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Official

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton has appointed **Father Michael W. Gossett** as parochial administrator of Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes, Wintersville, in accordance with the Code of Canon Law, Canons 539 and 540.

This appointment was effective April 30, the date Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, pastor of the Wintersville parishes, went on sick leave.

News Briefs

Pope appoints two auxiliary bishops

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis has appointed an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington and an auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York.

The new Washington auxiliary, Bishop-designate Michael W. Fisher, 60, has served the archdiocese as episcopal vicar for clergy and secretary for ministerial leadership since 2006.

The new Rockville Centre auxiliary, Bishop-designate Richard G. Henning, 53, is rector of Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, New York.

The appointment of the two new bishops was announced in Washington by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican nuncio to the United States.

Religious freedom week set to begin

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic Church's 2018 religious freedom observance begins June 22, the feast of two English martyrs who fought religious persecution — Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More — and ends June 29, the feast of two apostles martyred in Rome — Sts. Peter and Paul.

"Serving Others in God's Love" is the theme of this year's Religious Freedom Week. U.S. Catholics are encouraged to pray and take action in support of religious liberty at home and abroad.

"Religious freedom allows the space for people of faith to serve others in God's love in ministries like education, adoption and foster care, health care, and migration and refugee services," said the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty,

"We encourage people of faith to reflect on the importance of religious freedom so that we might have the space to carry out our mission of service and mercy," Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, said in a statement.

He also invited "everyone to pray for our brothers and sisters who face intense persecution in other parts of the world."

Two USCCB websites, www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek and www.usccb.org/freedom, have resources for observing the week and learning about current and ongoing threats to religious liberty.

Pope Francis said that religious freedom "remains one of America's most precious possessions."

DCCW convention theme: 'Women Giving with Joy'



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton concelebrates Mass for the DCCW convention, at Holy Family Church, Steubenville, with Father James M. Dunfee, vicar general, right. In the back, from left, are seminarians Nicholas Ward, Peter J. Stetson and assistant master of ceremonies, James Craig. (Photo by Orsatti)

By Dino Orsatti
Editor

STEUBENVILLE — The Diocese of Steubenville's 73rd annual convention of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) attracted 168 women at Holy Family Church, Steubenville, June 6, with the theme, "Women Giving with Joy."

The program started with a welcoming address from Joanne Kolanski, Steubenville DCCW president. "We are women celebrating ourselves as women with our deep love and great joy for everyone," Kolanski said.

Sister Mary Brigid Callan, director, Diocese of Steubenville Office of Stewardship and Development, dedicated this year's convention to the children of the world.

The keynote speaker of the event, June Lawrence, development officer for Cross Catholic Outreach, is known for her passion to help the poor become self-sufficient and youth reach their full potential. Cross Catholic Outreach is in its seventh year of a joint venture with the National Council of Catholic Women, focused on lifting up women and children, and Lawrence has been a major contributor to this partnership.

The Barbados-born Lawrence cited the success of the ministries' "Box of Joy" program in 2017, which involved parishes in the Steubenville Diocese that helped 46,000 children. The program delivers toys, dolls, coloring books, candy and essentials to the less fortunate children around the world.

To Page 12

Franciscan Sisters will soon make perpetual vows



Sister Miriam O'Callaghan

(Photo provided)

TORONTO — Three Franciscan sisters, with the Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother, will make their perpetual profession of vows June 30, at Father of Mercy Chapel, Toronto, at the community's motherhouse.

The sisters, Sister Miriam O'Callaghan, Sister Maria Clare Smith and Sister Rita Clare Yoches vowed to live chastity, poverty and obedience for the whole of their lives. Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton will preside over the perpetual profession ceremony, which will occur at Mass.

Sister Miriam is the daughter of Joe and Jean O'Callaghan of Dublin, Ireland. Joe passed away on May 30, 2015. She has a younger brother who lives in Saudi Arabia with his wife and two children and a younger sister who lives in Dublin with her husband and two children.

Sister Miriam worked in Dublin as a qualified accountant and tax consultant for one of the Big Four global accounting

To Page 4

'Ask the Bishop'

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

Q: Why does the Catholic Church believe Christ is really present in the Eucharist?

**Katie Ryncarz
Blaine**

A: Jesus teaches us in the Gospel how he has given us his body and blood, the holy Eucharist. Jesus, at the Last Supper, instituted, or inaugurated, the celebration of the sacrifice of the Eucharist, which we recognize as the celebration of Mass. Furthermore, St. Paul himself takes us back to the Last Supper informing us in his First Letter to the Corinthians (see, 1 Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verses 23-26) in the Last Supper Jesus gave us his body and blood in the Eucharist.

There even is historical documentation from the early church supporting the fact that the Eucharist was celebrated and understood as the body and blood of Christ from the very beginning of Christianity. The Eucharist is the very foundation of our faith and the source and summit of the Catholic Church. The church draws its very life from the Eucharist.

The Eucharistic is not only a gift. The

Eucharist is a gift of Jesus' very self to you and to me! How fortunate we are to be able to receive Jesus at Mass, thus, transforming you and me to become who we receive.

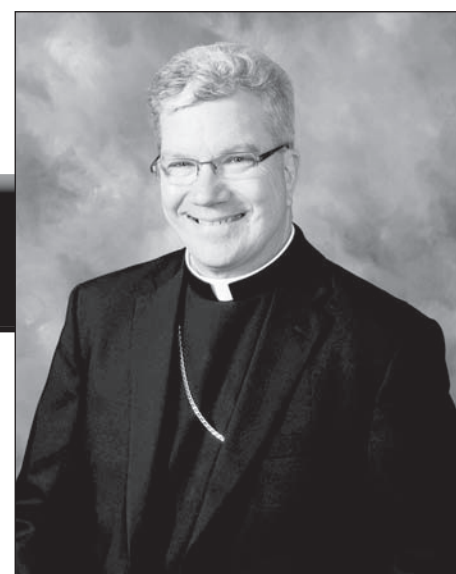
Q: Do you have to believe in God in order to go to heaven?

**Rhonda Masters
Cambridge**

A: You and I both know it's very difficult at times to gauge just how much faith a person possesses. It would be unrealistic to presume that all have the same level of faith and, in fact, we read that in sacred Scripture and we pray for those who perhaps do not possess strong or mature faith.

It so happens that in the *intercessions* or the *prayers of the faithful* for the Good Friday Passion Liturgy, we pray for all people, even those who do not seem to possess any faith. It would seem to me that we would be wasting our prayers if our prayers would not assist our brothers and sisters, especially those of little faith.

We live in an era where people are searching for the truth. Perhaps you and I can begin to turn hearts by confidently sharing the truth with others; namely, that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son to you and to me in order that we may dwell with him for all eternity in heaven.



Bishop Monforton

Q: Bishop, if Adam and Eve are the first people on earth, and they had kids and their kids had kids, etc., would all of us be related? Thank you! God Bless!

**Maria Mitch
Toronto**

A: Time and time again we are reminded in church teaching that Adam and Eve are our first parents. Yes, if you go back far enough in human history, we are all related because God has made it so. Remember, we are all members of the same human family regardless our ethnicity, our nationality and, yes, even our faith. This gives us all the more reason to love our neighbor as ourselves, as Jesus instructs us.

We owe love and compassion to all we encounter as Jesus shared in the parable of the good Samaritan. As we all are brothers and sisters in the human race, we also are provided an obligation for we are our brothers' and sisters' keeper as members

of the one human family God created in his image and likeness and who Jesus has redeemed in his body and blood.

As we embark into the great celebration of summertime, may this season enrich you and your family in faith as well as in familial love.

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

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

St. Joseph Central, Ironton, graduates



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, center, is pictured with graduates of St. Joseph Central High School, Ironton, and Father David L. Huffman, pastor of St. Joseph and St. Lawrence O'Toole parishes, Ironton, and administrator of St. Mary Mission, Pine Grove, standing at left. Pictured in the front row, from left, are Emma Williams, Karly Young, Alyson Johnson, Cassie Leith, Ashley Bartram and Morgan Dodson. Pictured in the back, from left, are Bryson Canter, Ryan Scaife, Chase Walters, Joey McDavid, Clay Willis and Elijah Luke Howard. (Photo provided)

Position Openings, St. John Central High School, Bellaire

St. John Central High School, 3625 Guernsey St., Bellaire, Ohio, has an opening for a social studies and history teacher for grades nine through 12 for the 2018-19 school year.

The teacher will be responsible for implementing innovative academic instruction in whole group, small group, project based and one-on-one settings, meeting the needs of all learners.

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Send letter of intent, resume, three professional references, transcripts, credentials, and philosophy of education to **Jarett Kuhns, principal,** at jarett.kuhns@omeresanet.net. Perspective applicants will be expected to provide three letters of recommendation at the time of interview, one being from the applicant's pastor.

