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The Steubenville REGISTER

VOL. 73, NO. 12

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FEB. 9, 2018

News Briefs

Bishop is tying Olympics to peace

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — A South Korean bishop wants the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics to be a steppingstone for achieving peace in the region, reported ucanews.com.

Bishop Peter Lee Ki-heon, president of the Korean bishops' Committee for the Reconciliation of the Korean People, released a statement hoping "the Olympics, feast of peace, will be a turning point to reduce the uneasiness and to settle peace on the peninsula."

North Korea is sending a large team of athletes and an art company to the Olympics, which will begin Feb. 9.

Bishop Lee of Uijeongbu, which borders North Korea, said: "North Korea's participation is meaningful as it is a step forward to a new era of peace by ending the long-lasting struggles. As Pope Francis stresses, we should welcome North Korean delegates based on fraternity full of love."

"We should make hay while the sun shines. We need to see this precious opportunity as a chance for coexistence and a new era where future generations freely go and come between the two Koreas."

Bishop Lee urged disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear arms, for the complete settlement of peace on the peninsula.

He also stressed the need for more meetings and dialogue between the two Koreas to recover trust and partnership.

While athletes will compete for their respective countries, there will be a unified Korean team at the Olympics for the first time as players from both North and South Korea make up a team in women's ice hockey.

Vatican invited to Olympic ceremony

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For the first time, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has invited a Vatican delegation not only to take part in the opening ceremony of the Winter Games, but also to attend its general meeting as an official observer.

The delegation was to be led by Msgr. Melchor Sanchez de Toca Alameda, undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture and head of its "Culture and Sport" section.

The Vatican delegation was invited to attend the opening ceremony at the Olympic Stadium in Pyeongchang, South Korea, as well as the Olympic committee's annual session, where voting members meet to discuss major issues in the world of sports, reported the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano.

A Vatican delegation attended the opening of the Summer Olympics in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, but this was the first time a Vatican delegation was also invited to attend an annual session of the Olympic committee.

Msgr. Sanchez, a former modern pentathlete, told the Vatican newspaper he would present Thomas Bach, president of the IOC, and all Korean Olympic athletes with the official yellow and white jerseys worn by members of the Vatican's running club "Athletica Vaticana," which — like its other sports teams — is made up of employees of Vatican City State and the Holy See.

Bishop Monforton announces financial investigation

By Dino Orsatti
Editor

STEUBENVILLE — Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton announced that during the recent reorganization of the diocesan finance office and an external auditing process, potential accounting irregularities have been discovered that require immediate investigation.

"Irregularities appear to have occurred with the payroll system and accounting processes for an undetermined period of time. As soon as I learned of this, I engaged outside legal counsel and an accounting firm with expertise in this area to begin an immediate investigation of these issues," Bishop Monforton said. The bishop added, "I take full responsibility for ascertaining how this happened, for resolving the situation and for ensuring it does not happen again."

The bishop said he will release more information about the results of the financial investigation as soon he receives more details. Pending completion of the investigation, the diocese will suspend any major financial expenditure, including the Holy Name Cathedral renovation project.

Interior demolition work on the cathedral was expected

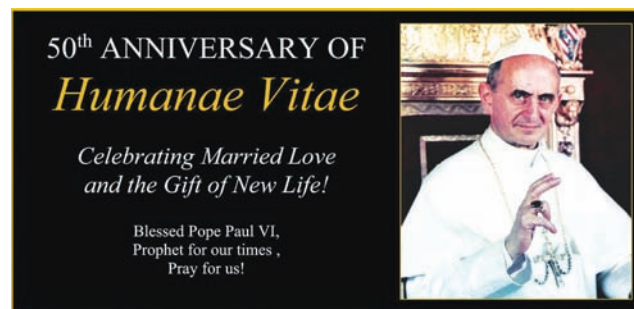


(File photo)

Diocese of Steubenville Chancery building

to take place this winter but until there is further clarity, the Holy Name Cathedral project is suspended indefinitely, according to the bishop.

Marriage week resources available from USCCB



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton will bless families at the 50th anniversary celebration of Blessed Pope Paul VI's encyclical, "Humanae Vitae" ("of human life"), following the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass, Feb. 10, at St. Benedict Church, Cambridge. (Photo provided)

WASHINGTON/STEUBENVILLE (CNS) — February's observances of National Marriage Week USA and World Marriage Day allow the faithful to revisit the importance of love and family in the life of the church, said Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput.

In a letter to fellow prelates, Archbishop Chaput, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, said the events provide opportunities "to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family."

National Marriage Week USA will be observed through Feb. 14. World Marriage Day falls in the middle of the week on Feb. 11.

To assist in the observances, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has developed homily resources and a bulletin

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Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton's Lenten Message 2018

"Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear" (Mk 4:9).

Jesus has given us a sacred directive: We have received the message of our redemption in his paschal mystery, and we should respond accordingly. This Lenten season should amplify our response to hearing Jesus' words which followed the parable of the sower. How do we go about in our response?

We have been given by God the three pillars of the Lenten season, namely: prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. These pillars do not simply prepare us to climb that Easter mountain called Lent, but they prepare us for the eternal Jerusalem, the kingdom of God. We recall how Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights prior to his public ministry. The question is proposed to us, what will you and I do this Lenten season to prepare for the great celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection? Whatever penance we choose will not simply provide peace between us and our neighbor, but will also create peace within our very selves.

Bishops consider plans to revitalize appeal of a Catholic education

WASHINGTON/STEUBENVILLE (CNS) — Catholic bishops are looking to “transform” Catholic schools in response to decades of declining enrollment that has forced hundreds of schools to close since 2005.

The effort, said the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Catholic Education, encompasses a wide-ranging look at issues facing Catholic schools and a renewed effort to help parents better understand that the spiritual development of a child goes hand in hand with academic achievement.

“The concern of the bishops is that Catholic schools are valuable, Catholic schools transform lives,” said Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio. “It’s not only talking about academics. It’s not only a matter of discipline, but it’s a matter of preparing the whole person for college and for heaven.”

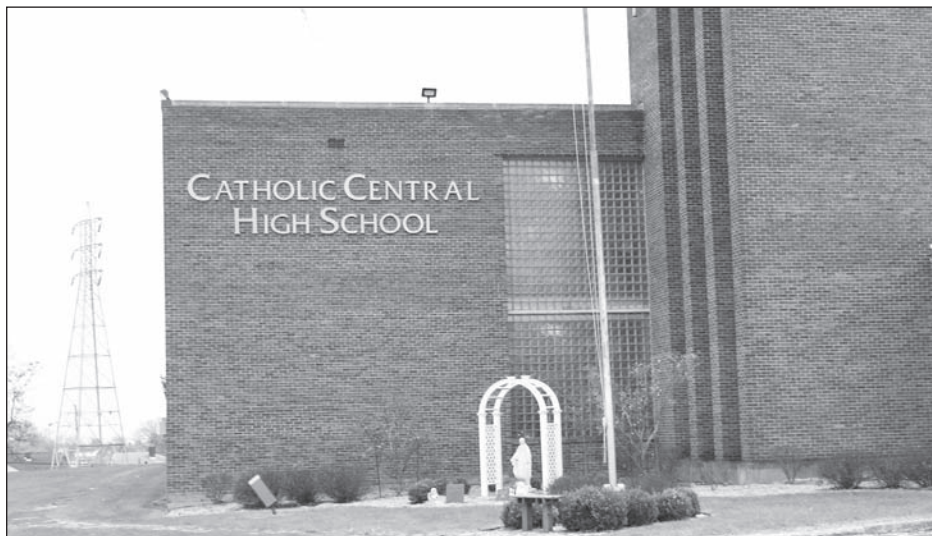
Bishop Murry said the goal is to ensure that Catholic schools will remain a vibrant and important part of family and church life.

Figures from the National Catholic Educational Association show 1,393 Catholic school closings or consolidations from 2007 to 2017 compared with 287 school openings. During the same period, enrollment declined by 19 percent to less than 1.9 million students. Enrollment peaked in 1965 at more than 5.2 million students.

The bishops and the educators focused on four trends during the meeting:

- the changing relationship across Catholic school leadership including those between bishop and pastors, pastors and principals, and principals and teachers;
- the evolving landscape of Catholic school governance as more advisory boards of lay leaders take shape;
- expanding access to Catholic schools through educational choice;
- charter school expansion.

Also underlying the bishops’ concerns are shifting demographics, tuition costs and changes in the practice of the faith, all of



Pictured above is Steubenville Catholic Central High School. Though the Diocese of Steubenville will celebrate Catholic Schools Week April 16-20, National Catholic Schools Week was observed Jan. 28 through Feb. 3 in many dioceses around the country. (Photo by Orsatti)

which influence whether parents decide to enroll their children in Catholic schools.

Bishop Murry said the simple message that Catholic schools transform lives must become the church’s basic refrain.

“Many parents don’t see particular value in the religious formation that occurs in a Catholic school,” Bishop Murry said. “So how can we challenge some of those ideas so people come to a better understanding of why it is important to develop the entire person?”

Pastors, he explained, are diligently working to bring parents into parish schools to see firsthand the advantages a Catholic education has in developing the “whole person.”

“Unfortunately, we live in a very secular society. We are blessed that we’re not as secular as many of the countries in Europe. But, we are a very secular society, and fewer and fewer people see the value of that spiritual development. I think that becomes the task of evangelization. Just programs to get people into church are not enough. We have to change hearts.

“It’s not simply a matter of an intellectual

decision. It’s a realization that I want the very best for my son or my daughter. And part of the best is that that child is eventually in heaven,” he said.

