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Official

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton has announced that **Msgr. Mark J. Froehlich**, a retired diocesan priest, has been removed from active ministry, due to credible allegations of sexual abuse against him.

Any victim or victims harmed by a priest or anyone serving on behalf of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Steubenville should contact diocesan and civil authorities.

In the diocese, victims are encouraged to contact Thomas S. Wilson, attorney, diocesan Office of Civil Law, 422 Washington St., Steubenville; by telephoning (740) 282-3631, or emailing twilson@diosteub.org.

News Briefs

Pope Francis to canonize six saints

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will declare Blesseds Oscar Romero, Paul VI and four others saints Oct. 14 at the Vatican during the meeting of the world Synod of Bishops.

Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, formally petitioned the pope "to enroll in due course among the saints" six candidates for canonization "for the glory of God and the good of the whole church."

Cardinal Amato said that during El Salvador's civil war, Archbishop Romero, "outraged at seeing the violence against the weak and the killing of priests and catechists, felt the need to assume an attitude of fortitude. On March 24, 1980, he was killed while celebrating the Mass."

Cardinal Amato highlighted how, as a high-level official in the Vatican Secretariat of State during World War II, the future pope "organized charitable assistance and hospitality for those persecuted by Nazism and Fascism."

Blessed Paul VI, who was born Giovanni Battista Montini, was pope from 1963 to 1978. He presided over the final sessions of the Second Vatican Council and its initial implementation.

US Catholics donate \$59 million

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholics have donated close to \$59 million to relief and recovery efforts in response to the destruction caused by three hurricanes that hit the United States and the Caribbean and two earthquakes in Mexico last year.

The devastation from these "unprecedented disasters continues to impact the lives of our brothers and sisters in the United States, across the Caribbean and in Mexico," said Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi of Mobile, Alabama.

"We are profoundly grateful to the dioceses that took up special collections or made donations," he said. "The support of parishioners is an act of charity and a reflection of love for neighbor. We ask for continued prayers of support for the people affected by these historic natural disasters."

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops reported the various amounts raised for disaster relief as of mid-May: Hurricane Harvey, \$37.2 million; Hurricane Irma, \$12.8 million; Hurricane Maria, \$6.1 million; Mexico earthquakes, \$3.5 million.

Bishop Monforton ordains Father Joshua D. Erickson



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton places his hands on Transitional Deacon Joshua D. Erickson and invokes the Holy Spirit during his ordination to the priesthood Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Toronto, May 18. Father Edward A. Maxfield, Jr., left, looks on with other diocesan priests, deacons and seminarians. (Photo by Orsatti) • Additional photos/Page 12

By Dino Orsatti
Editor

TORONTO — "Vocations don't begin at the bishop's office, they begin at home." That was the message Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton gave to the diocese's newest priest, Father Joshua D. Erickson, at his ordination to the priesthood Mass, May 18, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Toronto.

Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon, diocesan priests and deacons, along with family and friends of Father Erickson, filled the Toronto church for the ordination Mass, celebrated by Bishop Monforton with Father Bradley W. Greer as his master of ceremonies.

During the homily, directed at the transitional deacon, Bishop Monforton explained, "This day is infinitely more a beginning than an end. In fact, today you embark on a new mission that has its origins in the person of Jesus Christ himself."

The bishop also thanked his parents Chris and Jody Erickson, "for providing a rich environment to discern his vocation."

Father Erickson, 28, the second of 10 children, was born in Bolingbrook, Illinois, but moved to Toronto at an early age. Father Erickson said, "I wanted to be a priest since I

was 3 years old."

Five of his sisters participated in the celebration of the Mass. Danielle, Naomi and Victoria were gift bearers, while Terez and Regina were readers.

Father Erickson recently graduated from Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, with a master's of divinity and baccalaureate in sacred theology.

He celebrated his first Mass the following day, May 19, in his hometown church, St. Francis of Assisi. At the end of Mass, Father Erickson presented the "maniturgium," the cloth he used to cleanse his hands during the ordination, to his mother. When the newly ordained priest's mother dies, she is buried holding the "maniturgium" so that all in heaven and on earth know that she is the mother of a priest. Father Erickson also presented the first stole he used as a priest to his father at the same time. When his father dies, he is buried holding the purple stole so that everyone knows that he is the father of a priest.

As far as the church family for the newly ordained priest, Father Erickson was appointed parochial vicar to Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta.

Bishop announces legal update and cost-cutting efforts

STEUBENVILLE — Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton said, "Diocesan attorneys are completing their investigation related to a civil action against a former diocesan employee for recovery of financial damages, related to the payroll tax issue, and expect to be filing such an action within a few weeks."

As the bishop stated in the May 4 edition of The Steubenville Register, "payroll taxes were withheld from employees' checks between 2004 and 2016, but the money wasn't sent to the appropriate taxing authorities. The diocese had to pay \$3.5 million to proper taxing authorities by liquidating unrestricted diocesan investments."

The bishop said the diocese is implementing various cost-

cutting efforts in the wake of the forensic audit:

- Reducing costs by switching health insurance brokers;
- Restructuring vendor agreements and employee payroll;
- Savings through retirement by streamlining processes;
- Evaluating outsourcing operations that may be done more efficiently and economically;
- Utilize technology to reduce travel and operating expenses;
- Adding more volunteers and interns to sustain the levels of services.

Bishop Monforton went on to say, "While every position here at the chancery is being evaluated and we are looking for additional ways to save the diocese money, all major projects remain suspended at this time."

Nearly 100 grads from parochial high schools in Diocese of Steubenville

By Dino Orsatti
Editor

BELLAIRE/IRONTON/STEBENVILLE — Ninety-one young men and women from the three parochial high schools in the Diocese of Steubenville — St. John Central, Bellaire, St. Joseph Central, Ironton, and Catholic Central, Steubenville, have graduated and are now filled with new hopes and dreams. The achievements were numerous in the classroom, in sports and in the community, for many of these graduates.

Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton congratulated the seniors at baccalaureate Masses at St. John Church, Bellaire, St. Joseph Church, Ironton and St. Peter Church, Steubenville, in the communities where the schools are located.

Permanent Deacon Paul D. Ward, director, Steubenville Diocese Office of Christian Formation and Schools, presented each graduate with a diploma during the commencement exercises.

The baccalaureate Mass and graduation for **St. John Central High School** was May 23. Principal Jarett T. Kuhns announced **Jenna Sawinski** as valedictorian and **Lillian West** salutatorian of the graduating class of 2018.



Jenna Sawinski (Photo provided)

Jenna is the daughter of James and Pam Sawinski. Along with a 3.989 grade point average, she was the Student Council president. Jenna was a four-year letter winner for softball.

The valedictorian held a position in the National Honor Society. Some of her honors included the American Chemical Society Award and the OVAC All-Conference Academic Award. She is receiving a scholarship from the Auxiliary of Wheeling Hospital (West Virginia) for her 155 hours of volunteer work.

She is also receiving a scholarship from the Bellaire VFW. Jenna plans to attend Wheeling Jesuit University in the fall and will major in nursing.



Lillian West (Photo provided)

Lillian is the daughter of Dennis and Kristi West. The salutatorian has been awarded first place through the West Virginia Young Writers contest and the Presidential Award for Educational Excellence, as well as the presidential scholarship to attend Wheeling Jesuit University in the fall of 2018. She intends to major in criminal justice with a pre-law professional track, so that she can become a child advocate attorney with a focus in human trafficking cases.

St. John Central High School graduates also included, Alyssa Busack, Robert Chesonis, Riley DiLoretta, Francesca Moore, Brooke Palmer and Erin Savage.

Father Timothy P. McGuire, pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Colerain, is pastoral administrator of St. John Central High School, supported by parishes in Bellaire, Bridgeport, Martins Ferry, Neffs, Powhatan Point, St. Clairsville, Shadyside, Tiltonsville and Yorkville.

In **Ironton**, the Mass and graduation ceremonies were June 1. Chris Monte is principal at **St. Joseph Central High School**, where Father David L. Huffman, pastor of the Ironton Catholic community and administrator of St. Mary Mission, Pine Grove, is pastoral administrator.