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"A Funeral Service For A Life Remembered"

St. Mary Montessori preschool teacher retires

By Matthew A. DiCenzo
Staff writer

MARIETTA — Sylvia Rajakaruna, a Montessori preschool teacher at St. Mary School, 320 Marion St., Marietta, has retired after 44 years of teaching — all spent at St. Mary School.

“It’s been a blessing,” she said.

Rajakaruna, who is from Sri Lanka, earned her degree at Association Montessori International, there. According to the St. Mary School website, the Montessori method is “an educational method for children, based on theories of child development originated by Italian educator Maria Montessori in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.”

At Association Montessori International, addresses of vacancies from all over the world were provided to the students for available positions at Montessori schools, she said. Rajakaruna said she wanted to go to a Catholic school, and that is how she found the position in Marietta. She applied in 1973, and came to the United States. She started at St. Mary School in January 1974. Rajakaruna said she was very grateful to Msgr. Robert H. Punke, who at the time was pastor of St. Mary Parish, Marietta, which is now the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, and to Dominican Sister of Peace Virginia King, who was principal of the school, for helping her come to the United States and to the school. The Dominican Sisters of Peace served at the school during that time, she said.

Throughout her 44 years, Rajakaruna taught the Montessori preschool class, including the subjects of practical life, motor skills, math, general knowledge, religion, language, science, basic knowledge, geography and geometry. She said, “I enjoyed the staff, students and parents, and will miss them. They were like a second family.” She also was very thankful for the cooperative parents throughout the years.

Rajakaruna said her final class had 11 children. She said the Montessori preschool program has ended at St. Mary School, explaining how the school is changing to a traditional preschool program for the 2018-19 school year.

In addition to teaching, Rajakaruna led an international



Sylvia Rajakaruna was honored at a retirement celebration for her 44 years of teaching Montessori preschool at St. Mary School, Marietta. (Photo provided)

day at the school, as well as a trike-a-thon, which raised money for St. Jude’s Children Research Hospital.

In her retirement, Rajakaruna said she looks forward to enjoying the summer, spending time with her husband, Gerard, and visiting with her son, Joseph; grandson, Linus; and her daughter, Cecilia. She said she will remain a resident of Marietta.

“I am thankful and very appreciative to everyone,” Rajakaruna said. “I will miss St. Mary’s.”

Pope says gossip destroys Holy Spirit’s gift of peace

By Junno Arocho Esteves

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Peace is a gift that can easily be destroyed through petty gossip and speaking ill of others, Pope Francis said.

People who receive and give the sign of peace “should be men and women of peace” and not ruin “the peace made by the Holy Spirit with your tongue,” the pope said June 6 during his weekly general audience.

“Gossip is not a work of the Holy Spirit, it is not a work of the unity of the church. Gossip destroys the work of God. Please stop gossiping,” the pope said.

Continuing his series of audience talks on confirmation, Pope Francis spoke about the gift of the Holy Spirit that Christians receive in the sacrament.

When a person is anointed with oil, that gift “enters us and bears fruit so that we can then give it to others,” the pope explained. The gift is not meant to be tucked away and stored “as if the soul was a warehouse.”

While it usually is the bishop, who is a successor of the apostles and guarantor of the unity of the church, that confers the sacrament of confirmation upon a person, his role does not exclude the bishop from the Christian duty of charity and love.

“Some may think that in the church there are masters — the pope, the bishops, the priests — and then the workers

who are something else,” he said. “No, the church is everyone. And we all have the responsibility of sanctifying one another, of caring for others. The church is ‘us.’ Everyone has their job in the church, but we are all the church.”

During the sacrament of confirmation, he continued, the bishop tells the candidate, “Peace be with you,” which is “a gesture that expresses the ecclesial communion with the bishop and with all the faithful.”

However, that gift can be lost if Christians start saying mean things about each other once they leave Mass.

“Gossip is war,” the pope said. “Poor Holy Spirit! (Imagine) the work he has with us with our habit of gossiping!”

Pope Francis urged the faithful to preach the Gospel with deeds and words “that edify and not with words of gossip that destroy.”

Like the parable of the talents, he added, the Holy Spirit’s gift is a seed that bears fruit when it is shared with others and not “when it is buried because of selfish fears.”

“When we have the seed in hand, it isn’t meant to be stored in a closet, it is meant to be sown. All life must be sown so that it bears fruit and multiply. We must give the gift of the Spirit back to the community,” Pope Francis said.

Bishop Monforton’s Schedule

June

- 16 60th anniversary Mass, Holy Family Church, Steubenville, 4 p.m.
- 17 Youth conference Mass, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 10 a.m.
- 18 Diocesan finance council, Steubenville, 9:30 a.m. Annual Clergy Jubilee Mass and dinner, St. Mary Church, St. Clairsville, 4 p.m.
- 19 Speaker, priests, deacons and seminarians retreat, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 9:20 a.m. Mass, priests, deacons and seminarians retreat, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 10:45 a.m.
- 19-22 Diocesan Information System conference, Detroit
- 25-26 Pontifical North American College reunion, Chicago
- 27 Records policy presentation for diocesan staff, chancery, Steubenville, 1:30 p.m.
- 28 Mass for week of religious freedom, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 8:30 a.m.
- 29 Diaconate ordination, Holy Family Church, Steubenville, 7 p.m.
- 30 Mass and perpetual vows, Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother, Toronto, 11 a.m.

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Franciscan Sisters

From Page 1

firms, PricewaterhouseCoopers, until she left the firm in January 2005. She moved to Ohio where she began to attend theology classes at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

"Through prayer, I really felt that God was calling me to this new and 'immense country' (see, Isaiah, Chapter 34, Verse 17) to seek him out in this new adventure," she wrote.

In Steubenville, she was exposed to religious men and women, and said she was drawn to pray often before eucharistic adoration. Finally she met the Franciscan Sisters TOR.

"I realized with amazement how God had been placing their charisms on my heart before I even met them," she wrote. "In particular, I loved the way that they see themselves at the foot of the cross with Our Lady."

Sister Miriam entered the community in August 2007 and made her first profession of vows in 2010.

She has worked in the community's finance office, served at Greccio Mission



(Photo provided)

Sister Maria Clare Smith

House in Gaming, Austria, with Franciscan University's study abroad program, and coordinated ministry and altar bread for the community. This year she will continue her work as the vocations coordinator, a ministry she began in 2017.

Sister Maria Clare is a native of central Indiana. She is the daughter of Gordon and Mary Ann Smith, who currently reside in Westfield, Indiana, and attend St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church. She has an older brother, four younger brothers and two younger sisters.

In the spring of 2005, Sister Maria Clare was studying abroad in Europe with Franciscan University students and had the opportunity to pray at the hospital where Pope St. John Paul II was dying.

She wrote, "It was during this encounter with the pope that Christ gave me a great desire to give my life for the church just as John Paul was giving his whole life to it. This was a turning point for me. Jesus broke through and gave me the courage to discern this call."

After graduating from Franciscan University of Steubenville in 2007, with a bachelor's degree in theology and catechetics, she taught religion at Guerin Catholic High School, Noblesville, Indiana, from 2007-08. Sister Maria Clare entered the Franciscan Sisters TOR in August 2008.

Sister Maria Clare made her first profession of vows in 2011. She has served as the altar bread coordinator, hospitality coordinator and as a campus minister in Gaming, Austria, for Franciscan University. This year she will continue living and working at Heart of Mary House of Prayer and Service in downtown Steubenville, serving the poor through ministries at the diocesan thrift store and emergency food bank, Samaritan House. She also coordinates LAMP, a bimonthly soup kitchen.



(Photo provided)

Sister Rita Clare Yoches

Sister Rita Clare grew up in Dearborn Heights, Michigan. She is the daughter of Robert and Mary Yoches, who reside in Allen Park, Michigan, and attend St. Frances Cabrini Church. Sister Rita has one older sister who lives in Michigan and a younger brother who lives in Ohio.

She received a scholarship to the University of Detroit-Mercy to play Division I basketball. She graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in sports medicine and certification as an athletic trainer and strength and conditioning coach.

In 2002, she became the assistant director at a training center. From 2003 to 2006, Sister Rita Clare was a fullback for the Detroit Demolition women's professional football team, which won the national championship each of those years.

On a pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy, she began

to feel a call to the religious life. Later, at a prayer service at Franciscan University of Steubenville, she felt Jesus ask her to marry him.

Sister Rita Clare wrote, "I dropped down to my knees and the girls praying over me said, 'The Lord wants you to know that he is yours and he wants to know, will you be his?' This deep 'Yes' came out of me. Immediately, I had feelings of joy!"