Bishop Murry, 69, speaks from experience. His parents, practicing Methodists at the time, took the unusual step of enrolling him in St. Bartholomew School in Camden, New Jersey, midway through his third-grade school year.

He recalled that he “didn’t do well in public school” and that the atmosphere at St. Bartholomew turned his life around.

“It was Catholic school that helped me

to settle down and to focus,” Bishop Murry said.

As for rising tuition, Bishop Murry suggested two approaches. The first involves helping parents realize that 27 states and the District of Columbia have legislation providing financial assistance to parents who choose private or faith-based schools.

The second requires school leaders and clergy “to be courageous and undaunted in going to donors, people whose lives have been positively affected by Catholic schools and have been blessed with economic security ... and ask them to give back to Catholic schools,” he said.

“(We have) to get them involved, to not be afraid to talk to them and say we need your help in maintaining these schools,” Bishop Murry added.

The church also is contending with the growth of charter schools. While publicly funded, charter schools are privately run. They offer parents an alternative to traditional public education.

However, numerous charter schools nationwide have been found to be in disrepair, offer inadequate instructional resources and lack public accountability. And at some schools, student performance has been lower than at public schools in the same community.

The work ahead is expected to take time to unfold, Bishop Murry said. He hopes that regional or statewide gatherings of bishops will undertake the question of transforming Catholic schools.

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World Day for Consecrated Life coincides with the release of the 2017 profession class survey



Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, and delegate for religious of the Diocese of Steubenville, celebrates World Day for Consecrated Life at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Oratory, Steubenville. (Photo by Orsatti)

STEUBENVILLE/WASHINGTON — The World Day for Consecrated Life was celebrated in the Diocese of Steubenville by Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, and delegate for religious of the diocese, at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Oratory, Steubenville, Feb. 2, and in other parishes on the weekend of Feb. 3 and Feb. 4.

Commenting on the World Day for Consecrated Life, Cardinal Joseph Tobin, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Newark and Chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations states: "For 21 years, the church has designated the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas Day, as an appropriate moment to thank God for the gift of consecrated life. Jesus is manifest as 'light of revelation for the Gentiles' and 'glory for God's people, Israel.' Consecrated men and women reflect this light as witnesses of Jesus in a world that is often shrouded in shadow. They are the glory of God's people. We pray for the perseverance of consecrated men and women and ask God to continue enriching the church with their unique vocation."

The USCCB released the results of a survey taken of the most recent Profession Class of 2017 that coincided with the World Day for Consecrated Life. The survey, which can be viewed at www.usccb.org/consecratedlife, polled women and men religious who professed perpetual vows in 2017 in a religious congregation, province, or monastery based in the U.S.

Some of the major findings of the report are:

- Nearly nine in 10, or 86 percent of responding religious, regularly participated in some type of private prayer activity before they entered their religious institute. About two-thirds participated in eucharistic adoration, prayed the

rosary or attended retreats before entering. Nearly six in 10 participated in spiritual direction before entering.

- Most religious did not report that educational debt delayed their application for entrance to their institute. Among the 4 percent who did report having educational debt, however, averaged about four years of delay while they paid down an average of \$29,100 in educational debt.

- Two-thirds of responding religious (64 percent) identify as white, more than one in six (18 percent) identify as Asian, and more than one in 10 (11 percent) identify as Hispanic.

- Most responding religious (67 percent) were born in the United States. Of those born outside the U. S., the most common country of origin is Vietnam.

- One-half of responding religious attended a Catholic elementary school, more than four in 10 (44 percent) attended a Catholic high school, and a near equal proportion (43 percent) attended a Catholic college before entering their religious institute.

- On average, responding religious report that they were 19 years old when they first considered a vocation to religious life, but half were 18 or younger when they first did so.

- Nearly nine in 10 (87 percent) responding religious report that someone encouraged them to consider a vocation to religious life.

- More than four in 10 report that a parish priest (43 percent) encouraged their vocation.

- Half say they were encouraged to consider a vocation by a religious sister or brother. Women religious were more likely than men religious to do so.

- More than four in 10 (41 percent) report that they were encouraged to consider a vocation by their friends.

Bishop Monforton's Schedule

- Feb. 10 Mass for annual family planning gathering, St. Benedict Church, Cambridge, 11 a.m.
Annual family planning gathering, St. Benedict Church, Cambridge, noon
Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Pomeroy, 4:30 p.m.
- 11 Mass, St. John the Baptist Church, Churchtown, 9:30 a.m.
- 12 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 8:30 a.m.
Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign, major gift dinner, Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361 hall, Mingo Junction, 7 p.m.
- 13 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m.
Mardi Gras with diocesan staff, Steubenville, noon
- 14 School visit, Catholic Central High School and Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School, at CCHS, Steubenville, 9 a.m.
Ash Wednesday Mass, Catholic Central High School, Lanman Hall, Berkman Theater, Steubenville, 9:30 a.m.
Ash Wednesday Mass, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 12:05 p.m.
- 18 Rites of Election and Recognition of Candidates for Full Initiation in the Church, St. Agnes Church, Mingo Junction, 1:30 p.m.
- 19-24 Keynote speaker at the Polish bishops' public resources management spring training workshop, Warsaw, Poland

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DCCW Lenten Day of Spirituality planned, March 17, in St. Clairsville

By Matthew A. DiCenzo
Staff writer

STEUBENVILLE — The seventh annual Lenten Day of Spirituality for women in the Diocese of Steubenville will be held March 17 at St. Mary Church, 218 W. Main St., St. Clairsville (Father Thomas A Chillog is pastor of the parish).

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is sponsoring the day of spirituality. Joanne Kolanski, DCCW president, and DeDe Kidder, DCCW publicity chair, announced the event.

Sharon Colvin, a parishioner of Christ the King University Parish, Athens, will be the presenter at the retreat. She will be presenting the program, "Practical Holiness – Divine Living in the Here and Now." The day will consist of three sessions: "God of Grace or God of Distance," "Trust or FUD (Fear, Uncertainty or Doubt)" and "Follow or Folly."

Colvin said she has a passion for en-

couraging those around her in the way of Christ's love by carrying her passion from her parish to her workplace at the Pregnancy Resource Center of Athens County, where she is the director of client services. Colvin is one of the program developers and presenters of the "Emotional, Sexual and Physical Well-being (ESP) Program" for college and high school-aged women, and is currently teaching fertility awareness classes and the "Building Family Connections Program" through the online Medical Institute. She has a master's degree in public health from Ohio University, Athens.

Colvin and her husband Robert have two sons.

A DCCW flyer sent out advertising the Lenten Day of Spirituality states, "Let us open our hearts to Jesus' stirring actions. Let us respond to the Holy Spirit completely, without hesitation. Let us do this through and by God's loving grace! Oh,



(Photo provided)

Sharon Colvin

the riches we have as Catholics."

The day begins with registration from 8:30-9:45 a.m., and the program begins at 10 a.m. with the first session. Mass will be celebrated at 11:15 a.m. by Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton as the celebrant, who is anticipated to

spend the day at the retreat. Lunch will be provided at noon, and the afternoon sessions will begin at 1:15 p.m. and will end at 3:30 p.m.

The deadline for reservations is March 12. Cost is \$25 per person, which includes the lunch and refreshments that will be served in St. Mary Marian Hall.

Reservations can be mailed to Kidder at P.O. Box 31, Toronto, OH 43964, by telephoning (740) 632-3018 or by emailing dede.kidder@gmail.com. Checks can be made payable to Steubenville DCCW.

For additional information or questions on the Lenten Day of Spirituality, contact Kolanski, 46919 Columbia St., St. Clairsville, OH 43950, telephone (740) 695-1617 or email, jkolanski51@comcast.net; or contact Angela Cross, spirituality commissioner, 120 Morris Ave., Athens, OH 45701, telephone (740) 594-7511 or email, angelamecross@gmail.com.



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, back center, and Father James M. Dunfee, pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Mingo Junction, right of the bishop, celebrate a confirmation Mass at St. Agnes Church. Pictured in the first row, from left, are Marcella Balzano, Melia Lane, Maria Balzano, Logan Evans, Gina Crust and Dominic Libetti; second row, from left, are Alisha Ensell, Sam Swearingen, Anna Cecilia Gessler, Emilee Reinacher, Ian Latynski and Riley Tongate; third row, from left, are Adelaide Shaw, Nyah Dunburg-Ingram, Natalia Dunburg-Ingram, David Gessler, D. J. Wetherell, Camden Daley and Andrew Wetherell; fourth row, from left, are Brad Ensell, Melissa Cooke, Brandon Canestraro and Anthony Perrino. (Photo provided)



Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity Sharon Paul and her discussion group participate in the ChristLife program at St. Benedict Church, Cambridge. The groups discuss the following topics: "What is the Meaning of Life?"; "Why Does Jesus Matter?"; "Why do we Need a Savior?"; "Why is the Resurrection Important?"; "Who is the Holy Spirit?" and "Our Need for the Church." The group meets on Wednesdays for a dinner, followed by a video and a discussion on each week's topic. (Photo provided)

Principal – St. Benedict School

St. Benedict School, Cambridge, Ohio, is seeking a principal for the 2018-19 school year. The school has an enrollment of approximately 110 students in grades prekindergarten through eight, with a dedicated faculty and staff, including four Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. St. Benedict School is a parish grade school for Christ Our Light Parish of Byesville, Cambridge and Lore City.

Qualifications: practicing Roman Catholic with an enthusiasm for his/her faith; certified in the state of Ohio; master's degree in education or school leadership preferred; other qualifications as may be found acceptable.

Application materials: letter of interest; resume of experience; official transcripts of college/university coursework; three letters of recommendation, one from applicant's pastor; copy of current educator's license or certification.

Interviews for selected candidates will be scheduled following review of application materials.