Guidance Counselor Christi Bare said **Alyson Johnson** and **Clay Willis** were named valedictorians and **Ryan Scaife** and **Karly Young** were chosen as salutatorians.

Alyson is the daughter of Dwane and



Alyson Johnson (Photo provided)

Lisa Johnson of Raceland, Kentucky. The

valedictorian will be attending Waynesburg University in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, where she will be a member of the volleyball team and major in athletic training.

Alyson was secretary/treasurer of the National Honor Society and chosen for the NHS citizenship award; president of the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society; a member of the Spanish Club and Science Club; a Marshall University Academic SCORES Festival winner; and a SEARCH Christian retreat leader.

She was first team All-District three years and All-State honorable mention as a volleyball team member, All-District honorable mention in basketball and a member of the softball team.

Alyson also received the Wendy's High School Heisman Award. She is a parishioner of Holy Family Church, Ashland, Kentucky, where she is an altar server, choir member and lector at St. Joseph Central School Masses. She received numerous scholarships.

Clay is the son of John and Jennifer



Clay Willis (Photo provided)

Willis of Ironton. He will be attending Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, where he will major in biological science (premed).

The valedictorian was a member of the National Honor Society and chosen for the NHS scholarship award, a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, Spanish Club, Science Club, a Marshall University Academic SCORES Festival winner and Quiz Bowl Team captain.

He was the varsity basketball and soccer team captain, named All-District first team in soccer and All-District honorable mention for baseball. Clay received the Wendy's High School Heisman Award.

He is a parishioner of St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish, where he is an altar server.

At St. Joseph Church, he is in the men's choir. He is also in the St. Joseph Central High School choir and a SEARCH Christian retreat leader. Clay received the Holzer Health Care System Science Award and several scholarships.

Ryan is the son of Dr. Aaron and Lyn Scaife of Wheelersburg, Ohio. The sa-



Ryan Scaife (Photo provided)

lutatorian will be attending Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, where he will major in biological science (pre-dentistry).

Ryan has served as vice president and president of the National Honor Society and was chosen for the NHS service award. He was a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, Spanish Club, Science Club, Quiz Bowl Team; served as class vice president, president, and secretary/treasurer; a SEARCH Christian retreat leader; and Marshall University Academic SCORES Festival participant.

Ryan was a member of the St. Joseph Central High School bowling and baseball teams. He is a parishioner of St. Joseph, where he is a member of the choir. He plays guitar for the high school choir and the St. Lawrence Central Elementary School play. At Marshall University, he has received the presidential scholarship.

Karly is the daughter of Ben and Molly Young of Ironton. The salutatorian will be attending Ohio University Southern, Ironton, where she will major in nursing. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club and Science Club, a Marshall University Academic SCORES Festival participant and a SEARCH Christian retreat leader.

She has been a cheerleader and captain her senior year and a member of the soccer and softball teams. She is a parishioner at

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Bishop Monforton celebrates confirmation Mass



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, pictured at left, celebrated a confirmation Mass at St. Paul Church, Athens, May 20, with Father Mark A. Moore, pastor of St. Paul Parish and Christ the King University Parish, Athens, and Sacred Heart Parish, Pomeroy, at right. Pictured in the front row, from left, are Julia Deluca, Isabella Tan, Abby Webb, Ally Webb and Sophia Averion. In the second row, from left, are Madison Schroer, Kristina Rana, Baelyn Carey, Elizabeth Curp, Ami Brannan and Lourdes Benencia Courreges. In the third row, from left, are Charlie Strohm, Matthew McDonald, Will Ginder, Henry Welsh, Gabi Santiago-Flores, Eric Kim and Clayton Williams. (Photo provided)

Bishop Monforton's Schedule

June

- 3 Mass, St. Teresa of Avila Church, Cadiz, 9:30 a.m.
- 4 Catholic Conference of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio, 10 a.m.
Mass and dinner with deacons and wives, Lore City, 5 p.m.
- 5 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m.
Diocesan Council of Catholic Women convention pre-dinner, Bella Hall, Steubenville, 6 p.m.
- 6 Radio segment WDEO 990AM, 10:15 a.m.
Mass and lunch, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Holy Family Church, Steubenville, 11 a.m.
- 7 WAOB radio segment, 7:40 a.m., 8:40 a.m. and 6:40 p.m.
Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 8:30 a.m.
- 8 Chancery staff picnic, Steubenville, noon
- 9 Novitiate vows, Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Hopedale, 10 a.m.
- 11-15 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops spring general assembly, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- 15 Sacred Heart Major Seminary Archbishop's Gala, Detroit

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Emmanuel Ambrose named catechetical consultant

STEUBENVILLE — Emmanuel C. Ambrose has been named a catechetical consultant for the Diocese of Steubenville Office of Christian Formation and Schools, announced Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton.

Born in Nigeria, Ambrose came to the United States at the age of 3 and is from the Bronx in New York City.

Before coming to Steubenville, Ambrose spent three years in the seminary at Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston (Queens), New York. In 2016, he received his bachelor's degree in philosophy and theology from St. John University, New York City. Eventually, Ambrose left the seminary and enrolled at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he obtained a master's degree in theology and Christian ministry.

As a student at Franciscan University, Ambrose interned with the Diocese of Steubenville during the 2018 spring semester, for his practicum class. Ambrose said the internship helped him learn about the Steubenville Diocese. He said when the opening became available for the catechetical consultant position, he decided to apply.

Permanent Deacon Paul D. Ward is director of the diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools.

Ambrose can be reached at the downtown Steubenville chancery, 422 Washington St., or by telephoning (740) 282-3631, extension 155, or by emailing eambrose@diosteub.org.



Emmanuel C. Ambrose

(Photo by DiCenzo)

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Nearly 100 grads

From Page 2



Karly Young (Photo provided)

St. Lawrence O'Toole.

At St. Joseph Church, Karly serves as a lector. She is also a member of the school choir. At Ohio University Southern, she has received the Freshman Excellence Scholarship.

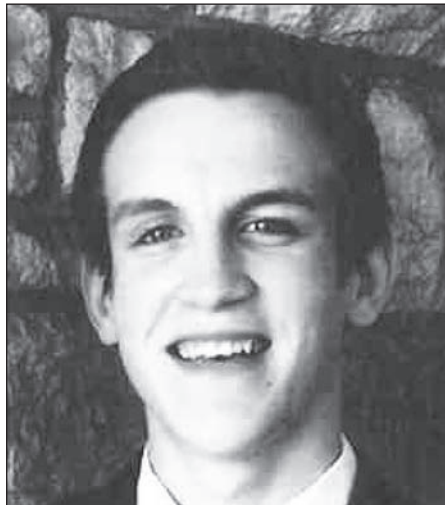
St. Joseph Central graduates also included, Ashley Bartram, Bryson Canter, Morgan Dodson, Elijah Howard, Cassie Jo Leith, Joseph McDavid, Charles Walters and Emma Williams.

The baccalaureate Mass for **Catholic Central High School** was May 24. Assistant Principal Jude Lucas singled out **Joe Kuebler** as valedictorian and **Jean**

Bahen as salutatorian.

Joe is the son of Daniel and Nellie Kuebler. The valedictorian served as Student Council vice president and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Joe played soccer in which he earned



Joe Kuebler (Photo provided)

three varsity letters, three OVAC championships, first and second team All-District honors and an OVAC All-Star. He is attending the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, where he plans to study aerospace engineering.

He received the university and provost's scholarships. Joe attends Holy Family Church, Steubenville.

Jean is the daughter of Mark Bahen and



Jean Bahen (Photo provided)

Jamie Kinter. The salutatorian was a member of the marching and concert bands, Key Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions (vice president), the Academic Team co-captain and the Yearbook Club.

Jean earned more than 400 service hours and was a member of the National Honor Society. She plans on attending Franciscan University of Steubenville, where she will major in biology with a focus in premedicine.

She received the dean's scholarship from the university. Jean is a member of St. Joseph's Parish, Toronto.