Sister Rita Clare visited four religious communities, but it was the Franciscan Sisters TOR that "felt like home." She entered in 2009 and made her first profession of vows in 2012. Since then, for five years, she has lived at Heart of Mary House of Prayer and Service in downtown Steubenville.

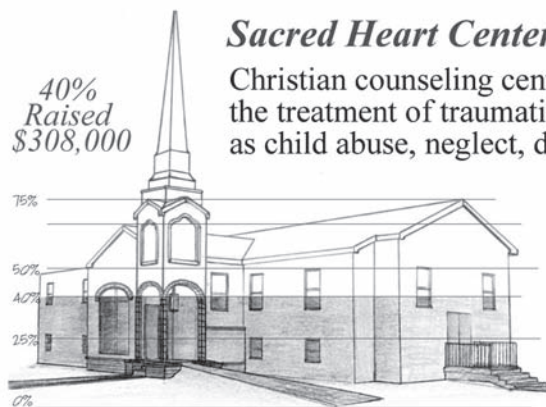
This coming year, she will continue her work as a campus minister at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, which is an assignment that she began a year ago.

During the first part of the perpetual profession ceremony, which will take place during Mass June 30, with Bishop Monforton presiding at the community's motherhouse, each sister will wear a white cape over her habit, symbolizing a wedding garment that also serves as a reminder of baptism, and a bridal crown of red and white roses.

Franciscan Sister Mary Ann Kessler serves the TORs as reverend mother. She will give each sister a ring during the celebration of Mass, as a sign that she is a bride of Christ.

For additional information concerning the sisters' vocation stories, or to learn more about the Franciscan Sisters TOR, visit their website at www.franciscansisterstor.org.

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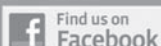
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Robert Kennedy's Catholicism was part of his personal life and politics

By Carol Zimmermann

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Recollections and tributes to Robert F. Kennedy on the 50th anniversary of his assassination have mainly highlighted his charisma and determined advocacy for social and racial justice.

But, underlying these tributes to the former attorney general, U.S. senator, Democratic presidential candidate and father of 11, also is an unmistakable connection to his Catholic faith.

Inevitable references to Robert Kennedy's faith come up when mentioning his Irish Catholic family or his funeral at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, but there also are plenty of anecdotes in biographies mentioning that he was an altar server or wore a St. Christopher medal. And then there are his speeches, which often echo Catholic social teaching without coming right out and saying it.

A Newsweek tribute to Kennedy describes one of his speeches as "typically peppered with erudition and an almost ecclesiastic, Catholic compassion."

That particular speech asked what reason people have for existing "unless we've made some other contribution to somebody else to improve their own lives?"

Historians and biographers alike have not shied away from Kennedy's Catholicism, often saying he was the most Catholic of the Kennedy brothers and that he wasn't afraid to express his faith.

Larry Tye, author of "Bobby Kennedy: The Making of a Liberal Icon" in 2016, said Kennedy's faith helped him as he grieved the 1963 assassination of his brother, President John F. Kennedy, noting that he kept a missal beside him in the car and thumbed through it to prayers he found consoling.

And instead of just attending Sunday Mass, Tye said, Kennedy was "in the pew nearly every day. His faith helped him internalize the assassination in a way that, over time, freed his spirit."

Peter Edelman, a Georgetown University law professor who was a legislative aide to Kennedy from 1964 until his death, can attest to this.

He described Kennedy as "assiduous in his practice of his Catholicism" and said his "values and work were certainly based significantly in his faith."

When asked to explain this more, he told Catholic News Service that when he and Kennedy were in New York City, Kennedy often stopped for a few minutes to go into a church to pray while Edelman said he stayed outside because he is Jewish.

"Robert was the Kennedy who took his Catholicism most seriously. He attended Mass regularly, and prayed with his family before meals and bed," said Jerald Podair, a history and American studies professor at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Podair, who is currently writing a book about the politics of the 1960s and its links to the rise of President Donald Trump, said Kennedy always wore a St. Christopher medal, too, but he said his Catholicism was not limited to his personal life but also showed up in his politics.

As he put it in an email to Catholic News Service, Kennedy viewed his faith "as a summons to heal the world, making it a more equal and just place. An example was his strong support for Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers movement, one that itself was steeped in Catholic



Brothers John, Robert and Edward Kennedy are pictured in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, in this photograph taken July 1960. Robert F. Kennedy died from an assassin's bullet shortly after midnight June 5, 1968. (CNS photo/courtesy John F. Kennedy Library and Museum via Reuters)

liturgy and morals."

Podair said Kennedy was drawn to the farmworkers' cause — when few other mainstream politicians were — "largely because of its links to Catholicism."

He noted that when Kennedy sat with Chavez as he took Communion at an outdoor Mass after the end of his March 1968 hunger strike, it was a public expression of Kennedy's firmly believed Catholic view that all people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities.

The historian also said it was no coincidence that when Kennedy lay dying on the floor of the Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel after he was shot, a rosary was placed on him by the Mexican-American busboy who had just shaken his hand.

"It meant that he would die as he had lived," Podair said.

That hotel is long gone, but today in its place is a school and memorial bearing Kennedy's words, which read in part: "Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, it sends out a tiny ripple of hope."

The book, "Robert Kennedy: His Life," written by Evan Thomas in 2002, described Kennedy as "a romantic Catholic who believed that it was possible to create the kingdom of heaven on earth," and notes that although Kennedy at times may have lost the certainty of his faith, he never lost the hope.

TEACHING POSITIONS OPEN

Applications for two positions for a fifth- and sixth-grade math and fifth- and sixth-grade English teacher at **Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary School**, Steubenville, Ohio, are being accepted. Both positions include teaching reading and religion to one homeroom.

Interested applicants can send a resume, with references, to **Theresa Danaher**, principal of the school, at tdanaher@bishopmussiojh.org.

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He also said Kennedy was an altar server when he was growing up and who would even serve that role as an adult if he saw there was no altar server at Mass.

The basics of Catholicism — prayers, Mass and crosses or saint statues in the house — were part of Kennedy's life with Ethel and their children as well, ranging in age from 16- to not-yet-born when he died.

In a 2008 interview with the Boston Globe, Kennedy's daughter Kerry Kennedy, the seventh child, who was 8 when her father died, said faith was central to her upbringing — especially prayers before and after meals, an out loud Bible reading and Sunday Mass.

Kerry Kennedy, who established the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights in New York, said her faith was influenced by both of her parents, noting that her father thought about being a priest and her mother considered being a nun.

In a June 6 tweet the day of a 50th anniversary memorial service for her father at Arlington National Cemetery, Kerry Kennedy said: "I miss my father every day, but I am strengthened to know the causes he believed in are still championed by brave activists today. His legacy and work are timeless."


That service, which included numerous tributes and people quoting Kennedy's own words, began fittingly with an opening invocation by a priest echoing the hope Kennedy so often expressed.

"We are gathered here in a spirit not of mourning, but of hope," said Jesuit Father Matt Malone, editor of America magazine.

He also added: "Bobby Kennedy still lives in millions of hearts that seek a newer world."

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St. John Paul II Fruits of the Spirit

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

“The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom 5:5). Recall that a synonym for love in this context is *charity*, from the Greek word for *gift*. It appears, then, that God’s gift to us is love, and the divine love is personified in the Holy Spirit, himself! Through the Spirit, then, we share in God’s own love, the love that subsists in the eternal life of the blessed Trinity. St. John Paul compares the Christian life to a building in which the foundation is *faith*. Without faith, of course, we go nowhere in the Christian life. But, with faith, a structure can be built upon it; that structure is the love that we share with God. We would expect that this sharing of the Holy Spirit should have consequences in our own lives, and we’re right, it does. St. John Paul II discusses some of these consequences.

The indwelling of the Spirit gives power and meaning to our actions that they could not have otherwise. St. Augustine debated with the followers of Pelagius about this. Pelagius, a contemporary of Augustine, taught that man, by his own natural ability, can save his soul. Augustine said not so: man *unaided by God’s help* can do nothing to gain his salvation. A thousand years later, Martin Luther misconstrued Augustine’s teaching to mean that the human soul can do nothing to save itself. It must simply throw itself in the mercy of God. What Augustine really said was that, with God’s help, man can indeed save his soul. The difference is that gift of the Spirit, which enables us to do what, of ourselves, we cannot do. A crude comparison might be to an automobile with and without power steering. Without it, a car might steer like a heavy truck. With power, one can turn a corner with little effort. The Holy Spirit supplies the necessary power to do, in the spiritual order, what we cannot do by ourselves. The analogy is weak, however, because in the case of the auto, the new power is in the same natural order, whereas in the case of the Holy Spirit, the application is in the supernatural order of grace.

“Without faith, of course, we go nowhere in the Christian life. But, with faith, a structure can be built upon it; that structure is the love that we share with God.”