Salary and benefits are negotiable depending upon experience and qualifications.

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Complete application materials will be accepted through March 16.

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Steubenville encounter group is helping married and engaged couples

STEUBENVILLE — As local coordinators for Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) in Steubenville, Josh and Cruz Hawrot have often heard, “There is nothing like a Catholic wedding.” One would also be right to say, “There’s nothing like a Catholic marriage.” As the Catholic Engaged Encounter’s motto states, “A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime.”

Josh Hawrot said it is a Catholic marriage “that calls and empowers married couples to love their spouse during the big moments of marriage like children, health issues, major decisions or trials; and, also, the little moments like doing the dishes, taking out the trash or giving a random hug.”

“We need to grow and be formed into such instruments before saying ‘I do,’” said Josh Hawrot, “and so taking it one more step we can then say ‘There is nothing like Catholic marriage formation,’ which he said should also be just as common a phrase as the wedding. Just recently the Diocese of Steubenville revamped marriage preparation through a five-step process. One of the steps includes attending pre-Cana or Catholic Engaged Encounter.

Catholic Engaged Encounter is a worldwide ministry that serves as a marriage preparation option for engaged couples getting married in the Catholic Church. It is a retreat weekend consisting of prayerful and practical formation that is led by two Catholic married couples from the local diocese. They give numerous talks on topics like communication, intimacy, unity, and managing conflict. “The beautiful thing about CEE is that it is an encounter with your fiancé, an encounter with the church’s teachings on sacramental marriage, an encounter with others striving toward the same vocation, and an encounter with the third person of your vocation,” Cruz said.



Pictured at Holy Family Church, Steubenville, are Alex Renn, Caitlin Renn holding son Jack, Charlotte Deller, Ella Deller, Liam Coen, Gabriel Coen, Josh Hawrot holding daughter Mariana, Cruz Hawrot holding daughters Filomina and Esperanza; Paul Lemasters, Patrick LeMasters, Theresa Deller holding son Jack, Meghan Coen holding daughter Mary Eva, and David Coen holding daughter Audrey. (Photo provided)

The Steubenville Diocese has offered Catholic Engaged Encounter as a marriage prep option for more than 20 years, and has served more than 500 couples. Currently the Steubenville CEE community is comprised of nearly 10

young couples, who volunteer their time to create a retreat weekend for the engaged couples and an organized ministry.

Theresa Deller, one of the presenting couples in the local CEE community, shared, “I love that my husband and I get the amazing opportunity to connect with couples ready to commit to the sacrament of marriage. To be able to share some of our experiences with them and to have them share some of theirs is truly humbling.” Dellar continued, “I, also, love that this is a ministry that my husband and I get to do together. Writing the talks and leading weekends encourages us to re-examine our own marriage and remember Christ should always be at the center.”

The engaged couples are not the only ones receiving formation and being served. “Most of us are involved with CEE because we love every aspect of it – from ministering to the young couples on retreat to having fellowship and accountability with other couples on the team,” Cruz Hawrot said. “It’s very empowering and uplifting to be a part of a group of married couples striving to live out the sacrament of marriage day in and day out. When we get together for socials or meetings, it’s like marriage enrichment through the conversations or marriage formation activities we have. It’s very much a blessing for us on the team as it is for the engaged couples being ministered to.”

“We invite any married couple to Catholic Engaged Encounter,” Josh Hawrot said. “We are always looking for more couples to become involved in big or small ways. If a married couple wants to become involved with CEE, they can visit the website at www.steubenvillecee.org and contact us.”

Josh Hawrot said they will gladly accept donations, too, since the community provides financial scholarships for those in need.

New requirements set for engaged couples in the Diocese of Steubenville

STEUBENVILLE — Engaged couples in the Diocese of Steubenville are now required to complete an online video course as one part of the new diocesan marriage preparation standards.

The Catholic Vision of Love and Marriage is the new course for engaged couples, co-produced by the Diocese of Steubenville and the online Pastoral Solutions Institute.

The video course is hosted by Greg and Lisa Popcak, authors of numerous books and the hosts of EWTN’s More2Life Radio, heard on more than 200 Catholic stations around the country and on satellite radio.

Greg Popcak said the videos concentrate on topics such as couple prayer, the practical significance of living a love that is “free, total, faithful and fruitful,” and how marital grace can help couples overcome the so-called “battle of the sexes.”

The videos also deal with how to celebrate the spiritual dimensions of a couple’s sexual relationship, and how to discover the ways God wants to use the couple’s marriage to help them become everything they were created to be in this life, while empowering them get to heaven in the next, according to Popcak.

The program consists of 12, 7-9 minute videos that explore what makes the Catholic vision of marriage different and emphasizes the role that married couples play in God’s plan for bringing the world to Christ. Each of the 12 units include discussion questions, additional resources the couple may explore, and a quiz that highlights the most important information in the unit.

Both members of the engaged couple need to register



Greg and Lisa Popcak (Photo provided)

separately to earn their certificates of completion to present to their pastors. Because of the separate registrations, each member of the couple can complete the course on their own or together. The entire program can be completed in under 3 hours, but can be spaced out over whatever time span is convenient for the couple.

Although the course is required for engaged couples in the diocese, it can also be used for marriage enrichment.

Popcak said the course is designed to help all married couples, of every age and stage, “to learn more about God’s plan for marriage and how to cooperate more effectively

with God’s grace to have a truly passionate, faithful, satisfying, lifelong relationship.” He said it can be especially useful for parishes who wish to train mentor couples to help with local marriage ministry efforts.

Joseph A. Schmidt, director of the Diocese of Steubenville Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life, said, he “hopes every couple in the diocese, no matter what stage of married life they are in, will take advantage of this exciting opportunity to strengthen marriages.” It is expected that the program will be offered nationally through other Catholic dioceses as well.

The course costs \$25 per couple (\$12.50 per person) although a discount is available that allows couples with financial need to take the course for free. It can be accessed at www.CatholicCounselors.com under the “course” tab located on the home page of the site.

The other required marriage preparation steps include meetings with the priest or deacon, comprehensive introduction to the theology of the body, marriage life-skills workshop or retreat, and final preparations with the priest or deacon officiating the wedding.

The new requirements took effect in January.

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St. John Paul II The Spirit and Apostolicity

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

In the creed we profess to believe in “one, holy, Catholic and apostolic church.” St. John Paul next takes up that fourth mark, *apostolicity*. It means: “built upon the foundation of the apostles.” The church, like so many institutions or organizations, is often compared to a building, a structure of some kind. Perhaps the most important part of a structure is its *foundation* because the rest of the building stands upon it. There is usually a cornerstone or “capstone,” too, a part of the foundation that identifies the building or denotes its purpose. St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians: “... (Y)ou are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ as the capstone” (Eph 2: 19-22); and speaking of it to the Corinthians: “For no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 3:11).

St. Thomas Aquinas explained that Christ is the designer and architect, while the apostles are the builders. This fits perfectly with Our Lord’s words to the apostles at the Last Supper: “the paraclete whom the Father will send in my name will instruct you in everything and remind you of all that I told you” (Jn 14:26). We have already seen how the apostles set out immediately after Pentecost to preach the Gospel to the world, i.e., the truth about God’s plan for mankind as laid down by Christ. We read in the Acts of the Apostles St. Paul’s admonition to the leaders of the church

“While all believers in a sense are to be witnesses to the Gospel, the apostles and their successors were to be the caretakers of the authenticity of that message.”

of Ephesus: “Keep watch over yourselves and the flock that the Spirit has placed in your charge. Be shepherds (in Greek: “epi-skopous” means *overseers*; in English means bishops) over the church of God” (Acts 20:28). The pope explains: “They are placed to shepherd, therefore, while remaining on the basis of the apostolic truth which ... will undergo distortion and threats from those who spread false doctrine” (Acts 20:30). It was to the apostles that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit. They in turn are to be his witnesses to the teachings of Jesus. While all believers in a sense are to be witnesses to the Gospel, the apostles and

their successors were to be the caretakers of the authenticity of that message. Our Lord made no provision for a “private interpretation” of the Bible in general or the Gospels in particular. It was to them, not the members of the church at large that the guarantee of the Holy Spirit’s guidance was given.

“Apostolicity,” therefore, denotes contact, identity with the apostles. What was to happen after the original apostles died? Who was to possess that original guarantee of the Spirit’s guidance? This is where “ordination” comes in. There are several references in the New Testament to the “laying on of hands,” as a gesture by which the apostles or St. Paul designated and commissioned men to succeed them or to assist them in their work. We know it as one of the essential elements of the sign of the sacrament of holy orders: “Do not neglect the gift you have, that was conferred on you through the prophetic word with the imposition of hands of the presbyterate” (1 Tm 4:14). “Do not lay hands too readily on anyone, and do not share in another man’s sins” (1 Tm 5:20). “For this reason I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands” (2 Tm 1:6).

More will be said about it in the next series: on the church. For now, let me insert a personal note that I believe illustrates the point: I was ordained a bishop by Bishop (later cardinal) James Hickey. He was kind enough to give me, among other things, a document entitled “Apostolic Succession” bearing a long list of names. My name was at the top, followed by his, followed by that of Cardinal (John) Dearden of Detroit, who ordained Hickey a bishop,

followed by that of the current apostolic delegate who ordained Dearden, followed by a list of 33 more names that went back to the year A.D. 1380. The last name on the list was that of Angelo Correr, who became Pope Gregory XII. The list ended there because records are no longer available from before that time. It was an era when the Black Death ravished Europe. Many records were burned along with the places that kept them as one way to combat the plague, or were otherwise lost. (People had more on their minds then than records!) However, since the list contains the names of a dozen or so popes, the line is able to be



Bishop Sheldon

continued through the succession of popes, which is fairly complete – complete back to that of a certain fisherman of Galilee – the same man to whom Jesus Christ said: “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it” (Mt 18:16).