The 2018 graduates include: Alleigh Amaismeier, Nicholas Anderson, Dante Asci, Andrew Bates, Thomas Bensie,

Colin Brown, Amin Butler, Kayla Cafero, Isabella Cashioli, Austin Connor, Kevin Cuervo, Sydney Decker, Geno DiBiase, Mia DiBiase, Bella DiCarlo, Zoe Dobbs, Jenna Fabian, Gabriel Ferris, Syllis Fitzgerald, Mark Frawley, Grace Godich, Mikayla Gorman, Torrie Grandinetti, Andrew Green, Isaiah Hanlin, Alexander Hermann, Madeline Ialenti, Michael Irvin, Lauren Jones, Theresa Kelly, Mark Kissinger, Emily Kostecki, Maisy Krystek, Austin Long, Carlin Long, Jared Marsh, Hannah Martin, Deanah McGinnis, Kristina McNamara, Joseph Mello, Anna Meyer, Timmy Mort, Vincent Oliver, Michael Pate, Anthony Paulowski, Rhetta Potenzini, Mathisen Powley, Sara Reese, Luke Rest, Cassidy Rogers, Jah Sawyer, James Schmiesing, Hannah Scott, David Shimmel, Nicholas Solema, Tia Taglione, Alec Tegano, Bonnie Thibault, Levi Thompson, Niccolo Toriscelli, Gabriel Truax, Brantley Turnage, Donnie Vandeborne, Anna Walker, John Wright Jr., Allie Zapolnik, George Zapor, Mitchell Zapor and Joseph Zinno.

Lucas said the students received approximately \$3.2 million in scholarships from their future colleges and \$43,000 from local scholarships.

Thomas J. Costello is principal of Catholic Central. Father Thomas R. Nau, pastor of Triumph of the Cross Parish, Steubenville, is pastoral administrator of the high school.

Catholic Central students recognized



Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, recognized the class of 2018 senior students who received a score of 30 or higher on the ACT test. Pictured, from left, are Assistant Principal Jude Lucas, Mark Kissinger, Joe Zinno, Kellan Gotta, Tim Mort and Principal Thomas J. Costello. Pictured in the back, from left, are AJ Connor, Vince Oliver and Joe Kuebler. (Photo provided)

St. John Central, Bellaire, graduates



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, center, is pictured with graduates of St. John Central High School, Bellaire. Standing in the front row, from left, are Francesca Moore, Jenna Sawinski, Brooke Palmer and Riley DiLoretta. Pictured in the middle row, from left, are Alyssa Busack and Robert Chesonis. Pictured in back, from left, are Erin Savage, Principal Jarett T. Kuhns and Lilian West. (Photo provided)

SEEKING COORDINATOR OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

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Parishes throughout the Steubenville Diocese participate in ChristLife

By Matthew A. DiCenzo
Staff writer

STEUBENVILLE — Parishes throughout the Diocese of Steubenville are participating in ChristLife – Catholic Ministry for Evangelization.

ChristLife is described as a method of fostering new evangelization to help people discover, follow and share Jesus Christ as members of the Catholic Church, creating a culture of missionary discipleship in parishes. The ministry was founded in 1995 as an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes evangelization as “the proclamation of Christ and his Gospel by word and testimony of life, in fulfillment of Christ’s command.”

Diocese of Steubenville Permanent Deacon Richard G. Adams coordinates ChristLife under the direction of Permanent Deacon Paul D. Ward, director, diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools.

“ChristLife is not only informational, but an experience,” Deacon Adams said. “The program is different than catechetics.” He said that participants in ChristLife share their own experiences, which helps deepen their relationships with God as well as bring others closer to God through their experiences.

Parishes in the Steubenville Diocese participating in ChristLife include Christ Our Light Parish, Cambridge; St. Joseph and St. Lawrence O’Toole parishes, Ironton, and St. Mary Mission, Pine Grove; the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta; and Holy Family Parish, Steubenville. Deacon Adams said the Cambridge parish has approximately 60 participants, while the parishes in Ironton, Marietta and Steubenville have approximately 100 participants each. More parishes are expected to take part in ChristLife in the fall, he noted.

The ChristLife process is divided into three segments – “Discovering Christ,” “Following Christ” and “Sharing Christ.” Each course consists of seven sessions and a retreat day, which includes a meal (only “Discovering Christ”),



prayer, a video and a small group discussion.

Information on the apostolate describes “Discovering Christ” as inviting guests to hear the good news and personally encountering Jesus Christ; “Following Christ” is a way to help those who have completed “Discovering Christ” to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and “Sharing Christ” is a way to train Catholics to share Jesus Christ with others and invite them to be part of the church.

Barbara VanBeveren, a parishioner of Holy Family Parish, who participated in the program, said: “I found ChristLife to be excellent. It has been very good for me, since I am involved in catechetics, to be able to sit back and listen. The first course (‘Discovering Christ’) allowed me to get to know people in the parish, the second course (‘Following Christ’) has deepened the experience of finding support in a small group and has covered more material in a fuller way. Everything was so well done that I wanted each night to go longer, because I could go on for hours. ChristLife has provided a whole new experience for my husband and me and has set us off on a whole new faith journey.”

Deacon Adams said anyone can attend ChristLife, even at a nearby parish, if their parish is not participating. He suggested that those participating in the program at another parish could bring ChristLife back to their home parish. “It is important to reach out and find new ways to reach each person,” he said. “We have to find ways to reach the youth.”

Deacon Adams said the next step for ChristLife is implementing it in the smaller parishes throughout the diocese. He said that even though the smaller parishes may have less participants than the larger parishes, ChristLife will still have the same effect on the parish. He said “the actual culture of the parish begins to change” during the process.

Father Matthew W. J. Gossett, parochial vicar to Father David L. Huffman, pastor of St. Joseph and St. Lawrence O’Toole parishes, and administrator of St. Mary Mission, said: “Discovering Christ in Ironton was a very fruitful endeavor that brought healing to the community in a way that we did not expect. It brought people closer to Jesus Christ through several weeks of shared meals, videos and discussion.”

Deacon Adams also noted that ChristLife has been adopted by the Diocese of Steubenville as the first objective listed to accomplish the first strategic goal in the diocesan “Five-Year Strategic Plan,” which is evangelization and revitalization of our parishes.

The aim of evangelization, according to St. John Paul II,

reads: “The proclamation of the word of God has Christian conversion as its aim: a complete and sincere adherence to Christ and his Gospel through faith. ... Conversion means accepting by personal decision the saving sovereignty of Christ and becoming his disciple.”

Blessed Paul VI said evangelization is the mission of the church, stating: “We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the church. Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reads, “The sacred liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the church; it must be preceded by evangelization, faith and conversion. It can then produce its fruits in the lives of the faithful; new life in the Spirit, involvement in the mission of the church, and service to her unity.”

If a pastor or parishioner is interested in bringing ChristLife to their parish, Deacon Adams said the pastor or parish leaders (identified by their pastors) can meet with him. The deacon said he would travel to any parish to present information.

Deacon Adams also noted he will be attending the National ChristLife Conference June 20-22, in Baltimore. He encouraged those interested to attend the conference, stating it would be the best possible preparation for ChristLife. Additional information can be found on the website: <https://www.christlifeconference.org>.

Information about the ministry can also be found at christlife.org.

For additional information about the ChristLife process in the Diocese of Steubenville, contact Deacon Adams via telephone at (740) 283-4564 or email radams@diosteubv.org.



Participants and team members from the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, participate in ChristLife. Shelly Medley, the coordinator of the “Discovering Christ” program, said ChristLife brought people together, bringing the joy and work of Christ out of all the participants. (Photo provided)

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St. John Paul II Spirit: Light and Faith

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

Continuing his reflections on the Holy Spirit, St. John Paul tells us: "... (T)he church's work of evangelizing and teaching belongs to the ministry of the apostles and their successors, and in a different way, to all the members of the church. It is to continue ... the work of Christ. ... But, there is still need for an interior teacher who penetrates the human heart with Jesus' teaching. This is the Holy Spirit. ..."

He goes on to explain that to fulfill this task of evangelization, those especially committed to it, such as bishops, theologians, teachers, catechists (and we should include, also, parents) need the action of the Spirit upon the mind and soul of the recipients of their efforts. In general, we refer to such action simply as "grace," i.e., a *gift*. Some people react favorably to it, others do not. Experience shows that such can happen among classmates in school, listeners to a sermon in church, members of the same family. The grace of the Spirit is always strong enough, but God does not apply it in a way that overwhelms human freedom. With that freedom, the individual becomes like the soil in Our Lord's parable of the sower, presenting different levels of acceptability to the word of God (see, Matthew, Chapter 13, Verses 1-9).