In the spiritual order, we might consider such things as love of neighbor, the “second greatest commandment.” It’s hard sometimes with some people. But, we must not expect the same emotional feelings that would come with loving people naturally, e.g., parents, spouses, children, etc. We can love our enemies without feeling good about it! It is all in the will – powered by the Holy Spirit! What else about this Spirit-powered love? St. Paul tells us in one of his most famous passages: “Love is *patient*, love is *kind*. ... It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Cor 13:1-13): things that we cannot handle without God’s help!

Another effect of the Spirit’s action is *peace*. Peace is a rare commodity anymore in today’s world, with international terrorism, population pressures, economic rivalry, social unrest, etc. St. John Paul II tells us, “To be realistic ... one cannot fail to recognize the difficulty, even the impossibility, of preserving peace without a higher principle, which operates with divine power deep within the human mind.” According to revealed doctrine, this principle is the Holy Spirit, who gives spiritual peace to individuals, an inner peace which becomes the basis of peace in society. “The advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name – he will teach you everything and remind you of

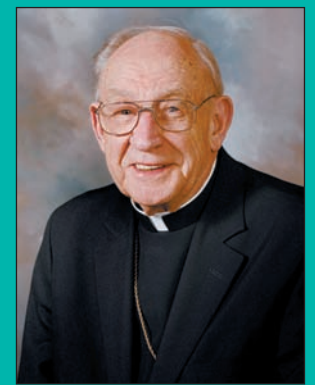
all that I told you. ‘Peace’ I leave with you, my peace I give to you. not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid” (Jn 14:25-27). Peace precedes

forgiveness, as Our Lord demonstrated when giving the power of forgiveness to the apostles: “Peace be with you. ... Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, etc.” (Jn 20:21-23). Even on a natural level, we can forgive more easily when we are at peace with ourselves! Peace is one of the “fruits of the Spirit,” according to St. Paul: “In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, generosity, self-control” (Gal 5:22). “It is a peace,” John Paul tells us, “given to those who, even in the difficulties of life, turn to God. ...”

Among those “fruits” of the Spirit, mentioned above, is joy. It is a true joy that fills the human heart, not a super-

ficial, passing, worldly joy. Worldly joy is associated with *things*, primarily possessions, wealth, etc. “If I could only win the lottery,” some say, “I will be happy.” Really? How many millionaire celebrities commit suicide? Why? Apparently wealth is not all it’s thought to be. Pope John Paul says, “The human person is made for joy, not for sadness. ... True joy is a gift of the Holy Spirit.” Thomas Aquinas tells us: “Sadness, as an evil or vice, is caused by a disordered love for oneself, which is the general root of all vices.”

The pope cites passages in the New Testament that tell of joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, as seen especially in the infant narratives in Luke’s Gospel: Mary is told at the annunciation, “Rejoice, you who are full of grace. ... The Holy Spirit will overshadow you. ...” (Lk 1:28-35). At the Visitation, the infant John leaped in the womb of Elizabeth out of joy at the presence of the yet unborn Jesus. Mary responds with, “My spirit rejoices in God my savior” (Lk 1:39-55). At the birth of Jesus, the angel proclaims to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid, for, behold, I bring you good news of great joy. ...” (Lk 2:10). At the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, we meet Simeon and Anna, two elderly people whose hope is turned to joy when they encounter the infant Savior (see, Luke, Chapter 2, Verses 22-38). In the public life of Jesus, John Paul says, “... (Joy assumes all its force in enthusiasm for the Father. ... Every true joy has the Father as its final goal.” At the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples: “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete” (Jn 15:11). After witnessing the ascension of Jesus, “The disciples did him homage and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ...” (Lk 24:52). This joy inspired by the Holy Spirit is such that persists in spite of persecution, disappointment, personal tragedy and even in the face of death itself!



Bishop Sheldon

Diocesan Rosary Congresses: An Opportunity for You to Make a Difference

By Sister Teresa Condit

Who does not have a family member who is suffering under the weight of serious illness, financial burdens or worse: painful family divisions? Who among us does not have a close relative – a child or grandchild, a brother or sister – who has left the faith? Who doesn’t cringe when hearing about the increasing violence, decreasing morality and the evil of abortion?

My dear brothers and sisters, we are not powerless before this flood of evil, misery and sin. As Catholics, we have been entrusted with two powerful means to bring about the changes we all long for. The Lord and his Mother have won the victory on Calvary and they only need our cooperation to transform the invasive darkness into the dawning light of God’s love and presence.

The two means we have been given to bring down a torrent of graces upon our families, diocese and nation are *the Eucharist* and *the rosary*. Remember the dream of St. John Bosco? He saw the church as a huge ship in the midst of a raging storm being anchored to two pillars upon which the Eucharist stood on one, and Our Lady on the other.

Last June, we as the Diocese of Steubenville, took a significant leap forward into the merciful and loving plan

that God has for us as a diocese and for each one of us individually by re-anchoring ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Led by our shepherd, Bishop (Jeffrey M.) Monforton, and all those gathered with him at the basilica in Marietta, we knelt before the Mother of God and reconsecrated ourselves and our diocese to her heart. To this loving Mother we entrusted our hearts and homes, our parishes and communities, giving her the unreserved right to take us to her Son.

Then, in October, as a direct fruit of our reconsecration, we anchored ourselves to the Eucharist through the first annual diocesan rosary congress. In Steubenville, Marietta, and Ironton, we as a diocese spent seven days in perpetual eucharistic adoration praying for God’s grace and mercy upon our families, parishes and nation.

And how the graces flowed! Every day, at the beginning of every hour, the powerful prayer of the rosary was offered to God, led by a family, an apostolate or a ministry or prayer team. Every day there were lines for confessions. Every day, for hours and hours, our humble Savior was adored by children and priests, parents and catechists, religious and lay faithful. There were special Masses each day including: a healing Mass in the beginning of the week and a Mass for families during which each family was consecrated to

the hearts of Jesus and Mary. Our hearts were re-enchanted, as we embraced our faith and the awesome gifts of the

To Page 8

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Mercy, Truth and Pastoral Practice

By Father Ron Rolheiser

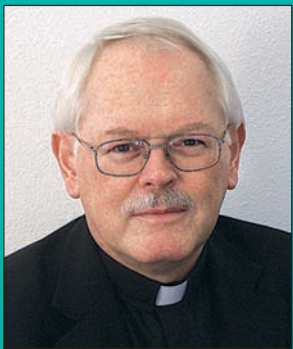
Recently a student I'd taught decades ago made this comment to me: "It's been more than 20 years since I took your class, and I've forgotten most everything you taught. What I do remember from your class is that we're supposed to always try not to make God look stupid."

I hope that's true. I hope that's something people take away from my lectures and writings, because I believe that the first task of any Christian apologetics is to rescue God from stupidity, arbitrariness, narrowness, legalism, rigidity, tribalism and everything else that's bad, but gets associated with God. A healthy theology of God must underwrite all our apologetics and pastoral practices. Anything we do in the name of God should reflect God.

It's no accident that atheism, anti-clericalism and the many diatribes leveled against the church and religion today can always point to some bad theology or church practice on which to base their skepticism and anger. Atheism is always a parasite, feeding off bad religion. So, too, is much of the negativity toward the churches, which is so common today. An anti-church attitude feeds on bad religion, and so

we who believe in God and church should be examining ourselves more than defending ourselves.

Moreover, more important than the criticism of atheists are the many people who have been hurt by their churches. A huge number of persons today no longer go to church or have a very strained



Father Rolheiser

relationship to their churches because what they've met in their churches doesn't speak well of God.

I say this in sympathy. It's not easy to do God adequately, let alone well. But, we must try, and so all of our sacramental and pastoral practices need to reflect a healthy theology of God, that is, reflect the God whom Jesus incarnated and revealed. What did Jesus reveal about God?

First, that God has no favorites and that there must be full equality among races, among rich and poor, among slave and free, and among male and female. No one person, race, gender or nation is more favored than others by God. Nobody is first. All are privileged.

Next, Jesus taught that God is especially compassionate and understanding toward the weak and toward sinners. Jesus scandalized his religious contemporaries by sitting down with public sinners without first asking them to repent. He welcomed everyone in ways that often offended the religious propriety of the time, and he sometimes went against the religious sensitivity of his contemporaries, as we see from his conversation with the Samaritan woman or when he grants a healing to the daughter of a Syro-Phoenician woman. Moreover, he asks us to be compassionate in the same way and immediately spells out what that means by telling us the God loves sinners and saints in exactly the same way. God does not have preferential love for the virtuous.

Shocking to us, too, is the fact that Jesus never defends himself when attacked. Moreover, he is critical of those who, whatever their sincerity, try to block access to him. He surrenders himself to die rather than defend himself. He never meets hatred with hatred and dies loving and forgiving those who are killing him.