That’s right! Ordination to the episcopacy is traceable to St. Peter himself! I gave a copy of that document to every man that I ordained, with his own name at the top. What is distinctive about the Catholic priesthood? Some may say *celibacy*: Roman Catholic priests do not marry. That’s true, but it’s not unique. In fact, the number of unmarried adults is growing in the United States today. People remain unmarried for many reasons. Others would say the Catholic priesthood is unique because of *education*. The education of a priest requires four years of graduate study after college (not counting further specialized study). But, that compares favorably with many other professions, e.g., medicine. No, what is distinctive about the Catholic priesthood is *apostolicity*! Every priest can trace his commission to speak in the name of Christ back to the apostles, and through them, to Christ himself! The word, “apostle,” means one who is *sent* – as a delegate or representative. A priest is not “called” by his parish; he is sent to it by his bishop. This, in keeping with a procedure that originated with Christ himself, who said to the apostles: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And, behold, I am with you until the end of the age” (Mt 28: 19-20).

Made Clean Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

By Father Paul J. Walker

The Gospel text (see, Mark, Chapter 1, Verses 40-45) reveals how people in Jesus’ day imagined things – theirs was a world of boundaries and order. In Genesis, Chapter 1, the very act of creation was one of separating and ordering: God brings order into chaos, separates land from sea, earth from firmament; sets boundaries for sea and sky. He makes things by his word, with perfection – animals, plants and people. The religious folks of Jesus’ day believed that a world of good order reflected a God of perfection



Father Walker

and order. So anything not reflecting that order, anything imperfect, any admixtures, anyone or anything not within those well-defined limits, those sharp distinctions of pure and impure, sound and unsound did not reflect the wholeness, the order, the purity, the soundness of God and was, therefore, unholy, unsaved and to be scrupulously avoided. (Thus the ritual washings – remove contamination.)

So it was that the lepers were shunned and avoided – they violated the image of a God who was whole, clean, perfect and pure. Lepers lived in isolation and loneliness – to come in contact with them was to render oneself unclean, impure. To merely touch a leper meant you were now unclean and could not engage in official religious practices.

Now it is relatively easy to live in such a world, i.e., it’s easy to tell who’s “in” and who’s “out.” Just keep within the boundaries, the categories. Jesus comes onto this scene with an entirely different perception of God and the world. He seems to have little regard for the ritual washings and purifications; mere ritual purity did not seem to be as important to him as a kind of deeper wholeness and integrity of heart. Jesus has a different (broader, wider) perception of God. Thus, the astounding scene in our Gospel story: As if in a social or religious drama with roles well established, one of the players, in courage and desperation, steps out

of his required role and confronts Jesus a fellow human being. We could indeed call this a “confrontation story” – a
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The Steubenville Register

Biweekly publication of the Diocese of Steubenville
P.O. Box 160, 422 Washington St.
Steubenville, OH 43952-5160
email: register@diosteub.org

Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, publisher

Dino Orsatti, editor
dorsatti@diosteub.org
Janice M. Ward, circulation/advertising
jward@diosteub.org
Matthew A. DiCenzo,
staff writer, social media coordinator
mdicenzo@diosteub.org

Telephone (740) 282-3631; FAX (740) 282-3238
Subscription rate \$15 per year in state of Ohio;
\$17 per year outside the state of Ohio;
\$24 per year to all foreign countries

Periodicals postage paid at Steubenville, OH 43952 SSN 0744-771X

Bishop Monforton Reflects on the Lenten Season

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly” (Jn 10:10b).

Jesus has come among us so that we may have eternal joy with him. He gathers us together as the Father reveals himself in Jesus and so loves the world that he wills to save us. Is not the love of God the focus of Jesus’ entire ministry? The Father’s love remains with us in our ascent of the Easter mountain this Lenten season culminating in the very passion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Is not Jesus’ crucifixion the defining symbol of his self-giving love?

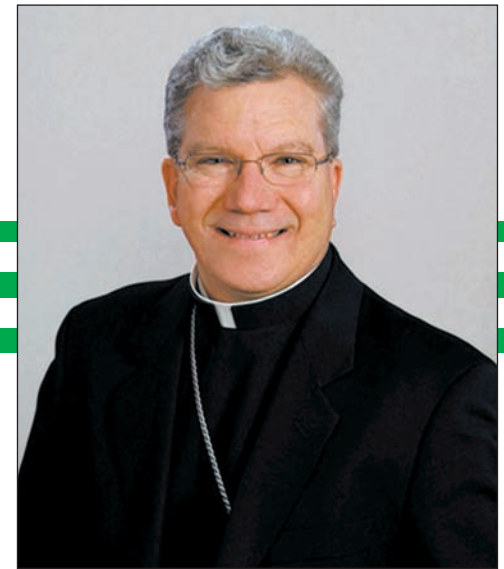
We recognize in Jesus’ words that we receive unmerited grace in order that we who believe in him as the Son of God may have eternal life. For instance, St. Paul, through the many hardships that he endured, from shipwrecks to various forms of persecution, demonstrates to us that we still can experience the joy of

the risen Lord. The Lenten challenge remains: How may you and I share the good news of eternal hope with our brothers and sisters suffering in different ways, even to the point of despair? More than once St. Paul teaches that our suffering is participation in the mystery of Jesus’ passion. How may you and I accompany others in their personal trials, as they participate in the cross of Jesus?

You and I should take great comfort in that God gave us his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. With that comfort comes confidence, confidence that we are charged to share the truth of Jesus Christ with others.

As we prepare for this Lenten season, we recognize that we are at crossroads of history in the midst of our society, one that cannot just be apathetic, but may also be confrontational to Jesus’ words of hope and love.

May you and I recognize our role as fellow ambassadors this Lenten season to spread the good news of Jesus through the *three pillars of Lent: almsgiving, fasting and prayer*. Together, we can spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ risen so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.



Bishop Monforton

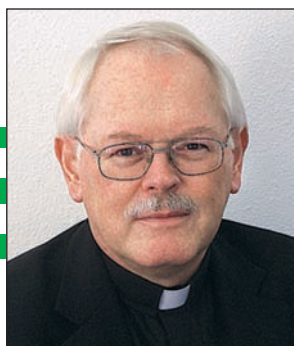
May you and your family have a blessed and spiritually rich Lenten season.

Can You Lose Your Vocation?

By Father Ron Rolheiser

Recently I received a letter from a man who shared that he was still deeply haunted by a story he’d heard in grade school many years before. One of his religion teachers had read them a story about a priest who went to visit a childhood friend. While staying with his friend, the priest noticed that while his friend was cheerful and affable enough, he seemed to be harboring some deep, residual sadness. When he asked his friend about it, his friend confessed that he “had lost his salvation” because he had felt a call to priesthood when he was young, but had chosen instead to marry. Now, he felt, there was no existential redemption from that. He had had a vocation and lost it and, with that, also lost for good his chance at happiness. Though happily enough married, he felt that he would bear forever the stigma of having been being unfaithful in not accepting his God-given vocation.

I was raised on stories like that. They were part of the Catholicism of my youth. We were taught to believe that God marked out a certain vocation for you, that is, to be a priest, a sister, a married person or a single person in the world, and if you didn’t accept that, once you knew your



Father Rolheiser

calling, then you had “missed” or “lost” your vocation and the consequence would be an abiding sadness and even the danger of missing heaven. Such were the vocation stories of my youth, and, truth be told, I went to the seminary to become a priest with that lingering as a shadow in my mind. But, it was only a shadow. I didn’t enter religious life and priesthood out of fear, though some moral fears did play a part in it, as they should. Fear can also be a healthy thing.

But, it can also be unhealthy. It’s not healthy to understand both God and your vocation in terms that can have you missing out on happiness and salvation on the basis of a singular choice made while you are still young. God doesn’t work like that.

It’s true that we are called by God to a vocation which we are meant to discern through conscience, through community, through circumstance and through the talents that we’ve been given.

For a Christian, existence does not precede essence. We’re born with a purpose, with a mission in life. There are many clear texts in Scripture on this: Jesus, praying for entire nights to know his Father’s will; Peter conscripted on a rock to be led by a belt that will take him where he would rather not go; Paul being led into Damascus and instructed by an elder as to his vocation; Moses being called to do a task because he saw the suffering of the people; and all of us being challenged to use our talents or be stripped of them. We’re all called to a mission, and so each of us has a vocation. We’re not morally free to live our lives simply for ourselves.

But God doesn’t give us just one chance, which if we miss it or turn it down will leave us sad forever. No. God opens a new door every time we close one. God gives us 77 times 7 chances, and more after that, if needed. The question of vocation is not so much a question of guessing right (*What very specifically was I predestined for?*), but

rather a question of giving oneself over in faith and love to the situation that we’ve chosen (or which more often than not has by circumstance chosen us). We should not live in unhealthy fear about this. God continues to love us and desire our happiness, even when we don’t always follow to where we are ideally called.

Recently, I heard a homily in a church in which the priest compared God to a GPS, a Global Positioning System, that is, that computerized instrument, complete with human voice, that countless people have today in their cars and which gives them ongoing instructions on how to get to their destination. One of its features is this: No matter how many times you disregard or disobey its command, the voice never expresses impatience, yells at you, or gives up on you. It simply says “recalculating.” Sooner or later, no matter how many times you disregard it, it gets you home.

Delightful as is that image, it’s still but a very weak analogy in terms of understanding God’s patience and forgiveness. None of us should be haunted, long term, by sadness and fear because we feel that we’ve missed our vocation, unless we are living a selfish life. Selflessness rather than selfishness, a life in pursuit of service rather than a life in pursuit of comfort, not guessing correctly, constitutes one’s vocation.