"The grace of the Spirit is always strong enough, but God does not apply it in a way that overwhelms human freedom."

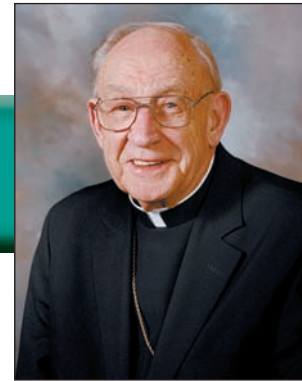
That grace of the Spirit is present both within the church and outside it. It is available to all, especially those who sincerely seek the truth about God and life. Somehow, somewhere, sometime, they will hear the word of Christ. Here the zeal, the skill, the persuasiveness of the evangelizer comes in to play as well. St. Paul points out: "(E)veryone who calls on the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!'" (Rom 10:13-14).

On that score, we might consider the technique of that master evangelizer, St. Paul: "For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified,

a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called Jews and Greeks alike – Christ, the power of God and wisdom of God" (1 Cor 1:22-25). The story of Christ includes, of course, his resurrection. That part of the story is what the apostles always emphasized. That story of Jesus Christ, as told in the inspired word of the Gospels, has a persuasive power of its own! A key factor in the work of any evangelizer is his/her own faith: one's personal conviction is an essential ingredient of success.

Of course there is such a thing, too, as a false prophet. They have been around as long as mankind itself. As St. Paul said, they sometimes appear "as angels of light" (see, 2 Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verse 14) and can lead people astray. That's where the guidance of an apostolic church comes in: to distinguish authentic from false doctrine on the basis of what the church has held and believed from the beginning. This guidance will rule out personal interpretations of the Gospels by individuals or claims to new revelations in recent times. Public revelation ended with that which Christ passed on to the apostles and guaranteed it by the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. In John Paul's words, "A sign that discernment is in real contact with the Spirit is and always will be adherence to revealed truth as it is proposed by the church's magisterium."

"Faith," says the pope, "is the fundamental gift given by the Holy Spirit for the spiritual life." As such, it does not concern realities that can be apprehended by the human mind or learned from experience. It concerns realities that we cannot perceive with the senses or grasp by the mind, realities such as the infinite nature of God himself, the Trinity, the incarnation of the second person, the supernatural life of grace, etc. It is a gift that God offers to every human being. However, there are also "charismatic gifts" that are given to certain individuals of God's own choosing. The same can be said of miracles and private revelations that come usually to outstandingly holy persons, again at God's choice. But, aside from these, the church has declared that: "Even the beginning of faith, in fact the very disposition to believe ... is present to us as the result of a gift of grace, i.e., from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who brings



Bishop Sheldon

our will from disbelief to faith" (Council of Orange, A.D. 441). In the account of St. Peter's experience with the Gentiles at the home of the centurion, Cornelius, we read that, "the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word," resulting in their belief in Peter's words (see, Acts, Chapter 10, Verse 44). Thus, we see that even prior to a profession of faith or baptism, the gift of faith can be given as the Spirit chooses! Nevertheless, an expression of faith implies a seeking for faith, a searching for God and truth. John Paul says: "The Holy Spirit gives life to the profession of faith in Christ." He quotes St. Paul: "No one can say, 'Jesus is lord,' except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor 12:3). The First Vatican Council (1869-70) states so also: "No one can hold to the apostolic preaching without the enlightenment and inspiration of the Holy Spirit who gives everyone docility in assenting to and believing in the truth." St. Thomas Aquinas explains it: "Because man, in assenting to the truth of faith, is raised above the level of his nature ... and that can only occur through a supernatural principle which acts from within, i.e., God."

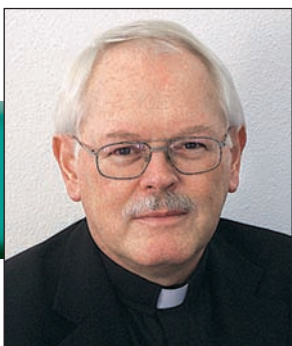
Once that assent of faith is made, all development or deepening of that faith likewise occurs by assistance of the Holy Spirit. "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him; this God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God" (1 Cor 2:9-10). The pope adds: "Faith demands a life in conformity with the truth which is recognized and professed."

On Suicide and Despair

By Father Ron Rolheiser

For centuries, suicide was considered as an act of despair, and despair itself was seen as the most grievous sin of all. In many religious circles, despair was seen as the most sinful of all acts and ultimately unforgivable.

Sadly, a strong residue of that remains; suicide is still seen by many as an act of despair, an affront to God and to life itself, an unforgivable relinquishing of hope. Many church people still see suicide as an act of despair and as the unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit. Roman Catholics sometime reinforce this notion by their reading



Father Rolheiser

of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which defines the sin of despair as follows:

"Despair is the most serious sin a person can commit! ... Like presumption, despair is a sin against the First Commandment. It steers us away from hope, which is an infused virtue received at baptism together with sanctifying grace and having the possession of God as its primary object." In Mark, Chapter 3, Verses 28-29, we read that: "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; but, whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin."

That may well be true, except suicide is not despair. Dictionaries define despair as the complete lack or absence of hope. But that's not what happens in most suicides. What does happen?

The person who is taking his or her own life is not intending that act as an insult or affront to God or to life (for that would be an act of strength, and suicide is generally the antithesis of that). What happens in most suicides is the polar opposite. *The suicide is the result of a mammoth defeat.*

There's a powerful scene in the musical adaptation of Victor Hugo's, "Les Miserables." A young woman, Fantine, lies dying. She tells of once being youthful and full of hopeful dreams; but, now worn down by a lifetime of

poverty, crushed by a broken heart and overcome by physical illness, she is defeated and has to submit to the tearful fact that *"there are storms we cannot weather."*

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Presbyteral Ordination of Father Joshua D. Erickson

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever!

First of all, I wish to welcome the Erickson family, especially Josh's parents, Chris and Jody, for the domestic church that resides within your home, your family, providing a rich environment for each person to discern their Christian vocation. *Vocations do not begin in the bishop's office, they begin at home!*

Josh, it has been awhile since you first introduced yourself to me in my chancery office at Christmas break, Dec. 18, 2014! When you explored the idea to become a seminarian for our diocese, I instructed you to continue to consult with your spiritual director and your vocations director in the Diocese of Colorado Springs. It came to my attention later on that your immediate vocations director was the bishop himself! Nonetheless, I am grateful to Bishop Michael Sheridan for your early preparation, as you ventured the pilgrim way of priestly formation. I thank also St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver and my alma mater, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, in Detroit, for their strengthening of Josh in the spiritual, intellectual, human and pastoral dimensions of priestly formation.

This day is infinitely more a beginning than an end. In fact, today you embark on a new mission that has its origins in the person of Jesus Christ himself. As we heard with our own ears, Jesus calls *us friends, yes, friends*. We, as fellow priests, are not hired workers, "on the clock," so to speak. No, we are not out-sourced, self-employed men contracted to advertise the "kingdom is at hand." Nor are we ordained to promote our own personal initiatives as if they were *de fide*, or, the faith, and the church just happens to be the vehicle by which we "get our way." No, true priestly character requires zeal for the Gospel, but that zeal goes to waste without a docile and humble heart, a heart malleable in order to model itself after the Sacred Heart of Jesus himself.

Not long from now, the church will consecrate you priest by virtue of the imposition of hands and your reception of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate. Your love for Jesus as his friend, chosen by Jesus himself as we heard in the Gospel passage, will be demonstrated in your celebration of the sacraments, your proclamation of the word, and in your selfless service to others, especially, *most especially* the marginalized and those who find themselves on the periphery of society. You will bear witness to the integrity of your priestly devotion in your priestly fraternity with and in support of your fellow brother priests. We are not "cookie-cutter priests" per se, yet, if I may say, our personalities are a combined microcosm of the local church. We *are* "cookie-cutter priests" in that we embrace the universal call to holiness. Yes, unity in fraternity, and the bishop does not do it alone. Your collaborative leadership is essential to our common brotherhood in Jesus Christ.