Jesus is also clear that it's not necessarily those who explicitly profess God and religion who are his true followers, but, rather those irrespective of their explicit faith or church practice, who do the will of God on earth.

Finally, and centrally, Jesus is clear that his message is, first of all, good news for the poor, that any preaching in his name that isn't good news for the poor is not his gospel.

We need to keep these things in mind even as we recognize the validity and importance of the ongoing debates among and within our churches about whom and what makes for true discipleship and true sacrament. It is important to ask what makes for a true sacrament and what conditions make for a valid and licit minister of a sacrament. It is important, too, to ask who should be admitted to the Eucharist, and it is important to set forth certain norms be followed in preparation for baptism, Eucharist and marriage.

Difficult pastoral questions arise around these issues, among other issues, and this is not suggesting that they should always be resolved in a way that most immediately and simplistically reflects God's universal will for salvation and God's infinite understanding and mercy. Admittedly, sometimes the long-term benefit of living a hard truth can override the short-range need to more quickly take away the pain and the heartache. But, even so, a theology of God that reflects the compassion and mercy of God should always be reflected in every pastoral decision we make. Otherwise, we make God look stupid – arbitrary, tribal, cruel and antithetical to church practice.

Marilynne Robinson says Christianity is too great a narrative to be underwritten by any lesser tale, and that should forbid in particular its being subordinated to narrowness, legalism and lack of compassion.

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.

Sowing the Wind and Reaping the Whirlwind: A Reflection on the Irish Referendum

By Bishop Robert Barron

I will confess that as a person of Irish heritage on both sides of my family, I found the events in Ireland (May 25) particularly dispiriting. Not only did the nation vote, by a two-to-one margin, for the legal prerogative to kill their children in the womb, but they also welcomed and celebrated the vote with a frankly sickening note of gleeful triumph. Will I ever forget the unnerving looks and sounds of the frenzied crowd gathered to cheer their victory in the courtyard of Dublin Castle? As the right to abortion now sweeps

thoroughly across the Western world, I am put in mind of Gloria Steinem's mocking remark from many years ago to the effect that if men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament. I say this because abortion has indeed become a sacrament for radical feminism, the one, absolutely sacred, non-negotiable value for



Bishop Barron

so-called progressive women.

One of the features of the lead-up to the vote – and this has become absolutely commonplace – was the almost total lack of moral argument on the part of the advocates of abortion. There was a lot of political talk about "rights," though the rights of the unborn were never mentioned; and there were appeals to "health care," though the lethal threat to the health of the child in the womb was a nonissue. There was, above all, an attempt to manipulate people's feelings by bringing up rare and extreme cases. But, what one hardly ever heard was a real engagement of the moral argument that a direct attack on a human life is intrinsically evil and as such can never be permitted or legally sanctioned.

Accompanying the entire process, of course, was the subtext of the Catholic Church's cultural impotence, even irrelevance. Every single story that I read in advance of the vote and subsequent to it mentioned the fact that overwhelmingly Catholic Ireland had shaken off the baleful influence of the church and had moved, finally, into the modern world. How sad, of course, that being up-to-date is apparently a function of our capacity to murder the innocent. But, at the same time I must admit – and I say it to my shame as a Catholic bishop – that, at least to a degree, I understand this reaction. The sexual abuse of children on the part of some Irish priests and brothers, not to mention the physical and psychological abuse of young people

perpetrated by some Irish nuns, as well as the pathetic handling of the situation by far too many Irish bishops and provincials, produced a tsunami of suffering and deep injustice.

And, we must remember a principle enunciated by my colleague, Father Stephen Grunow – namely, that the abuse of children in any society, but especially in one as insular and tight-knit as Irish society, has a tremendously powerful ripple effect. When a young person is sexually abused, particularly by a figure as trusted as a priest, that child is massively and permanently hurt; but, once the abuse becomes known, so are his siblings, his parents, his friends, his extended family, his parish. Now multiply this process a dozen times, a hundred times, a thousand times – again, especially in a country as small as Ireland – and you will find that, in very short order, the entire nation is filled with anger, indignation and a legitimate thirst for setting things right. I do believe that what we witnessed (May 25) was a powerfully emotional reaction to the great crimes of the last several decades. The deeply sad truth is that the abuse of young men and women has given rise to an even more dramatic abuse of unborn children. When you sow the wind, you reap the whirlwind.

Is there a way forward for Ireland? I think a significant sign of hope is the considerable number of people who took

To Page 8

Diocesan Rosary

From Page 6

Eucharist and the rosary, the two powerful means given to us to change our lives and our world.

And, last year was just the beginning. This fall, from Oct. 6 to Oct. 12, once again we will all have the opportunity to re-anchor ourselves and our diocese to these two great pillars and to ask Our Lord Jesus and his mother Mary to bring about the changes needed by our families and nation, our own hearts and the whole world.

No one has to miss out on this transformative week. Everyone can be involved, whether you sign up to lead the rosary with your family or ministry or join us by praying the rosary each day from your home. You can come to the daily Masses, participate in the processions or you can pass on

the word to your fellow parishioners. Don't miss out on what the hearts of Jesus and Mary are doing – they want to renew our diocese, our hearts and our country.

For the rosary congress nearest you, contact: in Steubenville, Barbara O'Nan – onanchs@yahoo.com; Marietta, Shelley Medley – shellymedley@aol.com; or in Ironton, Peggy Downs – jdowns60@outlook.com. For additional information on the national diocesan rosary congresses, visit: www.RosaryCongressUSA.org.

Sister Condit is a sister of the Order of the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary, which is located in Hopedale. For additional information on Sister Condit or the order, visit the website: www.heartsofjesusandmary.com.

Sowing The Wind

From Page 7

the extremely unpopular stance against this legislative innovation. Knowing full well that they would likely lose and that they would be subject to ridicule and perhaps even the loss of their professional positions, they courageously argued for life. On that foundation, much of value can be built. But what Ireland most needs at this moment – and indeed for the next hundred years – are saints and mystics. Moral arguments can and should be made, but if the church wants to recover its standing as a shaper of the Irish culture, it has to produce men and women who give themselves radically to the Gospel. It needs figures in the mold of Teresa of Calcutta, Oscar Romero, Francis of Assisi, Dorothy Day – indeed of St. Patrick, St. Brendan, St. Columbanus and St. Brigid. And, it requires men and

women of prayer, like the founders of the great Benedictine, Franciscan, Dominican, Cistercian and Trappist houses that still dot the Irish countryside – and like the strange denizens of Skellig Michael, who for six centuries clung to the edges of the world off the coast of Ireland and lived in total dependence upon God.

Finally, only prayer, witness, radical trust in divine providence, honest preaching and the living of the radical Gospel will undo the damage done (May 25).

Bishop Barron is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, headquartered in Des Plaines, Illinois. A nonprofit global media apostolate, additional information is available at www.wordonfire.org.

Vatican says sports on Sundays are OK, except when used to skip Mass

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A new Vatican document cautions against the dangers of highly competitive children's sports, political and economic pressures on athletes to win "at all costs" and the unsportsmanlike or violent behavior of fans.

The document on sports also calls on every group or institution sponsoring sports programs to have expert-guided child protection policies in place and it urged bishops, parishes and lay Catholics to be proactive in helping "humanize" sports.

The document, "Giving the Best of Yourself," also condoned sports on Sundays as a means of bringing families and communities together in joy and celebration, but only as long as such events are not used as an excuse to miss Mass.

The document was released June 1 by the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, and is the first Vatican document on sports, said Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the dicastery's prefect.

In a message to the cardinal, Pope Francis applauded the document and said, "Sport is a very rich source of values and virtues that help us to become better people."

"We need to deepen the close connection that exists between sport and life, which can enlighten one another," said the pope, who often fondly recalls how he and his family cheered on his favorite soccer team when he was a boy.

The 52-page document highlighted the church's positive view of the important values inherent to sport and blew the whistle on the growing threats in the sports world, including corruption, over-commercialization, manipulation and abuse.

The document – meant for all Catholics and "people of goodwill" – also was an invitation to the church to offer itself as a valuable resource, partner and leader in safeguarding the dignity of the human person and all of creation.

In fact, it made specific reference to the need to protect the environment when it comes to hosting sporting events and to respect animals involved in sports, ensuring "that they are treated in a morally appropriate way and not as mere objects."

It also mentioned briefly the growing and lucrative business of e-Sports, that is, video game competitions and tournaments



Msgr. Mike Burke, better known as Father Mike, prays with Wisconsin Badger football players before their game Nov. 11, 2017, against Iowa. The Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life released a document June 1 at the Vatican on sports, titled "Giving the Best of Yourself," offering guidelines, recommendations and warnings. (CNS photo/Father Nate Wills)

that award large cash prizes and draw huge numbers of spectators.