Our Christian vocation is to make what we are in fact living – married, priest, religious, single in the world – a life of selflessness and service to others. Happiness and salvation are contingent upon that, not upon guessing correctly.

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.

Made Clean

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literary construct in Mark's Gospel where Jesus confronts someone or some idea, and out of the confrontation emerges a new and challenging vision of God. Mark's Gospel opens with the public ministry of Jesus and from there moves resolutely toward Jerusalem and Jesus' passion and death contextualizing these encounters within the mystery of the cross.

In contrast to the priestly word (the correct religious word) of exclusion and condemnation, Jesus responds with the prophetic word of inclusion, mercy and healing. His *touching* the leper is symbolic of God's embrace of all human persons – no exceptions, no boundaries, no limits, no one excluded! Jesus goes where the righteous will not go!

This story challenges religious sensitives in our own day (in all ages, actually). When religious beliefs link health and holiness, sickness and sin, those who are stricken with mysterious and incurable ailments can easily be considered to be undergoing divine punishment. Remember in Jesus'

time reward and punishment took place in this life, not the next (the Book of Job is a marvelous "corrective protest" to this religious myopia!).

No matter how sophisticated our own religious thought may be, lurking in the shadows remains the problem of suffering and death. What meaning can misfortune and disease have? Where do calamities and disastrous epidemics come from? It is all too easy to blame them in some way on sin, personal or corporate.

This cure of the leper by Jesus carries more meaning than perhaps we in our times are likely to find comfortable. As Jesus touches the leper, he does the unthinkable and involves himself in religious impurity – as well as the risk of contagion.

In Christ all distinctions like this should have fallen away. In Christ there is no question of holding on to categories of excluded, disgraced people in order to preserve the community or its values at their expense. In our age we seem to need someone to blame, someone to look to as

the cause of random sickness and disaster. We need a "scapegoat." This was the male goat (azael) upon which all of the transgressions and sins of the people of Israel were laid on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). The goat was then sent into the wilderness bearing the peoples sins (see, Leviticus, Chapter 16, Verses 8, 10, 21, 22).

In Christ there is no blame, no category of people, beyond the reach of grace, beyond the claim of basic rights, or beyond the power of healing and forgiveness. In Christ no one is ever abandoned!

It seems the message could not be clearer for us, his church. This testimony of Jesus must sound in our church today! It must be a matter of calling for touching people who seem beyond redemption rather than excluding them in order to protect the rest of society or its values. Jesus' healing touch removes the barriers that keep us apart, declaring that in God's reign there are no pariahs, no outcasts, no misfits or exiles. No one is condemned or abandoned. The religious folks of Jesus' day see him gathering around himself those who by their

"unwholeness," their sickness, their sin are actually delaying the coming of the reign of God. Jesus eats with them, lives with them, calls them to follow him. The ones who were "out" are now "in" and the ones who thought they were the only ones "in" are surprised (or alarmed) by the parameters of God's mercy and grace.

I need to see myself within these parameters. All that is unsound, impure, broken or chaotic in me does not put me on the outside, it puts me next to Jesus who reaches out to me and still says, "I do will it; be healed, be whole, be sound!" We can all rejoice in this Gospel scene, for in it abides an eternal story of inclusion and grace!

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

Soup dinner and no dessert? Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday-style

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Many people looking at their February calendars are doing a double-take with Ash Wednesday falling on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day.

The two days, steeped in tradition, don't have too much in common beyond their religious roots. Valentine's Day, named after St. Valentine, a third-century martyr, is all about romance with its emphasis on cards, candy, flowers and nice dinners, where Ash Wednesday takes a more somber tone as the start of 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving of Lent.

Ash Wednesday also is one of two days, along with Good Friday, that are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholic adults – meaning no eating meat and eating only one full meal and two smaller meals. In other words, not a day for consuming candy hearts, chocolate cakes or fancy steak dinners.

And for those who wonder if Catholic bishops might grant a dispensation from the day's fasting requirements, as they sometimes have with the no meat rule when St. Patrick's Day falls on a Friday in Lent, they should probably think again.

Bishop Robert J. Baker of Birmingham, Alabama, told Catholics in his diocese that "some have wondered whether a dispensation for the standard laws of fast and abstinence would be granted" Feb. 14.

"A dispensation will not be given," he wrote, stressing that this decision was "out of respect for the importance of Ash Wednesday in the lives of so many – including our non-Catholic brethren – and the way this custom underlines the importance of the Lenten season at its outset."

He suggested Catholics celebrate Valentine's Day on another "nonpenitential day," maybe even Feb. 13 – which is Mardi Gras.

"The good Lord, who suffered so much out of love for us, will surely reward our fidelity and sacrifice," he added.

A statement by the Archdiocese of Chicago similarly suggested celebrating Valentine's Day on Mardi Gras: "a traditionally festive time before beginning our Lenten observance."



Many people looking at their February calendars are doing a double-take with Ash Wednesday falling on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day. (CNS illustration/Joe Heller)

"Catholics throughout the world recognize Ash Wednesday as the solemn beginning of a period of prayerful reflection and penance, as is evident by the large number of churchgoers on this day," the statement said, stressing that the day's "obligation of fast and abstinence must naturally be the priority in the Catholic community."

Joseph Zwilling, communications director for the Archdiocese of New York, told Catholic News Service that New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan did not give any dispensation for Catholics for Valentine's Day, and pointed out that St. Patrick is the patron saint of the archdiocese, which puts the celebration of that day "into a different category."

Similarly, the Archdiocese of Detroit was not giving a pass. Ned McGrath, archdiocesan director of communications, told the Detroit Free Press: "I have no reason to doubt the ability of my fellow Catholics to multitask, honoring their commitment to the church's liturgical calendar and, if they so choose, to observe Valentine's Day and April Fools' Day," (which coincidentally falls on Easter this year).

Researchers at the Center for Applied

Research in the Apostolate, or CARA, based at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., point out that the two days will overlap again in 2024 and 2029 and that in 2096, Ash Wednesday will occur on Leap Day – Feb. 29, for the first time in the church's history.

Despite the rarity of this year's Ash Wednesday date, an article on the CARA website notes that it is unlikely the U.S. bishops would give an Ash Wednesday dispensation as some of them have on St. Patrick's Day mainly because not much is known about St. Valentine. It points out that he is said to have been killed at the command of Emperor Claudius in the year 278 for marrying Christians at a time when the emperor was trying to recruit single men for the army.

Not only are there few details of the saint, there are also mixed accounts of possibly three different martyrs named Valentine that share a Feb. 14 feast day. The confusion and lack of details led the church to remove the liturgical feast of St. Valentine from the general church calendar in the late 1960s.

Instead, Sts. Cyril and Methodius, broth-

ers known as the "Apostles of the Slavs" for their work in spreading the Gospel throughout Eastern Europe in the ninth century, have the Feb. 14 feast day spot on the church calendar, although this year their day is superseded by Ash Wednesday.

These brothers – who developed an alphabet and translated the Bible and other works in a Slavic language – have just as much to say about love on a day when that is celebrated because of their emphasis on communication, which is so key to relationships, said Father Leo Patalinghug, who has a cooking show on the Eternal Word Television Network called "Savoring our Faith."

The priest, who writes and talks about couples keeping their relationships strong by celebrating with good meals once a month, sees no conflict in the Ash Wednesday, Valentine's Day overlap. Instead, he views it as a great teaching moment.

Father Patalinghug, who is part of a community of consecrated life called Voluntas Dei, told CNS that the overlap was a "special providence of God" because it can offer a deeper sense of what love really means – which at times requires sacrifice.

"Love is not just sweets and chocolates," said the priest who wrote the 2012 cookbook: "Spicing Up Married Life," which includes recipes, prayers and conversation topics. "You can have chocolate cake anytime," he added.

As he sees it, the bigger lesson is to think about "going without and where that will lead you."

"So often people treat love like fast food when love – and all things of God – take time," he added.

He said this Valentine's Day couples have the "perfect day to start Lent and to have the discussion of what love means." And, they can also have a modest meal that is delicious.

Overall, it's "absolutely a win-win," he noted, because couples can have a "Lent appropriate menu" essentially infused with the day's reminder "to know humbly we are from dust."

Major flu outbreak prompts dioceses to implement prevention protocols

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The nationwide flu outbreak has prompted dioceses to take steps to suspend traditional rituals to prevent the spread of the virus as much as possible.

From encouraging a simple nod or a smile during the sign of peace to draining holy water fonts, the actions come as the flu sweeps through virtually every corner of the country in the worst outbreak of the disease in nearly a decade.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that most people are being infected with the influenza B, or H3N2, virus. Tens of thousands of people have been hospitalized since Oct. 1, the start of the flu season.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops maintains a page on its website devoted to the liturgy and influenza. It offers information about the flu as well as how to prevent the spread of any disease at liturgy.

Meanwhile, Bishop Edward C. Malesic of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, advised parishioners not to shake hands during the sign of peace and stopped the use of consecrated wine during Communion.

Across the state in Allentown, the diocese implemented similar restrictions. Diocesan spokesman Matt Kerr told local media the practice occurs most years during the flu season.

In the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, Chancellor Patricia Ferrero sent a memo to all parishes asking clergy and others to practice proper hygiene during the flu season. The diocese also asked sick parishioners to refrain from drinking from the cup during holy Communion.

“When you take Communion, you’re taking the body and the blood of Christ, so even if you only receive the host and not the precious blood you’re still receiving Communion,” she said.

A posting on the website of the Diocese of Rochester, New York, outlined four protocols to be observed for the celebration of Mass at all faith communities.