You see, the Gospel according to John time and time again underscores Jesus' mission to share his Father with others, for the Father is both source and goal. The very love Jesus shares with us is the same love he has received from the Father. *Missionary discipleship* is the new evangelization terminology of our time, but, *effective missionary discipleship requires effective missionary leadership*. Bishop, what do you mean by that? Thanks for asking!

The Letter to the Hebrews instructs that our salvation history was not a spur-of-the-moment decision by God two millennia ago. Incorporating the words from the Book of Psalms, this revealed letter plumbs the historical depths, the rich tradition of the priestly office, an office defined by Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, of which we hear in the final three verses. To put it plainly, the priestly office comes with glory and perfection, but only through the crucible of service and obedience, as demonstrated by the Son of God himself. Yes, the life of a priest comes with great joys and great challenges. Service to the kingdom of God is not always neat and nice, it can become quite messy, especially as the spirit of this world pushes back.

We preach Jesus Christ as lord as we hear in the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. Yes, it's all about Jesus!



Bishop Monforton

Why? Because, our lives belong to him – in *our humble service*. You and I have been called, chosen, to give our lives for others as Jesus did. I cannot simplify the missionary or apostolic template any more than that.

Dear son, as you exercise your part in the office of Christ, head and shepherd, while united to me, your bishop, and subject to me, strive with the deepest resolve to bring the faithful together into one family, for we, as fellow priests, are not promoters of division, but instead stewards for the Prince of Peace.

This way you enable and lead our brothers and sisters to God the Father through Christ in the Holy Spirit. Keep always before your eyes the example of the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for us, and who came to seek out and save what was lost. Amen.

Bishop Monforton delivered this homily during the celebration of Mass, at Father Joshua D. Erickson's ordination to the priesthood, May 18, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Toronto.

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

By Father Paul J. Walker

Once again, like last Sunday's feast of the Holy Trinity, this Sunday's feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (June 3) invites us to ponder a mystery. Mystery in this sense is not something I must try to figure out. My proper reaction to this mystery is not simply an act of faith. I need more than an act of faith – I need the first stanza of an ancient Latin hymn of St. Thomas Aquinas, who also pondered this mystery of Eucharist:



Father Walker

*"Godhead here in hiding,
whom I do adore
Masked by these bare shadows,
Shape and nothing more,
See, Lord, at thy service
Low lies here a heart
Lost, all lost in wonder
At the God thou art."*

"All lost in wonder. ..." Sometimes when we say "wonder" we mean curiosity – like uncertainty (I wonder if it'll rain tomorrow or I wonder if the relatives will show up over the long weekend, etc.). No! In the grasp of wonder I'm surprised, I'm amazed, I marvel, I'm delighted, I'm in awe, I'm enraptured.

Shouldn't this be our reaction to the Eucharist, to the body and blood of the Lord – here in my hands, on my lips? What reaches to capture my imagination, to amaze, enrapture, awe and delight me is a story – a story whose images, shapes and colors are woven together in holy Scripture and in the ongoing lived tradition of the church. It's a story about freedom and liberation: the children of Israel passing through the Red Sea from the brickyards of Egypt

to the freedom of the Promised Land. It's a story about Jesus of Nazareth who blessed and shared bread and wine identifying himself with these powerful Jewish symbols of freedom and liberation. It's a story about God's unlimited bounty, reflected in the images of multiplied loaves and fishes – more than enough for all, running over. It's a story about us and what Christ seeks to do with us today: He does with us what he did that night at the supper – he takes us, and he blesses us, and he breaks us, pours us out for the life of each other and for the life of the world.

The Eucharist points us outward, beyond the walls of this church, beyond the walls of the world to Christ's coming in glory on the Last Day. We do not make an absent Christ present; we can do the Eucharist precisely because Christ is already present in us, in the church and in the world. Coming here every Sunday, we do not enter a temple which encloses the holy and cuts us off from a godless and secular world, which remains outside. Rather, in the midst of a divine world we erect a landmark, a sign of the fact that this entire world belongs to God. The Eucharist is an event of grace because it keeps us from forgetting that God has embraced the entire world unconditionally, flooded it

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She's right, and anyone who does not accept that truth will one day come to a painful and bitter understanding of it. There are things in this life that will crush us, and surrender isn't an act of despair and indeed isn't a free act at all. It's a humbling, sad defeat.

And that's the case with most people who die from suicide. For reasons ranging from mental illness to an infinite variety of overpowering storms that can break a person, there's sometimes a point in people's lives where they are overpowered, defeated and unable to continue to will their own living – parallel to one who dies as a victim of a drought, hurricane, cancer, heart disease, diabetes or Alzheimer's. There's no sin in being overpowered by a deadly

storm. We can be overpowered, and some people are, but that's not despair (which can only be willful and an act of strength).

To begin with, we don't understand mental illness, which can be just as real and just as death producing as any physical illness. We don't blame someone for dying from cancer, a stroke or a physical accident, but, we invariably cast moral shadows on someone who dies as a result of various mental illnesses, which play a deadly role in many suicides. Happily, God is still in charge and our flawed understanding, while generally permanently tainting the way someone is remembered in this world, doesn't effect salvation on the other side.

Beyond mental illness we can be defeated in life by many other things. Tragedy, heartbreaking loss, unrequited obsession

and crippling shame can, at times, break a heart, crush a will, kill a spirit and bring death to a body. And our judgment on this should reflect our understanding of God: What all-loving, merciful God would condemn someone because he or she, like Victor Hugo's, Fantine, could not weather the storm? Does God side with our own narrow notions where salvation is mostly reserved for the strong? Not if Jesus is to be believed.

Notice when Jesus points out sin, he doesn't point to where we are weak and defeated; rather, he points to where we are strong, arrogant, indifferent and judgmental. Search the Gospels and ask this question: On whom is Jesus hardest? The answer is clear: Jesus is hardest on those who are strong, judgmental and have no feeling for those who are endur-

ing the storm. Notice what he says about the rich man who ignores the poor man at his doorstep, what he says about the priest and scribe who ignore the man beaten in a ditch, and how critical he is of the scribes and Pharisees who are quick to define who falls under God's judgment and who doesn't.

Only a faulty understanding of God can underwrite the unfortunate notion that being crushed in life constitutes despair.

Father Rolheiser, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate priest, is president of the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, an author, a retreat master and a newspaper columnist. Additional information about his ministry is available on Father Rolheiser's website: www.ronrolheiser.com.

The Most Holy

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with his presence and grace and invited it to a blessed future.

Ultimately it is the story that at all times and places the very cosmos is permeated to its core by the graciousness of God. This story that our eating and drinking together continues to tell is ultimately one about ourselves, we are "Corpus Christi" – "Body of Christ." The mystery of the Eucharist is in the end our own mystery – who we are

as a people, the deeply beloved of the Lord. We probably need to hear St. Augustine's words echoing all the way from the fourth century:

"Would you understand the body of Christ? Hear St. Paul saying to the faithful: You are the body and the members of Christ." If then, you are

Christ's body and it's members, it is your own mystery which is placed on the Lord's table; it is your own mystery which you receive.

It is to what you are that you reply Amen, and by replying accept. For you are told: "the body of Christ" and you reply "Amen." Then be a member of the body of Christ so

that your "Amen" may be the truth!"

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, McConelsville, where he often celebrates Mass at St. James Church. Father Walker regularly writes a column for The Steubenville Register.

Remains of St. John XXIII begin pilgrimage in the late pope's home diocese

By Paul Haring

BERGAMO, Italy (CNS) — Accompanied by Bishop Francesco Beschi of Bergamo and escorted by both Italian and Vatican police officers, the glass coffin containing the body of St. John XXIII left the Vatican early May 24 for a 370-mile drive to Bergamo.

The route taken for the trip north was kept secret for security reasons.

When the procession reached Bergamo's central Vittorio Veneto Square, Bishop Beschi told thousands of people gathered there that it was "with great joy and emotion that I accompanied to our diocese, our city, the urn with the mortal remains – now relics – of John XXIII, which return for a few days to the land of his birth."