While not trying to touch on every problem or concern or pinpoint one sport in particular, the document listed what it saw as four serious challenges that are the result of an obsession with success and the huge economic and political pressures put on sports and athletes: the debasement of the body, doping, corruption and the negative behavior of spectators.

"Sports that inevitably cause serious harm to the human body cannot be ethically justified," it said. Given the greater understanding people now have about the harmful effects of some sports on the body, particularly brain damage, all of society must put the well-being and health of the person first.

People are not machines, it said, and parents, coaches and communities must avoid objectifying players, particularly with expectations they receive medals, scholarships, wealth or break records.

"Aberrations of this kind can be seen

in highly competitive children's sports," it said, noting an increase in pushing kids to specialize – often starting very early in life – in one sport intensively year-round, which can result in overuse injuries or eating disorders, particularly in girls' and women's gymnastics.

"Parents have a responsibility of showing children that they are loved for who they are, not for their successes, appearance or physical abilities," it said.

Among the rights of life, dignity and freedom that must be protected in sports is protection against abuse, it said.

"Incidences of abuse of children whether physical, sexual or emotional by coaches, trainers or other adults are a direct affront" to minors, it said, so "institutions that sponsor sports programs for youth, including at the elite level, must develop policies with the help of experts that ensure the safety of all children."

The document called on the church to develop and promote an "apostolate for sports" that shows the church's commit-

ment to the integral well-being and development of the human person in sports and to directly initiate sports-related activities at the local level.

It asked for appropriate pastoral plans for players and athletes – including former professionals who sometimes experience depression and substance abuse when their career comes to an end – as well as for parents and volunteers.

It called for "an educational strategy" to help coaches, teachers and managers seek the "best, most holistic" ways to humanize sports, and it urged seminaries to include formation in the pastoral care of sport as well as opportunities to practice sports, noting its potential as a way to evangelize.

Santiago Perez de Camino, head of the dicastery's Church and Sport Office, was asked about the impact of seeing religious and priests compete in major competitions, like U.S. Father Stephen Gadberry of Arkansas, who was appearing on the reality show, "American Ninja Warrior."

Father Gadberry and all men and women religious athletes offer "a very beautiful witness of how to join faith with sport," he said.

They also show a church that doesn't wait for people to come to them, he said, but one that goes directly onto the field to meet people where they are.

The document drew upon talks and teachings from Popes Pius X to Francis, as well as St. Thomas Aquinas, bishops' conferences and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. It also cited contemporary experts, theologians and athletes, including David Meggyesy, former St. Louis Cardinals linebacker, who detailed the dehumanizing effects of pro-football in his book, "Out of Their League."

Lastly, the document emphasized how sports must always include fun. Competition is meant to fruitfully engage and draw the best out of people, it said, not to face "an enemy who must be annihilated."

Pope Francis, it said, invites people not only to play, but also to "challenge yourself in the game of life," striving for what is good with courage and enthusiasm.

"Don't settle for a mediocre 'tie,' give it your best, spend your life on what really matters and lasts forever," Pope Francis said.

Pope Francis shares childhood memories with Italian school children

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis told Italian schoolchildren that he grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina, “the most beautiful city in the world,” and that besides playing soccer, he loved to fly kites as a child.

“We would make them with cane and paper, light paper. We made them ourselves,” the pope told about 500 children from schools in the poorer neighborhoods of Rome and Milan. In the kite championship, he added, there were prizes for “the prettiest one and for the one that went highest.”

With the children seated around him in the atrium of the Vatican audience hall, Pope Francis answered their questions about his childhood, his school, his vocation and the standard question children ask him, “How did you feel when you were chosen pope?”

Meeting the pope was the culmination of the “Children’s Train” initiative of the Pontifical Council for Culture and the Italian state railroad.

Pope Francis urged the children always to remember their first school and first teacher.

“Can a tree whose roots have been removed produce flowers?” the pope asked. The children shouted, “No.”

People, too, have roots, he said. There are “spiritual roots, home, family and school. That is why I say don’t forget your schools because they are roots of your culture.”

“Do you remember what your teachers were like?” Anna Greta asked the 81-year-old pope.

He said one of his favorite teachers was named Estela; he was in her class both for first and third grade.

“She was great. She taught us how to write and read,” the pope said. Even years later, he said, he remembered her with gratitude because she helped him get started in learning.

“Already as a teenager, then as a priest, I would phone her,” he said. “Then, as a bishop, I helped her when she was sick. She died when she was 94 years old.”



Pope Francis talks with children participating in the “Train of Children” audience at the Vatican. Children from poor suburbs outside Milan arrived on a train that stopped at the Vatican. Also pictured is Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

A boy named Malak asked the pope how he came to understand “that you were to live the life that you lived?”

“I understood in pieces,” the pope answered. First, he decided to study chemistry and he worked as a chemist in a lab for four years, “and I liked this. But at a certain point, I

understood that it did not fulfill me very much and I thought I should do something for others,” like maybe be a doctor.

But then, he said, one year on “the first day of spring in Argentina, Sept. 21,” because it’s in the southern hemisphere, “I felt in my heart that I should become a priest. Bam. In a flash.”

Public comment period now open for proposed Protect Life Rule for Title X

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The public comment period on the Protect Life Rule, a proposed revision to Title X regulations, opened June 1 and will close July 31.

The Office of Population Affairs, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, oversees the Title X Family Planning Program.

In May, the Trump administration proposed reinstating Reagan-era regulations to prevent funds appropriated under Title X from being used in programs that include abortion as a method of family planning or that make abortion referrals. However, the changes would not affect the amount of money spent on Title X grants. When an agency proposes changes to regulations, it specifies a comment period, usually between 30 and 60 days, during which the public may submit comments about the rule. After the comment period closes, the agency will consider the new data and arguments it received from the comments and either terminate, revise, or proceed with the proposed changes.

According to the Office of Population Affairs, the proposed revision is based on the most accurate interpretation of the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970, which enacted Title X. Section 1008 of this act states that “none of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning.”

After looking at this text, the purpose of the statute and the legislative history of the 1970 law, the agency said it has decided “that prohibition includes any action that directly or indirectly facilitates, encourages, or supports in any way the use of abortion as a method of family planning.” Since the current regulations regarding Title X only prevent Title X money from funding activities that directly facilitate abortions, the change is aimed at bringing the regulations in line with the intent of Section 1008.

The proposed Protect Life Rule would reinstate Title X restrictions issued in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan. Planned Parenthood of New York City immediately challenged the rules, claiming the denial of public funds violated their constitutional rights of free speech because the rules included a prohibition on abortion referrals.

In 1991, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 the government had the right to establish rules that fund only family planning programs that do not “encourage, promote or

advocate abortion.” When President Bill Clinton took office in 1993, he reversed the regulations.

When Trump announced the proposed Protect Life Rule to separate abortion from the Title X program, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said it “is greatly needed and deeply appreciated. Abortion always takes the life of a child and often harms the mother, her surviving children, and other family and friends as well.”

With these proposed changes, the Office of Population Affairs, or OPA, said it hopes to address several problems with the current regulations. Under the current regulations, Title X programs must offer abortion counseling and referrals to abortion clinics to pregnant women upon request. The OPA believes that doing so requires that Title X money be used to facilitate abortion, so facilitating abortion contradicts its interpretation of Section 1008.

Concerns regarding the fungibility of money also motivated some of the proposed rule changes, according to the OPA. Current regulations only require that family planning organizations that both receive Title X money and do non-Title X abortion-related activities carefully keep the money for these two functions separate. The OPA said such a setup both creates the appearance that Title X money is funding abortions or abortion-related activities and leads to the danger that Title X funds, whether intentionally or unintentionally, will be used for impermissible purposes.

According to a Guttmacher Institute report, the percentage of abortions performed at “nonspecialized clinics” — that is, a facility which is not a hospital and where less than half of patient visits are for abortion services — has increased from 24 percent in 2008 to 36 percent in 2014.

Since these clinics provide services that are not related to abortion, many of them receive Title X funds and provide Title X services. The OPA believes that the increase in abortions being performed at these clinics, which are currently eligible for Title X funds, requires a change in regulations to ensure that Title X money is not being spent on abortion-related services.

The HHS agency is also concerned that, since providers of Title X services must secure other sources of revenue to be eligible for Title X funds, these other revenue sources

can be used to supply abortion-related services, freeing up Title X funds for other uses. As a result, the OPA said Title X funds can enable abortion-related services to be provided, even if none of the Title X money is spent directly on abortion-related services. Another Guttmacher Institute report found that many providers of family planning services use Title X money in this way.

Title X money comes in the form of a grant, while Medicaid and private insurance, both key sources of revenue for providers, only reimburse for services provided.