Father Paul J. Tomasso, diocesan vicar general and moderator of the curia, said that parishes should regularly drain holy water fonts and clean them with disinfecting soap. The old holy water should be disposed



Dr. Catherine Crosland, director of homeless outreach development for Unity Health Care Inc., holds up a flu vaccine container before she gives a homeless woman a flu shot Feb. 1 at Catholic Charities’ Adam’s Place homeless shelter in Washington. (CNS photo/Chaz Muth)

of in a sacrarium, or special sink.

Other guidelines include distributing Communion without sharing the chalice; sharing the sign of peace without a handshake; and the cleansing of all vessels used at each Mass with hot water and mild soap.

Similar measures were implemented by Bishop Robert P. Deeley of Portland, Maine, after he reviewed reports about influenza from state health authorities.

The bishop urged parishioners who are sick to stay away from church gatherings and reminded them that they are not obligated to attend weekly Mass when ill. Parishioners also were urged, but not required, to receive Communion in their hand rather than on their tongue. Priests were advised to be careful not to touch the tongues or hands of communicants.

Throughout January, numerous dioceses have outlined similar measures on their websites.

Beyond looking out for the welfare of church members, Catholic agencies are addressing how the flu epidemic is affecting other groups.

The homeless are particularly vulnerable to the flu and

organizations who work to protect this population are taking extra efforts to shield them from a potential outbreak, said Augustine Frazier, a senior program manager for the homeless at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington.

That includes special attention to cleaning the sleeping quarters, air vents and bathroom facilities at homeless shelters run by Catholic Charities, Frazier told Catholic News Service.

Catholic Charities also provides frequent medical clinics for the homeless at their facilities where flu shots are always offered, he said.

In addition to being more exposed to the elements during winter, the homeless frequently have compromised immune systems, often miss taking their medications, don’t have adequate warm clothing and often sleep in shelters with hundreds of other people who may be sick, said Dr. Catherine Crosland. She is director of homeless outreach development for Unity Health Care Inc., a Washington-based organization that was providing a medical clinic at Catholic Charities’ Adam’s Place homeless shelter and day resource center.

Crosland gave the flu shot to dozens of homeless men and women during the Feb. 1 clinic day.

“Especially in the homeless population (it’s beneficial) that the more people who get vaccinated the less likely we are to have an outbreak and that is part of something called herd immunity,” she said. “It’s not necessarily the one by one case, but in a group of 100 people, if half of the folks are vaccinated, you have less likelihood of there being an outbreak.”

To date, Dr. Daniel B. Jernigan, director of the Influenza Division in the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at CDC, said the agency had not yet compiled the total number of flu deaths, but he noted that 53 children had died.

Based on statistics compiled from previous influenza outbreaks, the agency expects about 710,000 hospitalizations by the end of flu season in mid-May, according to a transcript from a conversation about the flu epidemic on the CDC website that Jernigan joined.

Lord’s Prayer: Germans stick with wording; Italians to change at Mass

ROME (CNS) — After special study, the German bishops’ conference decided to stick with the traditional wording in the Lord’s Prayer while the Italian bishops’ conference has decided to change the words of the prayer in their translation of the Roman Missal.

The decisions come after the French bishops decided that beginning early December last year, French Catholics would change the line, “Lead us not into temptation,” to the equivalent of “do not let us enter into temptation.”

French-speaking Catholics in Benin and Belgium began using the new translation at Pentecost last June. The common Spanish translation already is “no nos dejes caer en la tentación” or “do not let us fall into temptation.”

The issue got wide attention after Pope Francis discussed the line, “And lead us not into temptation,” with Father Marco Pozza, a Catholic prison chaplain, Dec. 6, as part of a television series on the Lord’s Prayer.

Pope Francis said the Italian and English translations of the “Our Father” can give believers the wrong impression that God can and does lead people into temptation. He told Father Pozza, “I’m the one who falls. But it’s not (God) who pushes me into temptation to see how I fall. No, a father does not do this. A father helps us up immediately.”

“The one who leads us into temptation is Satan,” the pope said. “That’s Satan’s job.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in its discussion of the Lord’s Prayer, says, “Our sins result from our consenting to temptation; we therefore ask our Father not to ‘lead’ us into temptation. It is difficult to translate the Greek verb used by a single English word: The Greek means both ‘do not allow us to enter into temptation’ and



Pope Francis said the Italian and English translations of the “Our Father” can give believers the wrong impression that God can and does lead people into temptation. The pope said the one who leads us into temptation is Satan, not God. (CNS photo)

“do not let us yield to temptation.”

The New American Bible, revised edition, is the basis for the Lectionary used at English-language Masses in the United States; the petition from the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew and Luke is translated as: “do not subject us to the final test.”

The German bishops’ conference announced Jan. 25 that after in-depth study, it would keep the line, “And lead us not into temptation,” unchanged, particularly to use the same wording as most Catholics and most other Christian denominations. But, it added, it would like to see more done in offering the faithful a clear and fuller explanation and discussion of the prayer’s meaning.

The line in the prayer, the bishops’ committee said, is not about persuading God to not tempt the faithful, but rather it is a recognition of one’s own weakness and one’s trust in God’s guidance – that he does not lead people to make the wrong choice.

However, when the Italian bishops’ conference adopted a new translation of the Bible in 2008, they chose “do not abandon us in temptation” for the Lord’s Prayer both in Matthew Chapter 6 and Luke Chapter 11. The Lectionary also contains the change and received Vatican approval.

The conference has now called for an extraordinary assembly of bishops to meet Nov. 12-14 to discuss and approve the third edition of the missal, which would use the changed wording of the Lord’s Prayer for Mass and other liturgical rites.

Cardinal Giuseppe Betori of Florence, a noted biblicalist, said study of the prayer had begun in 1988. The problem, he told the newspaper *Avvenire* Dec. 10, was the Italian verb (“indurre”) that had been used “is not equivalent to the Latin ‘inducere’ or the Greek.”

The Latin and Greek terms suggest a form of concession – letting something enter, he said, while the Italian verb “is coercive,” with English equivalents such as: “induce,” “inspire” or “persuade.”

Standard versions of the prayer are translated from the Latin, which was translated from the New Testament in Greek.

Both Cardinal Betori and the German bishops said they were pleased Pope Francis’ comments brought wider attention to the prayer and greater discussion of its meaning.

It was important to “seize the opportunity” and offer better explanations, the German conference wrote.

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Athens/Pomeroy — Mass, with the distribution of ashes, will be celebrated Feb. 14, at 8:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. at St. Paul Church, Athens. Ashes will be distributed at the celebration of Mass at Christ the King University Parish, Athens, at 12:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., and 7 p.m. Mass will be celebrated, and ashes distributed, at Sacred Heart Church, Pomeroy, at 8 a.m. and noon Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7 p.m., on Fridays, at Christ the King University Parish, and at Sacred Heart Church. A Bible study on the Gospel of Matthew will take place on Tuesdays, at 10 a.m., beginning Feb. 13, at the Holy Family Center, which is located at Christ the King University Parish.

Lenten fish fries will be held from 4:30-7 p.m., on Fridays during Lent, beginning Feb. 16, at the Holy Family Center. Adult meals cost \$8 and senior meals cost \$7.

Barnesville — Ashes will be distributed at the celebration of Mass at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Feb. 14. Liturgy of the Word, with the distribution of ashes, will be at noon.

Belle Valley/Caldwell/Carlisle/Fulda — The Noble County parishes will celebrate Mass, with the distribution of ashes, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m., at Corpus Christi Church, Belle Valley; at 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., at St. Stephen Church, Caldwell; at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, Fulda; and at 7:30 p.m., at St. Michael Church, Carlisle.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed throughout Lent, Thursdays, at 7 p.m., at Corpus Christi Church and St. Michael Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays, at 7 p.m., at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church and St. Stephen Church.

The Noble County parishes will hold a parish mission at St. Michael Church, at 7 p.m., Feb. 18; at 7 p.m., Feb. 19, at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church; at Corpus Christi Church, at 7 p.m., Feb. 20; and at St. Michael Church, at 7 p.m., Feb. 21. A potluck dinner will be held to begin the mission on Feb. 18, in St. Michael Church hall. Order of Friars Minor Capuchin Father Joseph Tuscan will speak on the mission theme, "Saints of the Church." Blessed Solanus Casey, St. Padre Pio, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the holy Eucharist will be discussed at the event.

Beverly — Ashes will be distributed at the celebration of Mass at 7 p.m., Feb. 14, at St. Bernard Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed throughout Lent, on Fridays, at 7 p.m.

Bridgeport — A bunco party, sponsored by St. Joseph Parish CWC, will be held at St. Anthony hall, March 11. Doors open at 1 p.m. Lunch will be served from 1-1:45 p.m.; games will begin at 2 p.m. Admission is \$6. Reservations must be made by March 7. For additional information or to make reservations, telephone (740) 635-2836 or (740) 635-2102.

Cambridge/Lore City — Christ Our Light Parish will celebrate Mass, Feb. 14, with the distribution of ashes, at 7 a.m., 8:35 a.m. and 5 p.m. Masses at St. Benedict Church, Cambridge, and the 7 p.m. celebration of Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory, Lore City.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed throughout Lent, on Thursdays, at 6:30 p.m., at Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory. Stations will be prayed throughout Lent, on Fridays, at 6:30 p.m., at St. Benedict Church.

Fish fries will be held on Fridays throughout Lent, from 5-7 p.m., in St. Benedict social hall. Cost is \$9. Dinners include fish, fries, coleslaw, coffee, tea and juice. Takeout dinners will be available.

Cambridge — St. Benedict School, 220 N. Seventh St., will hold an open house and give tours, from 4-6 p.m., March 8, for the 2018-19 school year. For additional information, telephone Jane Rush at (740) 432-6751.