St. John, who opened the Second Vatican Council, was born Nov. 25, 1881, in Sotto il Monte, a town near Bergamo. After his ordination as a priest and years of service in the Vatican diplomatic corps, he was appointed patriarch of Venice in 1953. He was elected pope Oct. 28, 1958, and died five years later.

The pilgrimage with his remains was meant to mark the 60th anniversary of his election and the 55th anniversary of his death.

Maria Calagari was in the square with her sister and some friends to welcome St. John's remains.

"We are fortunate because we saw him when he was pope, we saw him die and we just saw him now – 55 years later as a saint here in Bergamo," Calagari said.



The coffin containing the body of St. John XXIII arrives for a ceremony in Vittorio Veneto Square in Bergamo, Italy, May 24. The body of the late pope left the Vatican early May 24 to be displayed in his home region until June 10. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

"We are fortunate."

In connection with the pilgrimage of St. John's relics, Pope Francis gave an interview to L'Eco di Bergamo, the area's main daily newspaper, which is owned by the Diocese of Bergamo.

In the interview, Pope Francis described St. John as "a saint who did not know the word 'enemy,'" but "always sought what would unite people."

For St. John, he said, "the church is called to serve human beings, not just Catholics, and to defend always and everywhere the rights of the human person and not just of the Catholic Church."

Pope Francis said the pilgrimage was meant to be "a gift and an occasion" to renew one's faith and to remember the great pope. It is a special opportunity for the elderly, the sick and the poor, who have not been able to go to St. Peter's Basilica to pray at his tomb.

The visit to the Diocese of Bergamo included a stop at the city's prison, where 180 prisoners – including 35 Muslims – asked permission to enter the internal courtyard where a truck carrying the remains was to stop.

The prison yard was the first place in Bergamo where people were allowed

to touch the glass coffin. The prisoners were given a square of either yellow or white fabric to touch to the glass; most of them touched the glass with their hands, then used the fabric to wipe the glass clean.

Vincenza, one of the inmates, told the local television station that it was amazing to have the saintly pope's remains stop in the prison at the beginning of the pilgrimage "because usually, especially for important events, prisoners are the last ones people think about."

From the prison, the relics were to be driven to the diocesan seminary named after Pope John XXIII. The priests of the diocese were to escort the remains to the cathedral later in the day.

Teens and young adults of the diocese held a prayer vigil in the cathedral May 25, and the remains were also to be present the next morning as new priests were ordained for the diocese.

After a Mass with the poor May 27, the body was moved to the hospital named after the late pope, then transferred to the Shrine of St. John XXIII in Sotto il Monte.

Pilgrims can pray before the saint's remains at the shrine until June 10, when Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, will celebrate Mass and the body will be returned to the Vatican.

Cardinal Angelo Comastri, archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, told Vatican Media that "this is the first time – it's never happened before – that the remains of a pope make a return visit to his home, to his roots."

A local veteran found 'life-changing,' 'healing' experience at Lourdes

By Dino Orsatti
Editor
and Zita Ballinger Fletecher

LOURDES/BEVERLY (CNS) — A local veteran was among veterans around the world who took part in the 2018 Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage to France who said the journey has positively influenced his life and benefited those around him.

Retired U.S. Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. David Husk and his wife, Melinda, St. Bernard, Beverly, parishioners, visited the shrine, where Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous in a series of visions in 1858.

"This amazing experience further strengthened my devotion to the Blessed Mother," said David Husk.

Husk spent 27 years of reserve and active duty, including a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He was also an air traffic controller as a member of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Husk has dealt with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as well as several other physical ailments associated with his time in the military, reasons why his son, Philip, encouraged his parents to apply for the trip.

While bonding with other service members around the world, Husk said the pilgrimage, "made me open to whatever healing the Lord has for me and my family, and allowed me to always be hopeful."

Melinda Husk said Lourdes has also provided a healing to their 34-year marriage, which included some difficult times when they were separated because of David's military life.

Others who made the pilgrimage told of their healing experiences.

Maj. Jeremy Haynes, a first-time spiritual pilgrim and Lourdes visitor, said he is a changed man.

"The trip has been life-changing for my wife and me," Haynes told Catholic News Service. "With faith as our compass, we remain committed to moving forward."

Haynes was shot four times in Afghanistan and sustained injuries that have left him struggling to overcome the physical constraints of paralysis. It has been a difficult journey. He also seeks healing for wounds in his family life that occurred prior to his physical injury.

"With a minimum emphasis on faith, my family life was a disaster and divorce was imminent. After being shot multiple times, I recall sinking into a dark place," said Haynes. "Despite being a sinner, God showed mercy by sparing my life and allowing me to witness the birth of my son. Taking part in this spiritual journey has cleansed my soul and created a stronger connection with my wife."

Haynes previously served within the 101st Airborne Division, 82nd Airborne Division and the American Red Cross national headquarters. He is currently assigned to the Walter Reed National Medical Center and soon will retire from the military. He has been awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Action Badge, Jumpmaster, Parachute Rigger Badge and Air Assault Badge.

Haynes, who went on the Lourdes trip to seek healing "mentally, physically, spiritually and emotionally," said he was



Maj. Jeremy Haynes is escorted in his wheelchair May 17 as he takes part in the International Military Pilgrimage in Lourdes, France. Haynes, a first-time spiritual pilgrim and Lourdes visitor, said he is a changed man since visiting the shrine, where Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous in a series of visions in 1858. (CNS photo/Tamino Petelinsek, courtesy Knights of Columbus)

honored to visit Lourdes with military from around the world. The Warriors to Lourdes trip – sponsored by the Archdiocese for the Military Services and the Knights of Columbus – occurred in late May, during the 60th annual International Military Pilgrimage to the Marian shrine in France.

"We broke bread together, worshipped together and promoted peace together. Although we speak different languages, faith connected us," Haynes said. "I experienced the power of prayer as being a universal language that led me to encounter awesome individuals."

The Rev. Steven Rindahl, an Anglican priest and U.S. Army veteran, took part in the pilgrimage and said he believed the journey benefited all who participated in it.

"There have been people who have been touched in so many different ways. It would be difficult to make a list to encompass all the different blessings people have received while they've been here," said Rev. Rindahl, a retired U.S. Army chaplain who has served in duty stations in many states.

Rev. Rindahl, who has ministered to active-duty soldiers and veterans, has worked with veterans afflicted by post-traumatic stress disorder as an "extensive piece" of his total ministry. In addition to emotional stress, people exposed to combat often suffer from a condition he refers to as "moral injury," which he describes as a conflicted conscience resulting from complex or traumatic wartime experiences.

"War is an unnatural thing. They get this sense of guilt or shame," said Rev. Rindahl, who believes this condition can be treated successfully with a faith response, particularly the sacrament of reconciliation.

"The great thing about Lourdes is that it is a known place for healing. Regardless of what your injury is – whether it's physical, emotional or damage to your soul – when a person says, 'I want to go to Lourdes,' they're going specifically with a heart and mind open to receiving God's grace and what God has in store for them," said Rev. Rindahl.

Retired U.S. Army Capt. Gary M. Rose said the 2018 Lourdes journey helped a



Parishioners of St. Bernard Parish, Beverly, retired U.S. Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. David Husk and wife Melinda, are pictured in front of the grotto in the sanctuary of Our of Lourdes in Lourdes, France. (Photo provided)

friend recently suffering from severe PTSD connected with "a very bad, horrible battle" that happened in 1966. Rose said there has been a "noticeable improvement in his demeanor" since their return.

"Every single person that I know that went on that trip has come back much better than they were when they left for Lourdes," said Rose.

Rose said while visiting the shrine he was often asked by others whether he believed that Mary was present.

"I got asked, 'Do you think Mary is here?' I don't know. I can't personally say, 'Mary is here,'" said Rose. "But I can personally say that there is some entity in the Lourdes shrine area that spreads nothing but good and seems to improve the demeanor and the psychological aspects of

everybody that I associated with that went to Lourdes with me last week."

David and Melinda Husk bathed in the spring water in the Grotto in Lourdes. David Husk said when he got out of the cold water, "I felt the Blessed Mother saying I'm here and don't give up hope. That was a peaceful feeling."