“Providers have long relied on that flexibility (of getting direct grants) to hire, train and maintain their staff to meet the diverse needs of their clients and community,” according to the Guttmacher Institute report.

“The upfront investments in staffing, training and infrastructure needed to work effectively with health plans — and to thereby draw in new revenue to serve more clients — are substantial, and flexible funds like those provided through Title X are ideal for such investments,” the report said.

The proposed regulations would require those who receive Title X grants to name subrecipients, referral agencies and other agencies to which Title X money would flow and describe their relationship with those organizations in order to increase oversight of Title X spending.

The changes also would expand monitoring of the use of Title X funds in general and devote more effort to ensuring that the recipients of Title X grants are aware of the various impermissible uses of that money.

In May, 85 national and state pro-life groups, 41 U.S. senators, and 153 U.S. representatives called on President Donald Trump and HHS to issue new regulations to prevent Title X money from being spent on abortion-related services as part of fulfilling his promise on the campaign trail to prevent any taxpayer money from being spent on abortions or abortion-related services.

A plurality of Americans favors the proposed change in regulations. According to a poll conducted by McLaughlin and Associates, 48 percent of Americans favored preventing taxpayer funds from going to clinics that perform or refer for abortions, while 40 percent were opposed.

A Marist poll found that 60 percent of Americans favor prohibiting taxpayer money from being spent on abortions.

Bellaire/Neffs — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. John Parish, Bellaire, and Sacred Heart Parish, Neffs, has a new telephone number; call or text (740) 340-8540. The society serves the less fortunate in the Bellaire and Neffs areas.

Cambridge — A youth Bible study will be held every Wednesday throughout the summer months, following the celebration of the 8:35 a.m. Mass, in the upper room at St. Benedict Church. The Bible study will be led by Father Jonas A. Shell, parochial vicar to Father Paul E. Hrezo, pastor of Christ Our Light Parish, and will follow the "Agape Catholic Bible Study." For additional information, telephone Karen Goggin at (740) 680-0476 or Jack Goggin at (740) 255-4602.

Reverse raffle tickets, benefiting St. Benedict School, will go on sale June 23/24. Tickets cost \$100; grand prize is \$3,000. Fifty-dollar weekly drawings will be held July 3 through Sept. 5. For additional information, telephone (740) 432-7609.

Christ Our Light Parish will hold a vacation Bible school, themed "Splash Canyon," from 6-8 p.m., July 15-19, at St. Benedict Church social hall. For additional information, telephone (740) 432-7609.

The Calix Society, for addiction recovery support, will begin a video series on "Gratitude," at 6:15 p.m., June 16, in the St. Benedict Church conference room. For additional information, telephone (740) 705-1324.

Malvern/Minerva — Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will begin at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Malvern, and St. Gabriel Parish, Minerva. Anyone interested in learning about the Catholic faith can telephone Linda Shaw or Father Victor P. Cinson, pastor of St. Francis Xavier and St. Gabriel parishes, at (330) 868-4498.

A Bible study will be held from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursdays, in the annex meeting rooms at St. Gabriel Church, Minerva. Participants need to bring a Bible; extra Bibles will be available. For additional information, telephone or text Pete Laubacher at (330) 205-9155.

Marietta — Communion of reparation vigil to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be prayed every first Friday of the month, from 7-9 p.m., at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption.

Vacation Bible school, themed "Cathletics: Training to be Champions for Christ," will be held July 30-Aug. 2, at St. Mary School, 320 Marion St. Children ages 4 (as of Sept. 1) through fifth grade can enroll. Students in sixth through 12th grade are needed to be volunteers. Participants must register before July 10, \$5 per student, to receive a free T-shirt. Registration is \$10 after the deadline. For additional information, telephone (740) 373-3643.

Martins Ferry — St. Mary's Infant of Prague Society will pray a 27th annual novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague, with Benediction, at 7 p.m., Mondays, July 2 through Aug. 27, at St. Mary Church, 20 N. Fourth St. For additional information, telephone Shirley Moczek at (304) 810-4688.

St. Clairsville — Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults sessions will begin Aug. 30, at the St. Mary Parish offices. Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith can telephone the parish office at (740) 695-9993.

Steubenville — A blessing of the child in the womb will be offered at the celebration of Mass, at 1 p.m., June 17, at Holy Rosary Church.

A pre-Cana retreat will be held from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Oct. 26, and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 27, at Holy Rosary Church Marian Room, 202 Rosemont Ave. The retreat will conclude with a blessing for engaged couples.

Toronto — The sixth annual "Biasi-Shuma Memorial 5K Run/Walk" will be held July 7, at the Toronto High School Stadium, North River Avenue. Registration will be from 7-8:15 a.m. The 5K runners will begin at 8:30 a.m.; the walkers will begin at 8:35 a.m. Registration costs \$15 per

Adoration at Catholic Central High School



Students at Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, attend adoration at the chapel in the school. Throughout the past school year, adoration was held once a month, with students providing the music and decorating the chapel. (Photo provided)

person. Proceeds benefit the Trinity Health System cardio-pulmonary rehabilitation department. For additional information or for registration, visit https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=129953.

Wintersville — A fourth annual Cynthia Rose Phillipson memorial golf outing, benefitting the Cynthia Rose Phillipson scholarship fund, will

be held from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., July 14, at the Cadiz Country Club, 800 Country Club Road, Cadiz. Cost is \$75 per person. Cynthia was a former parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Wintersville, and a student at Catholic Central High School, Steubenville. For additional information, telephone Bob Phillipson at (740) 264-3404 or Bill Edwards at (740) 264-7410.

Around and About

Carey, Ohio — A "Consolation" event will be held at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, 315 Clay St. Father Jim Sichko, a Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, priest, will be the guest celebrant/homilist at the 5:30 p.m. celebration of Mass, June 30, and the 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon celebration of Masses, July 1. Father Sichko, who travels throughout the United States giving missions, retreats and days of recollection, will share his reflections on "Consolation." He, too, was appointed by Pope Francis as a Missionaries of Mercy in the United States. For additional information, telephone (419) 396-7107 or visit olcshrine.com.

Columbus, Ohio — A Mass, as part of Religious Freedom Week, will be celebrated at 5:15 p.m., June 27, at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St. After Mass, a Holy Hour, with the rosary being prayed, will begin, followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and concluding with Benediction. For

additional information, telephone (614) 241-2540 or email socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org.

Toronto — Lunch, sponsored by Carroll County Resource Center, will be provided for children 1-18 years of age, from 12:45-1:45 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, until the end of August, at Michael Myers Tower, Fifth Street. Children under the age of 5 need to be accompanied by an adult. For additional information, telephone Virginia Stimpert at (740) 317-9142; registration is required.

Wheeling, W.Va. — A "Polish Heritage Day" will be held June 24, at Our Lady of Grace Grotto, 45th and Eoff Streets. A Polish Mass will be celebrated at noon. If it rains, Mass will be celebrated at St. Alphonsus Church, 2111 Market St. Polish food and polka music will be provided at the Polish American Patriot Club, 4410 Jacob St. Dinners will include kielbasa, pierogis, and cabbage rolls; cost for a dinner is \$8.

Obituaries

Mary A. Hogue Arnold, 76, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, May 24.

Julia E. DiBenedetto, 101, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, May 22.

David A. DiCarlo, 63, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, May 11.

John R. "Wiz" Fabian, 86, Mingo Junction, St. Agnes, May 28.

George H. Fisher, 95, St. Mary, Martins Ferry, April 21.

Theodore P. Gahan, 73, St. Francis Xavier, Malvern, May 24.

Roger J. Gazzola, 85, Dillonvale, St. Adalbert, June 2.

Lola A. Geldmacher, 95, Lewisville, St. Sylvester, Woodsfield, June 4.

John P. Harbourt, 76, Mount Pleasant, St. Adalbert, Dillonvale, May 26.

James A. Kliner, 76, St. Peter, Steubenville, June 2.

Theodore E. Lengyel, 85, Dillonvale, St. Adalbert, June 5.

Ralph T. Noonan, 77, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, May 27.

Donna L. Pate, 75, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, May 17.

Jodi A. Peacock, 60, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, May 28.

Guido J. Santangelo, 84, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, May 9.

John Sidorak, 90, St. Mary, Martins Ferry, May 16.

Louis P. Tripodi, 74, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, May 19.

Alice L. Ziler, 70, St. Stephen, Caldwell, May 23.

Raymond A. Zorbini, 70, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, May 30.

Teresa "Dee Dee" Zrinyi, 82, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, June 6.