An annual auction and raffle will be held March 3



Mingo Junction Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361 present eight \$300 scholarships to students who attend Steubenville Catholic Central High School. Presenting the checks, from left, are Baci Carpico, past state deputy of the Ohio Knights of Columbus and current trustee; Shawn Zarych, grand Knight; Sydney Bennington, Angelina Balzano, Jenna Fabian, Bailie Murphy and Rhetta Potenzini. In the back row, from left, are Nicholas Anderson, Luke Anderson, Jordan Maul and Principal Thomas J. Costello. This is the fourth year in a row that the Knights provided tuition money to Catholic Central students, Carpico said. (Photo by DiCenzo)

at St. Benedict School, 220 N. Seventh St. A silent auction will be held from 8:30-10 a.m.; live auction, 11 a.m.; and a raffle drawing will take place at 3 p.m. For additional information, telephone the school office at (740) 432-6751.

Carrollton — A soup and sandwich luncheon will be held at Our Lady of Mercy Church hall, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Feb. 11. Cost is \$2 per item. All proceeds benefit the church building fund.

Carrollton/Morges — Mass, with the distribution of ashes, will be celebrated at 9 a.m., Feb. 14, at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, Morges, and at the celebration of the 7 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Carrollton.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed throughout Lent, on Fridays, at 7 p.m., at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Chesapeake — St. Ann Parish CWC will sponsor an annual pancake breakfast from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Feb. 11, in the church hall.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7 p.m., Fridays during Lent, at St. Ann Church.

Churchtown — Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7 p.m., every Friday throughout Lent, followed by Benediction, at St. John the Baptist Church.

A parish mission will begin the weekend of Feb. 24 and Feb. 25 with Order of Friars Minor Capuchin Father Joseph Tuscan. He will preach at all of the weekend Masses, and will give a mission talk each evening, from Feb. 25 to Feb. 28, at 7 p.m., with the sacrament of reconciliation following each evening's talk. Every Thursday throughout Lent, an hour of eucharistic adoration will be held from 7-8 p.m.

Colerain — Stations of the Cross will be prayed throughout Lent at 6:30 p.m., on Fridays, at St. Frances Cabrini Church.

Glouster — Mass will be celebrated, and ashes distributed, at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 14, at Holy Cross Church.

Harriettsville — Mass, with the distribution of ashes, will be celebrated Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Henry Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 10:15 a.m., Sundays throughout Lent.

Ironton/Pine Grove — The Ironton Catholic community will celebrate Mass, with the distribution of ashes, at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, Ironton; at 10:45 a.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church, Ironton; and at 4 p.m., at St. Mary Mission, Pine Grove. Stations of the Cross will be

prayed, on Fridays during Lent, at 3 p.m., at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church, and at 6 p.m., at St. Joseph Church.

A parish mission will be held at 7 p.m., from Feb. 26 through Feb. 28, at St. Joseph Church. Topics include "Are you In or Just Playing Church?"; "Spiritual Warfare, A Battle We Rarely See"; and "The Healing Power of the Holy Spirit."

Little Hocking — On the Fridays of Lent (excluding Good Friday), St. Ambrose Parish will pray Stations of the Cross or midday prayer and Benediction at 3:30 p.m., and either Stations of the Cross or evening prayer and Benediction at 6 p.m. They alternate each week. An adult discussion group will be held at 6:30 p.m., on Mondays throughout Lent, in the education wing of the church, rooms A and B. The discussions will be based on "The Mystery of God" series by Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

Lowell — Ashes will be distributed at the celebration of the 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Masses, Feb. 14, at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7 p.m., Fridays during Lent; noon on Good Friday.

An ecumenical Lenten supper will be served at 6 p.m., followed by a service at 7 p.m., Feb. 20, at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Our Lady of Mercy Parish will hold fish fries, beginning at 4 p.m., Feb. 23, March 9 and March 23.

Marietta — Mass will be celebrated, and ashes distributed, at 7:45 a.m., 12:05 p.m., and 6 p.m., Feb. 14, at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption. Stations of the Cross will be prayed throughout Lent, Fridays, at 7 p.m., followed by confessions. Mass will be celebrated throughout Lent, Wednesday evenings, at 6:30 p.m., followed by a Lenten presentation.

Marietta — St. Mary School, 320 Marion St., will be offering tours to preschool and prekindergarten through eighth-grade students for the 2018-19 school year. For registration information or for a tour of the school, telephone (740) 374-8181.

Martins Ferry — Ashes will be distributed at the celebration of the 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Masses, Feb. 14, at St. Mary Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 6 p.m., on Tuesdays, throughout Lent.

The Ladies of St. Mary's will sponsor a
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Up and Down the Diocese

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“Grandma’s Homemade Gnocchi” sale. Cost is \$5 per pound. Orders must be placed by March 7 and can be picked up from 10 a.m.-noon, March 24, at St. Mary Central School auditorium, 24 N. Fourth St. Proceeds go directly to church projects. For additional information, telephone the parish office at (740) 633-1416.

McConnelville — Mass will be celebrated, and ashes distributed, at 9 a.m., Feb. 14, at St. James Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed throughout Lent, on Thursdays, at 7 p.m.

Miltsburg/Sardis/Woodsfield — The Monroe County Catholic community will

celebrate Mass, with the distribution of ashes, Feb. 14, at St. Sylvester Church, Woodsfield, at 8:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.; at St. John the Baptist Church, Miltsburg, at 6:00 p.m.; and at St. John Bosco Mission, Sardis, at 4 p.m. Stations of the Cross will be prayed at St. Sylvester Church, Fridays, following the celebration of a 6:30 p.m. Mass, and at St. John the Baptist Church, Thursdays, following the celebration of a 6:30 p.m. Mass.

Mingo Junction — Mass will be celebrated at 6:10 p.m., Tuesdays during Lent, at St. Agnes Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed throughout Lent, at 7 p.m., on Fridays.

Nelsonville — Mass will be celebrated, and ashes distributed, at noon., Feb. 14, at St. Mary of the Hills Church.

St. Clairsville — Ashes will be distributed at the celebration of the 9 a.m., noon and 6:30 p.m. Masses, Feb. 14, at St. Mary Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 6:30 p.m., on Fridays, throughout Lent.

Mass will be celebrated in Spanish at 2:30 p.m., Feb. 18, at St. Mary Church. The sacrament of reconciliation will precede Mass at 2 p.m.

Steubenville — Mass, with the distribution of ashes, will be celebrated Feb. 14, at 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 5:15 p.m. and 7 p.m., at Holy Rosary Church. Liturgy of the Word, with distribution of ashes, will be at noon. Beginning Feb. 16, Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays throughout Lent, at noon and 7 p.m.

A “Blessing of the Child in the Womb” will take place at 1 p.m., Feb. 18, at Holy Rosary Church.

A pre-Cana session for engaged couples will be held March 9 and March 10 in the Marian Room, at Holy Rosary Church. The deadline for registration is March 1.

Steubenville — Mass will be celebrated, and ashes distributed, Feb. 14, at 6:30 a.m., at St. Peter Church. At 8 a.m., Mass will be celebrated in Latin, and ashes distributed. Liturgy of the Word will be prayed, and ashes distributed, at 12:15 p.m., and Mass, with the distribution of ashes, will be celebrated at 5:15 p.m. On Fridays during Lent, Masses will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 5:15 p.m., and Stations of the Cross

will be prayed at 6 p.m.

Steubenville — Mass will be celebrated, and ashes distributed, at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Feb. 14, at Holy Family Church. Morning prayer will be prayed Monday through Friday at 8:40 a.m., and on Saturdays at 9:10 a.m. Stations of the Cross will be prayed throughout Lent, on Fridays, at 12:15 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Temperanceville — Mass, with the distribution of ashes, will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 14, at St. Mary Church.

Tiltonsville — Ashes will be distributed at the 8 a.m. celebration of Mass, Feb. 14, at St. Joseph Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 6:30 p.m., Fridays during Lent; at noon on Good Friday.

Toronto — St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph parishes’ CWC will sell “pirohi.” Cost is \$5 per dozen; the sale will begin after the celebration of the 5 p.m. Mass, Feb. 10, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, and after the Feb. 11, 9 a.m. Mass, at St. Joseph Church and the 11 a.m. Mass, at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Yorkville — A bake sale will be held following the celebration of the 5 p.m. Mass, at St. Lucy Church, Feb. 10.

St. Lucy Parish will hold a frozen homemade potato-cheese pierogi sale from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., and from 4-6 p.m., Feb. 14, at the church hall. Cost is \$7.50 per dozen. For additional information, telephone the parish office at (740) 859-4018.

Ashes will be distributed at the 6:30 p.m. celebration of Mass, Feb. 14, at St. Lucy Church.



St. Mary School, Marietta, annually sponsors fish fries during Lent. Among those making preparations are, from left, Ali Moore, Father Thomas A. Nelson and Chris Porter. Father Nelson is parochial vicar to Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, and pastoral administrator of St. Mary School. Fish fries will begin Feb. 16, throughout Lent, on Fridays, until March 23, from 5-7 p.m., at the school, 320 Marion St. Baked or fried fish dinners will be available. Fried fish dinners include fries, coleslaw, green beans and a roll. Baked fish dinners include baked potato, coleslaw, green beans, and a roll. No phone orders will be taken. Cost for a dinner is \$9 for adults; \$8.50 for seniors; \$8 for college students, with identification; \$5 for children ages 10 and under; desserts will cost \$1. A takeout meal costs \$8 and a fish sandwich \$3.50. (Photo provided by Tammi Bradley)

Obituaries

Elizabeth Freeland Bartok, 97, 100 Reservoir Road, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Martins Ferry, Jan. 21.