Husk and Haynes said they are extremely grateful to all those who sponsored the opportunity and who volunteered at it – and also expressed a special thanks to organizers for allowing their wives to take part in the journey with them.

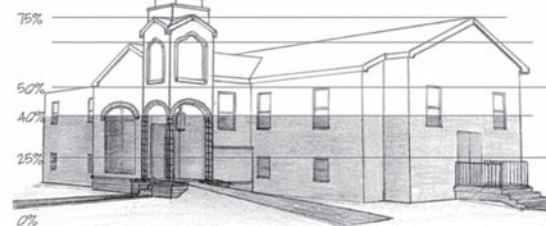
"Thank you for equipping me with the tools to become a better God-fearing man, husband, father and citizen," said Haynes.

Husk said, "I will always be a soldier for Christ."

Healing One Heart at a Time Campaign Help Make Sacred Heart Center of Hope a Reality

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$770,000
Including purchase of building, soft costs, renovations,
professional staff, support staff, and operations

\$308,000 Raised to date 40%



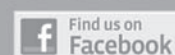
\$200,000 Sacred Heart Double the Love Special

First \$100,000 donations of \$1,000 or more will be matched

Pentecost May 20 to June 8th
Solemnity of the Sacred Heart



For more information: Sr. Katherine Caldwell 740-424-1280
www.sacredheartcenteofhope.org



Athens — Daily Mass will be celebrated at 8:15 a.m., Mondays through Thursdays, at St. Paul Church; Mass will not be celebrated at 5:30 p.m., at Christ the King University Parish. The 12:15 p.m. Mass, on Fridays, at Christ the King University Parish will remain as scheduled.

Bellaire/Neffs — St. John Parish, Bellaire, and Sacred Heart Parish, Neffs, will hold a vacation Bible school from 8:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m., June 25-29, at St. John Church basement, for children 4 years of age through fifth grade. To register or for more information, telephone Sue Vavrek at (740) 671-9411.

Belle Valley/Caldwell/Carlisle/Fulda — The Noble County parishes will sponsor a vacation Bible school. Themed “Totally Catholic – Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus,” the Bible school will be held from 6-8:30 p.m., June 24-28, at St. Stephen Church. For additional information, telephone Tracy Saling at (740) 509-2034.

Beverly — A chicken and/or ham dinner and social will be held from 4-7 p.m., June 27, at St. Bernard Church. The meal will include mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, noodles, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, dinner roll, dessert and beverages. Meals cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5-12 years of age. Takeout meals will be available. A social begins at 4 p.m., and will include raffles, children’s games, bingo, a country store and more. For additional information, telephone the church office at (740) 984-2555 or Aaron Huck (740) 373-6305.

Caldwell — A grief support group will be held Wednesdays, at 6 p.m., in the annex at St. Stephen Church.

Cambridge — An ice cream social farewell will be held following the celebration of the 5 p.m. Mass, June 9, at St. Benedict Church, for Jeremiah Hahn, a Diocese of Steubenville seminarian, in St. Benedict Church social hall. Hahn spent his pastoral year at Christ Our Light Parish.

Carrollton — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be prayed from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., June 1, at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

A eucharistic procession will take place and adoration will be prayed, following the celebration of the 8:30 a.m. Mass, at Our Lady of Mercy Church, June 3.

Churchtown — St. John the Baptist Parish will hold a vacation Bible school themed “Totus Tuus” (“Totally Yours”), from 7-9 p.m., for students in seventh through 12 grade, June 10-14 (snacks will be provided), and from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., for students in first through sixth grade, June 11-15 (snack and lunch will be provided). Cost is \$5 for the seventh-through 12-grade group and \$20 for the first-through sixth-grade group. Scholarships will be available. To register, telephone Angie Henniger at (740) 336-0119 or email a_henniger@yahoo.com.

Cookbooks will be sold by St. John the Baptist Parish CWC. Cost is \$20. For additional information, telephone (740) 896-3566.

A Bible study will be held the first Monday of each month, from 7-8 p.m., in the convent, located near St. John the Baptist Church.

Ironton/Pine Grove — A reception, with light refreshments, will be held for Father Matthew W. J. Gossett, parochial vicar to Father David L. Huffman, pastor of St. Joseph and St. Lawrence O’Toole parishes, Ironton, and administrator of St. Mary Mission, Pine Grove, following the celebration of weekend Masses at St. Joseph, St. Lawrence O’Toole and St. Mary Mission, June 9-10.

Marietta — A reception for Father Thomas A. Nelson, parochial vicar to Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, will be held from 1-3 p.m., June 3, in the basilica social hall. Father Nelson will be assigned as parochial vicar to Father Mark A. Moore, pastor of Christ the King University Parish and St. Paul Parish, Athens, and Sacred Heart Parish, Pomeroy, effective June 20.

A reception for Father Joshua D. Erickson will be

St. Joseph, Tiltonsville, annual steak fry



St. Joseph Parish, Tiltonsville, Holy Name Society will sponsor an annual steak fry, from 5-9 p.m., June 16, at Warren Township Park, west shelters, 400 Williams St., Tiltonsville. Announcing the steak fry, from left, are Simon Carpino, Pete Sgalla, Father William D. Cross, pastor of St. Joseph Parish and St. Lucy Parish, Yorkville, as well as judicial vicar for the Diocese of Steubenville, and Tim Rankin. Tickets cost \$25, which includes a 12-ounce rib eye steak, baked potato, salad, dessert and beverages; free hot dogs for children. People attending the dinner must bring their own place settings. The purchase of a ticket enters the ticket holder for a chance to win an Igloo IMX 24-quart cooler, pictured above. Raffle tickets will be available, \$1 each or 6 for \$5. For additional information or to purchase tickets, telephone the parish office at (740) 859-4018 or (740) 298-0097. (Photo by DiCenzo)

held following the celebration of weekend Masses, June 9-10, at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption. Father Erickson will be assigned as parochial vicar to Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the basilica, effective June 6.

Martins Ferry — The annual salad luncheon, sponsored by the Daily Bread Center, will be held in St. Mary Central School auditorium, 24 N. Fourth St., June 21, from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Cost is \$6. Tickets for the Chinese auction are six for \$5 or \$1 each. Tickets will be available at the door or by

telephoning Lil Laughman at (740) 633-1839.

Pomeroy — A first Friday Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m., June 1, at Sacred Heart Church. A first Saturday Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m., June 2, at the church.

Steubenville — A vacation Bible school will be held from 9 a.m.-noon, June 18-22, in Malara Hall at Holy Family Church. For additional information or registration forms, telephone Barbara VanBeveren at (740) 264-6177 or visit www.catholicfaithformation.org.

Around and About

Carrollton — Every first Saturday of the month, devotions to Our Lady of Fatima will be prayed, beginning June 2, at St. Gabriel Monastery, 164 Apollo Road. The devotions begin at 4 p.m. with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. At 5 p.m., Liturgy of the Hours will be prayed, with Benediction following prayer. At 5:30 p.m., Mass will be celebrated. A potluck dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. For additional information, telephone (330) 969-9990 or email office@opusangelorum.org.

Carrollton — Children and young adults 18 years of age and younger can eat for free at Carrollton High School and Elementary School, 252 Third St., Mondays through Fridays, June 4 through Aug. 8. No paperwork is needed in order to receive a lunch. For additional information, telephone Barbara Burns at (330) 627-8263.

Cincinnati — A national family celebration for the 50th anniversary of “Humanae Vitae” (“of human life”), sponsored by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and Couple to Couple League, a non-profit that teaches natural family planning, will be held July 6-7, at the Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Road. The events include a variety of speakers, family activities, adoration, and

the celebration of Mass. Bishop Roger J. Foys of Covington, Kentucky, former vicar general of the Diocese of Steubenville, will be celebrating Mass at 7:30 a.m., July 7. For additional information regarding registration fees, hotel reservations and meal plans, visit <http://cclconvention.com>.

Martins Ferry — Knights of Columbus Mother of God Council 1421 will hold a fish fry from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., June 1, at the council home, 25 N. Fourth St. Eat in or takeout dinners are available. To place an order, telephone (740) 633-0528.

Steubenville — A natural family planning class will be offered by Natural Family Planning International June 23, at St. Peter Church. For additional information or to register, telephone Steve or Ann Craig at (740) 457-9663. An online course is available at www.nfpandmore.org.

