it. It has been venerated since the time of Constantine, the first Christian Roman emperor who, in the fourth century, sent a team in search of the holy burial site. Soon after, they identified a quarry as that place and Constantine's mother, Helena, had a shrine built around it.

The exhibit explains how the effects of weather, earthquakes and also great numbers of pilgrims, many of whom light candles that contribute to a buildup of soot, had brought the structure to the brink of collapse.

It also explains the dilemma religious leaders faced when they learned that by injecting liquid mortar into the shrine to reinforce it, it presented the possibility that it would seep into the tomb itself.

The exhibit, as well as a TV show about the restoration of the tomb of Christ that National Geographic documented, is expected to debut Dec. 3 on its cable channel.

The exhibit runs at the museum until August 2018.



Don't Miss This Special Christmas Event!

Friday December 8th from 3:00 to 5:00 PM

Nelson's of Steubenville will be hosting Mr. Emanuele Fontanini from Italy, Representing the world-renowned House of Fontanini.

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