Bertha Litva Beranek, 94, Dillonvale, St. Adalbert, Jan. 21.

Patsy A. Bernabei, 77, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, Jan. 22.

Louis J. Ferrante, 72, Minerva, St. Gabriel, Jan. 17.

Pete A. Ferrise, 89, Steubenville, Holy Family, Jan. 11.

Donna K. Kaine, 77, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Jan. 24.

James “Jimmy” H. Kuhn, 69, Lewisville, St. Sylvester, Woodsfield, Jan. 25.

Kathleen I. Mays, 87, Woodsfield, St. Sylvester, Jan. 6.

Jerome “Jerry” Solomon, 80, Toronto, St. Joseph, Jan. 22.

Agnes Snyder, 100, 4395 Grand Ave., Shadyside, St. Mary, Jan. 26.

Helena Slensky Toth, 93, Dillonvale, St. Adalbert, Jan. 11.

Donald Weigand, 90, Martins Ferry, St. Mary, Jan. 17.

Around and About

Carrollton — Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Carroll County Council 15401 will hold a fish fry, from 4-7 p.m., Feb. 16, at Our Lady of Mercy Church hall.

Lowell — An ecumenical Lenten supper will be served at 6 p.m., followed by a service at 7 p.m., Feb. 27, at Lowell United Methodist Church, 323 Fourth St.

North Canton, Ohio — Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth Chapter of Magnificat, a women’s ministry modeled after the Visitation, will sponsor a breakfast March 3, at Walsh University, Barrette Center, 2020 E. Maple St. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.; breakfast will be served at 9 a.m.; cost is \$18. Make checks payable to Magnificat of Stark County and mail to Vicki Vasto, 8735 Glenarden Circle NW, Massillon, OH 44646.

Seating is limited. No reservations will be accepted after Feb. 24. For more information, telephone Joan Spieth at (330) 933-8778.

Pomeroy — Knights of Columbus Msgr. John Joseph Jessing Council 1664 will hold a pancake breakfast after the celebration of the 9:30 a.m. Mass, at Sacred Heart Church, Feb. 11.

Steubenville — A “Causation and Potency: Scotus’ Argument for God’s Existence” will be presented at 3 p.m., Feb. 9, in the J.C. Williams Center on the campus of Franciscan University of Steubenville. Richard Cross, a professor of philosophy at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, will speak at the lecture. Admission is free.

A “Slavery, Christian Revelation, and Moral Blindness” lecture will be pre-

sented at 3 p.m., Feb. 23, at the J.C. Williams Center at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Michael Rota, an associate professor of philosophy at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota, will speak at the event. Admission is free.

Archbishop of Erbil, Iraq, Bashar Matti Warda, will give a presentation discussing the persecution of Christians, at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 12, at the Tony and Nina Gentile Gallery, in the J.C. Williams Center, at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Toronto — A charismatic Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m., Feb. 15, in the Father of Mercy Chapel, at the motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother, 369 Little Church Road. Third Order Regular

Franciscan Father Dave Pivonka will be the celebrant. A “healing prayer” will be offered following Mass; refreshments will follow.

A Lenten retreat “Contemplatives in the World” will be held from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., March 10, at the Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother Our Lady of Sorrows Monastery, 369 Little Church Road. Suggested donation is \$25; registration is required by Feb. 26. Register online, www.franciscansisterstor.org/lenten-retreat-2018; telephone (740) 544-5542. The retreat will include the celebration of Mass, adoration, lunch and talks.

Wheeling, W.Va. — A novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague will be held Mondays, through April 2, at 7 p.m., at Our Lady of Peace Church, 609 Mount Olivet Road.

Marriage week

From Page 1

insert marking the 50th anniversary of Blessed Paul VI's encyclical "Humanae Vitae" ("of human life"), which reaffirms the church's teaching on married love and responsible parenthood. Dated July 25, 1968, it was issued at a Vatican news conference July 29 of that year.

Archbishop Chaput invited dioceses to consider promoting Feb. 9 as a day of prayer and sacrifice in support of life, marriage and religious liberty.

The letter noted that online resources also are available at USCCB-created websites including ForYourMarriage.org, PorTuMatrimonio.org and MarriageUniqueForARreason.org.

A daily, virtual marriage retreat for couples, available on the For Your Marriage website and media channels on Twitter and Facebook began Feb. 7. The weeklong retreat examines the theme "Marriage: School of Life and Love."

In addition, a rosary for engaged and

married couples and for families in need of healing was to be live-streamed from the USCCB chapel in Washington on the conference's Facebook page and Twitter feed at 3 p.m., Feb. 9.

Various other resources in English and Spanish including books, prayer cards and pamphlets on marriage and family can be ordered from the USCCB online bookstore at store.usccb.org/.

National Marriage Week USA began in 2010 as part of an international effort to mobilize people, organizations and businesses to strengthen marriage and influence the wider culture. World Marriage Day was first observed in 1983 as an initiative of Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

In the Diocese of Steubenville, Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton will bless families at the 50th anniversary celebration of Blessed Pope Paul VI's encyclical, following the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass, Feb. 10, at St. Benedict Church, Cambridge.

Adult faith formation seminar in Cambridge planned for March 10

STEUBENVILLE — Catechists and Catholic school teachers in the Diocese of Steubenville can earn credit toward their initial or ongoing catechist's certification and Catholic identity contact hours during a March 10 faith formation seminar at St. Benedict Church, Cambridge.

The topics that will be discussed in the seminar will be Christian anthropology and Christian morality.

Drake McCalister, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults director at Franciscan University of Steubenville, and Carolyn A. Crabtree, catechetical consultant, Diocese of Steubenville Office of Christian Formation and Schools,

will speak during the seminar.

The day begins with the celebration of Mass at 8:35 a.m. at the church.

The first discussion titled, "Christian Anthropology I," will begin at 9:15 a.m. The second discussion, and introduction into "Christian Morality," will begin at 10:30 a.m. A brunch break for the participants will begin at 11:30 a.m. The final discussion, which is a continuation of the discussion of "Christian Morality," will begin at noon.

For additional information about the faith formation seminar or to make reservations, email Crabtree at crcrabtree@diosteub.org or telephone (740) 282-3631, extension 155.

Pope condemns violence in God's name

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Every religious leader must unmask and condemn any attempt to use God's name to perpetuate evil and to justify hatred, violence and exploitation, Pope Francis said.

"Violence promoted and carried out in the name of religion can only discredit religion itself," the pope said.

Therefore, "such violence must be condemned by all, and especially by genuinely religious persons, who know that God is always goodness, love and compassion, and that in him there is no room for hatred, resentment or vengeance," he said.

Pope Francis spoke to political and religious leaders taking part in a conference in Rome dedicated to "Tackling Violence Committed in the Name of Religion."

Thanking them for their visit, the pope told them that it was "highly significant that political authorities and religious leaders can meet to discuss how to respond to acts of violence committed in the name of religion."

There is a great need "for a common commitment on the part of political authorities, religious leaders, teachers and those engaged in the fields of education, training and communications, to warn all

those tempted by perverse forms of misguided religiosity that these have nothing to do with the profession of a religion worthy of this name," he said.

"The religious person," he said, "knows that among the greatest blasphemies is to invoke God as the justification for one's own sins and crimes, to invoke him in order to justify killing, mass murder, enslavement, exploitation in whatever form, oppression and persecution of individuals and entire populations." And, he said, every truly religious person knows that no one can claim to use the name of God, who is holy, "in order to perpetrate evil."

"Every religious leader is called to unmask any attempt to manipulate God for ends that have nothing to do with him or his glory," the pope said. "We need to show, with unremitting effort, that every human life is sacred, that it deserves respect, esteem, compassion and solidarity, without regard for ethnicity, religion, culture or ideological and political convictions."

Belonging to a particular religion, the pope said, does not bestow "additional dignity and rights upon individuals, nor does nonadherence deny or diminish them."

Lenten series scheduled at three churches

STEUBENVILLE/WINTERSVILLE — Parishes in Steubenville and Wintersville will sponsor a 2018 Lenten series with presentations given by Dave VanVickle, director of evangelization at St. Bonaventure Parish, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania.

Themed "Christ the Victor," VanVickle will present "Victor of Hearts," Feb. 21, at St. Peter Church, 425 N. Fourth St., Steubenville; "Victor of the World," Feb. 28, at Holy Rosary Church, 204 Rosemont Ave., Steubenville; and "Joining the Victor," March 7, Blessed Sacrament Church, 852 Main St., Wintersville.

VanVickle resides in Pittsburgh with his wife Amber and their five children. A graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, VanVickle is a speaker and retreat leader. He is also a young adult coordinator for the National Service Committee of the Charismatic Renewal. VanVickle has also assisted priests with



(Photo provided)

Dave VanVickle

their ministries of deliverance and exorcism.

The evening Lenten reflection series includes Mass at 5:15 p.m., followed by the presentation at 6:15 p.m. A soup dinner follows the presentation.

For additional information about the Lenten series, telephone Tracy Almeida at (740) 282-0138.

Franciscan University students to assist residents with free tax services

STEUBENVILLE — Beginning Feb. 13, Franciscan University of Steubenville accounting students will offer free e-filing to Ohio Valley residents at the Fort Steuben Mall, Mall Drive, Steubenville, near the center court.

Hours of operation will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until noon, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-5 p.m. The site will be closed March 10 through March 18; the service will end April 13.

Students can prepare Form 1040; schedules A, B, and D; and forms for calculating education, child care and earned-income credits. They will assist taxpayers with incomes below \$58,000.

Participating students have completed an individual income tax course and have passed a series of IRS training courses and exams.

For additional information, telephone the Fort Steuben Mall customer service desk at (740) 264-7781.

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