Wheeling, W.Va. — Our Lady of Perpetual Help Ukrainian Church will sponsor a 55th annual summer festival June 8-9, at the church grounds, 4136 Jacob St. An opening ceremony, with a blessing and ribbon cutting, will take place June 8 at 3:30 p.m. The indoor kitchen will open at 4 p.m., in the church annex, with the outdoor festival running from 5-10 p.m. both evenings. The festival will include food, games and music.

Students put on the 'Armor of God'



Fifth- through eighth-grade students in religion classes at St. John Central Grade School, Bellaire, worked the entire 2017-18 school year to "put on the 'Armor of God.'" The students created a knight, covered in hundreds of Bible verses, which were memorized each week. (Photo provided)

Balloon launch at Samaritan House



Franciscan Sister Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother Mary Michelina Belz, Samaritan House coordinator, second from right, stands with Floyd Cochrane II, Gerald Simpson, Paula Licata, Billie Tustin, Maria Palazzolo, Teresa Moore and Vickey Knox for a balloon launch, which signifies the end of a grief Bible study for the summer. (Photos by Orsatti)



Voters in Ireland remove right to life of the unborn from constitution

DUBLIN (CNS) — Voters in Ireland have opted to remove the right to life of the unborn from the country's constitution, paving the way for abortion on demand up to 12 weeks.

Results from the nationwide referendum showed that 66.4 percent of citizens opted to remove the Eighth Amendment from the constitution, while 33.6 percent voted to retain it. Turnout was 64.5 percent.

Voters inserted the original amendment in the constitution in 1983 by a margin of 2-1, and it "acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right."

That text will now be deleted and replaced with an article stating that "provision may be made by law for the regulation of termination of pregnancy."

Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick told Massgoers that the result "is deeply regrettable and chilling for those of us who voted 'no.'"

He said "the final result of the referendum is the will of the majority of the people, though not all the people."

"It is a vote, of course, that does not change our position. Our message is one of love: love for all, love for life, for those with

us today, for those in the womb," he said.

Referring to Pope Francis' anticipated Aug. 25-26 visit, Bishop Leahy said: "In August, we will unite as a family, to renew that sense of family when the World Meeting of Families comes here. We have the privilege of Pope Francis coming, and today I cannot think of his visit being more timely: to come here and remind us of the importance of family, of the love we have of family, of the reality that, yes, families get bruised sometimes, but they should never be broken."

Minister for Health Simon Harris has said he would introduce legislation that would allow abortion on demand up to 12 weeks, up to 24 weeks on unspecified grounds for the health of the mother, and up to birth where the child is diagnosed with a life-limiting condition that means he or she may not live long after birth.

An exit poll conducted by the Ireland's national broadcaster RTE asked voters what motivated them to opt for either "yes" or "no." Among "yes" voters, the most important issues were the right to choose (84 percent), the health or life of the woman (69 percent) and pregnancy as a result of rape (52 percent).

Among "no" voters, they cited the right to life of the unborn (76 percent), the right

to live of those with Down syndrome or other disabilities (36 percent) and religious views (28 percent).

John McGuirk, spokesman for Save the Eighth, which campaigned for a "no" vote, described the outcome as "a tragedy of historic proportions."

"The Eighth Amendment did not create a right to life for the unborn child — it merely acknowledged that such a right exists, has always existed and will always exist," he said, insisting that "a wrong does not become right simply because a majority support it."

"We are so proud of all of those who stood with us in this campaign — our supporters, our donors, our families and our loved ones," he said. "This campaign took a huge personal toll on all of us who were involved, and we have been so grateful for their support."

Insisting that pro-life campaigners will continue their efforts, McGuirk told Catholic News Service: "Shortly, legislation will be introduced that will allow babies to be killed in our country. We will oppose that legislation. If and when abortion clinics are opened in Ireland, because of the inability of the government to keep their promise about a (general-practitioner-led health) service, we will oppose that as well."

"Abortion was wrong yesterday. It remains wrong today. The constitution has

changed, but the facts have not," he said.

Ruth Cullen of the LoveBoth campaign insisted that the organization will try to ensure that the Irish prime minister, or Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, is true to his pledge that the government will work to ensure that abortions are rare.

"We will hold the Taoiseach to his promise that repeal would only lead to abortion in very restrictive circumstances. He gave his word on this, now he must deliver on it. No doubt many people voted for repeal based on the Taoiseach's promises in this regard," she said.

Eamonn Conway, a theologian at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, told CNS he was "greatly saddened" by the result. However, he pointed out that "the truth is that the Irish Constitution merely recognized the right to life that is antecedent to all law. This most fundamental of all human rights is not extinguished or diminished because our constitution no longer acknowledges it. What is diminished is our constitution," he said.

Conway said he believes "the task facing the Catholic Church now is to ensure that it makes every effort to accompany with the healing compassion of Christ everyone caught up in the tragic circumstances that surround an abortion ... from grieving parents to medical practitioners."

Obituaries

Joanne R. Boyle Bell, 82, Bridgeport, St. Anthony of Padua, April 18.

Susan M. Buckham, 66, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, May 15.

Elizabeth A. Burwell, 89, Malvern, St. Francis Xavier, May 9.

Carole T. Carpenter, 89, St. Paul, Athens, May 16.

Nancy Castellucci, 91, Malvern, St. Francis Xavier, May 10.

Arnold T. Chonko, 60, St. Paul, Athens, May 18.

Lenore C. Doran Core, 88, Toronto, St.

Francis of Assisi, May 14.

Edward F. "Jack" Emery, 72, Steubenville, Holy Family, March 29.

Jim P. Fowkes, 72, St. Gabriel, Minerva, May 2.

Louis E. Huck, 89, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, May 10.

Helen Imer, 86, St. Anthony of Padua, Bridgeport, May 18.

Harriett L. Kovach, 84, Christ the King University Parish, Athens, May 14.

Naomi Kowal, 91, Carrollton, Our Lady of Mercy, May 12.

Mary "Dollie" Krajnyak, 92, St. John, Bellaire, May 19.

Necia Kuhn, 92, St. Lucy, Yorkville, May 12.

Helen D. "Tubby" McGuigan, 84, Steubenville, Holy Family, May 14.

Helen Moffo, 77, St. Joseph, Tiltonsville, May 10.

George Nemeth, 77, St. Joseph, Tiltonsville, April 30.

Elsie Okarmus, 88, Peoria, Arizona, St. Casimir, Adena, April 14.

Patricia Connolly Rhodes, 89, Bridge-

port, St. Anthony of Padua, May 25.

Roman Ritterbeck, 88, St. Gabriel, Minerva, May 17.

Nick Tiburzi, 56, St. Lucy, Yorkville, May 19.

George A. Timko, 92, Bridgeport, St. Joseph, May 10.

Rose A. Styracula Vigoffi, 85, Fairpoint, St. Joseph, Bridgeport, May 11.

Richard J. "Jim" Vizyak, 73, Steubenville, Holy Family, May 6.

Albert C. Zapor, 89, St. Peter, Steubenville, May 17.

Bishop Monforton ordains Joshua D. Erickson to priesthood



Transitional Deacon Joshua D. Erickson prostrates himself before the altar as the saints are called upon to intercede for him.



Father David J. Erickson, far left, (Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Father Erickson's uncle) and Father Edward A. Maxfield, Jr., parochial vicar to Father Thomas A. Chillog, pastor, St. Mary Parish, St. Clairsville, vest Father Erickson with his stole and chasuble.



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Monforton anoints the palms of Father Erickson's hands with the sacred chrism and the newly ordained priest cleanses his hands with the "maniturgium."



Father Erickson, second from left, is pictured with Bishop Monforton and his parents, Jody Erickson, far left, and Chris Erickson, far right.



Bishop Monforton shares the sign of peace with newly ordained Father Erickson.



Danielle, Naomi and Victoria Erickson, sisters of Father Erickson, present the gifts to Bishop Monforton. Permanent Deacon Ralph Poyo is pictured behind the bishop.



Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon kneels before Father Erickson for his blessing. Permanent Deacons Paul D. Ward, left, and Richard G. Adams, right, observe. (Photos by Orsatti)