Tuition assistance



Jim Colegrove, Knights of Columbus Ohio State Council district deputy, pictured right, and Father David L. Huffman, pastor of St. Joseph and St. Lawrence O'Toole parishes, Ironton, and administrator of St. Mary Mission, Pine Grove, present a tuition assistance scholarship to Jared Johnson, center, for \$1,000. Johnson is a student at St. Joseph Central High School, Ironton. Colegrove said the scholarship is based on the need of the individual and the students involvement in school, church and academic excellence. (Photo provided)

Chaplain of the year



Father Wayne E. Morris, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish, Belle Valley; St. Stephen Parish, Caldwell; St. Michael Parish, Carlisle; and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Fulda, pictured left, is presented an award from Mike Nau, pictured right, of the Knights of Columbus Father Kleuber Council 2565, Caldwell. Father Morris received the 2017-18 chaplain of the year award from the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus for the Diocese of Steubenville. (Photo provided)

Papal diplomat says US-North Korea summit brings hope for peace

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Talks between the leaders of the United States and North Korea are “truly historic” and bring hope for the start of a new era of peace, said Pope Francis’ ambassador to Korea.

A “very important” new page has been turned, Archbishop Alfred Xuereb, apostolic nuncio to South Korea and Mongolia, told Vatican News.

“It marks the beginning of a still long and arduous journey, but we are hopeful because the start has been very positive, very good,” he said.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump met on Singapore’s Sentosa Island for the historic summit June 12. It was the first meeting between a sitting U.S. president and a North Korean leader.

Afterward, Trump said Kim would work to end North Korea’s nuclear program. Trump promised to end joint military exercises with South Korea.

After the summit, Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung of Seoul, South Korea, and apostolic administrator of Pyongyang, North Korea, celebrated Mass in Myeongdong Cathedral to pray for



North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump sign documents after their summit at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa Island in Singapore June 12. They are watched by Kim Yo Jong, sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Signing a joint statement, President Trump agreed to provide security guarantees to North Korea and Chairman Kim reaffirmed his commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (CNS photo/Jonathan Ernst, Reuters)

prompt execution of the summit agreement.

“When I heard the news that there was a meaningful agreement between the two summits in their first meeting, I deeply

thanked God to remember our prayers for reconciliation and union of the Korean people,” Cardinal Yeom said in his homily. “I sincerely wish that the agreement can be promptly executed to achieve the common

good not only for Korean people but for all people on the globe.”

He also added prayers for the believers in North Korea to have the freedom of religion and be able to lead humane lives as soon as possible.

Archbishop Xuereb told Vatican News the rhetoric has gone from unleashing “fire and fury” against North Korea to more moderate language “that speaks of peace, of relations based on understanding, therefore, we are truly full of hope and confidence.”

“You can imagine how anxiously the Korean people and the church here in Korea are experiencing this truly historic moment,” the papal nuncio said.

“The Holy See wants to support whatever possible initiative that promotes dialogue and reconciliation” while also taking advantage of being able to take the Gospel message to everyone, he said.

Pope Francis led thousands of people in St. Peter’s Square in prayer June 10, expressing hopes the summit would lead to lasting peace.

“May the talks,” he said, “contribute to the development of a positive path that assures a future of peace for the Korean peninsula and the whole world.”

Pope advances sainthood cause for Mexican mother, Argentine martyrs

By Junno Arocho Esteves

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis issued decrees advancing the sainthood cause of four candidates, including a widowed mother of nine from Mexico, who founded groups for laypeople as well as two religious congregations.

At a meeting with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, the pope signed a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Venerable Concepcion Cabrera Arias, thus paving the way for her beatification.

Another miracle would be needed for her canonization.

Born Dec. 8, 1862, in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, Venerable Cabrera was known for her spiritual devotions and writings. She married Francisco Armida in 1884 and had nine children before his death in 1901.

She founded the “Works of the Cross,” which is a religious order for women. She died in Mexico City in 1937 and was declared venerable by St. John Paul II in 1999.

The pope also recognized the martyrdom of Argentine Bishop Enrique Angel Angelelli Carletti of La Rioja, Fathers Carlos

Murias and Gabriel Longueville, and of a layman, Wenceslao Pedernera.

Bishop Angelelli was killed Aug. 4, 1976, while returning from celebrating a Mass for the two priests who were murdered a month earlier. Pedernera was murdered one week after Fathers Murias and Longueville were murdered.

The Argentine bishop had collected evidence regarding the military’s involvement in the death of the two priests and was targeted for assassination by the dictatorial government. The car he was riding in was forced off the road.

In 1986, the newly established democratic government in Argentina confirmed his death was a homicide.

A recognition of martyrdom means the four can be beatified, a step toward sainthood, without a miracle attributed to them.

The other decrees signed by the pope recognized miracles attributed to:

– Blessed Nunzio Sulprizio, an Italian layman born April 13, 1817. He died in Naples in 1836.

– Venerable Guadalupe Ortiz de Landazuri, a Spanish laywoman. She was born in Madrid in 1916 and died in 1975.

DCCW convention

From Page 1

Lawrence said, "The goal this year is to put smiles on the faces of 60,000 children." Drop-off locations in the Steubenville Diocese for the "Box of Joy" program will be from Nov 3-11.

Prior to the Mass, a memorial service was dedicated for the DCCW women who died in the past year. The women walked up and placed a rose, a symbol of love and affection, on the table in front of the Immaculate Heart of Mary banner.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton celebrated Mass for the participants. The bishop's message to the women, "May the Lord strengthen you in your resolve to be in service to one, in service to all and to help others rediscover the faith that we profess, celebrate, live and pray. The theme of this convention resonates from each and every one of you."

The 2018 DCCW Parish Awards Recognition Program acknowledged the following parishes:

Christ Our Light, Cambridge (Baby shower to donate items to the pregnancy center)

St. Ambrose, Little Hocking (missionary assistance)

St. Henry, Harriettsville (Mother's Day dinner)

St. Mary of the Hills, Buchtel (parish Epiphany party)

St. John the Baptist, Miltsburg (family and community activities)

St. Joseph, Bridgeport (encouragement of Catholic school faculty and staff)

St. Stephen, Caldwell (high school backpack food program)

Holy Family, Steubenville (visits with the sick and elderly)

St. Bernard, Beverly ("Ministry of the Kitchen" opportunities)

Corpus Christi, Belle Valley (gasoline cards for college students)

Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville (eucharistic adoration during the rosary congress)

St. Casimir, Adena (sweet rolls community sale and nursing home donation)

St. James, McConnelsville (attentive to community needs)

St. Agnes, Mingo Junction (veterans' outreach)

Harrison County parishes (cookies for Valley Hospice)

St. John the Baptist, Churchtown (church altar linens and votive candle stand)

St. John Fisher, Richmond (drop-off center for "Box of Joy" program)

St. Francis Xavier, Malvern (joint activities with St. Gabriel Parish, Minerva)

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Barnesville (children's triduum program and egg hunt)

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield (Catholic school "Back to School" decorating)

St. Peter, Steubenville (bake sale and breakfast benefit for seminarians)

Ironton Catholic community (support of clergy and seminarians)

St. Frances Cabrini, Colerain (tea party)

St. Paul and Christ the King University Parish, Athens (children's book of window images)

St. Ann, Chesapeake (chili fest to benefit developmentally disabled)

Mother of Hope Deanery (participation in the "Box of Joy" program)

St. Gabriel, Minerva (senior luncheon)

Holy Cross, Glouster ("Feed the Team")

Toronto Catholic community (ordination reception for Father Joshua D. Erickson)

St. Mary, Shadyside (Halloween party for Parish School of Religion students)

The president of the National Council of Catholic Women, Maribeth Stewart, also praised the theme, "Women Giving with Joy," chosen by the Steubenville DCCW. Stewart said it is beautiful, "It provides so much to think about and opens the vista to what council can do for us, our families, our parishes and diocese, and our world."

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women 2018 convention



Sister Mary Brigid Callan, director, Diocese of Steubenville Office of Stewardship and Development, left, dedicates the convention to the children of the world. In the top center photo, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women participate in the celebration of Mass and share in a luncheon. Convention keynote speaker June Lawrence, right, addresses the participants about Cross Catholic Outreach and the "Box of Joy" program. (Photos by Orsatti)



Current DCCW officers standing, from left, are Carolyn Estadt, historian; Joanne Kolanski, president; Diana R. Vargo, vice president; DeDe Kidder, treasurer; Barbara Trytko, auditor; and Christina Gibbons, secretary. (Photo by Ward)



Women from the DCCW place a rose, a symbol of love and affection, on a table in front of the Immaculate Heart of Mary banner, in memory of DCCW women who died throughout the past year. (Photo by Orsatti)



Council of Catholic Women deanery presidents, pictured, from left, are Donna Archer, from Visitation; Debbie Richards, Nativity of Mary; Pam Ambrose, Presentation; and Diana R. Vargo, Mother of Hope. (Photo by Ward)