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Official

Bishop appoints new vicar general

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton has appointed **Father James M. Dunfee**, pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Mingo Junction, as vicar general.

Father Dunfee replaced **Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo**, who resigned from his position as vicar general of the Diocese of Steubenville, April 27, due to health reasons. Msgr. Kemo held that position since 2002.

Msgr. Kemo will remain pastor of Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes, Wintersville.

News Briefs

Pope makes historic appointments

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis appointed three women as consultants to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. It marks the first time women and laypersons were named as active contributors – not support staff.

The Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, called the decision to appoint the women "historic."

The new female consultants are:

- Linda Ghisoni, born in Italy in 1965, one of two women Pope Francis named to be undersecretaries of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life in 2017. Ghisoni is a canon lawyer and jurist, having served as both a lawyer and a judge on the Diocese of Rome's tribunal and the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

- Michelina Tenace, born in Italy in 1954, is a professor and head of the department of fundamental theology at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University. She was one of the six men and six women the pope appointed in 2016 to a commission to study the issue of women deacons, particularly their ministry in the early church.

- Laetitia Calmeyn, born in Belgium in 1975, teaches theology at the College des Bernardins in Paris. She is a nurse specializing in palliative care and received her doctorate from the John Paul II Pontifical Theological Institute.

Murdered youth pastor is beatified

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A young Hungarian priest who was lured into a forest and beaten and stabbed to death is the latest East European martyr declared blessed by the Catholic Church.

Father Janos Brenner, who died in 1957, was beatified May 1. He was just two weeks shy of his 26th birthday when he was murdered.

"The communist dictatorship sought to trample on the faith and frighten the church, subduing and quenching the light emanating from it," Bishop Janos Szekely of Szombathely said in a statement on the diocesan website.

Father Brenner had been a Cistercian novice, but when the communist government banned religious orders in 1950, he entered a diocesan seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1955.

Bishop cooperates with authorities following investigation

By Dino Orsatti
Editor

STEUBENVILLE — Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton said he has been advised that legal action will be taken against the former diocesan comptroller due to his actions.

Auditors with Schneider Downs completed their report after their investigation of the diocesan finance office and revealed their finding to the Bodman law firm, which has reported that information to Bishop Monforton.

The diocese is cooperating with the appropriate taxing authorities concerning these findings. The bishop said, "A misallocation of funds in the finance office occurred between 2004 and 2016, as a result of actions of the former comptroller. Payroll taxes were withheld from employees' checks, but the money was not sent to the appropriate taxing authorities. The money that should have been used to pay employee withholding taxes was instead apparently used for other diocesan purposes."

The bishop went on to say, "Because of this failure to pay withholding taxes, the diocese has paid back 3.5 million dollars to proper taxing authorities. The money used to pay the taxing authorities came from liquidating

unrestricted diocesan investments."

The bishop said the former comptroller made it appear to the finance council that the diocese was operating in the black every year, when in fact, the diocese was losing money during those years. He said fiscal austerity measures have been implemented.

The bishop said the former diocesan chief financial officer during those years, who also served as vicar general, did not exercise appropriate administrative oversight with the finance office.

The diocese has taken steps to assure these financial irregularities will never happen again: a new chief financial officer of the diocese, Patrick Henry, was hired in October 2017; new financial controls have been implemented, including use of a third-party payroll processor; for every check issued by the diocese, two signatures will be required; and annual independent audits, which began last year, will continue every year.

Bishop Monforton added, "As shepherd of the diocese, I take responsibility for actions that have occurred in the finance office. I am confident that the new measures and internal controls we have adopted have fully resolved the situation and will assure that these irregularities do not occur in the future."

Deacon Erickson to be ordained to the priesthood



Transitional Deacon Joshua D. Erickson stands with Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton following his ordination to the diaconate at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, June 3, 2017. (Photo provided)

By Dino Orsatti
Editor

TORONTO — Transitional Deacon Joshua D. Erickson will be ordained to the priesthood during a 7p.m. Mass May 18, celebrated by Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Toronto.

The 28-year-old deacon is the son of Chris and Jody Erickson of Toronto. Deacon Erickson, the second of 10 children, was born in Bolingbrook, Illinois, but moved to the Ohio Valley at an early age. The Ericksons were members of Sacred Heart Parish, Hopedale, before moving to Toronto, where they are members of St. Joseph Parish.

Deacon Erickson was home-schooled through high school and received a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville in 2012.

The deacon said, "When I was three or four years old, I told my uncle, Father David J. Erickson (Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming) that I wanted to become a priest." The deacon said his vocation became stronger when he was a junior in college and when he studied in Austria his senior year. "Faith in God deepened while visiting churches in Rome and in other cities in Europe. I knew God was calling me to the seminary," according to the deacon.

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Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary and Junior High celebrate 10 years

By Matthew A. DiCenzo
Staff writer

STEUBENVILLE — Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary School, 100 Etta Ave., and Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School, 320 West View Ave., Suite 2, both in Steubenville, celebrated a 10-year anniversary April 27. Students from both schools gathered in Berkman Theater, Lanman Hall, at Catholic Central High School, 320 West View Ave., Steubenville, for the celebration of Mass on Bishop Mussio Day. Father James M. Dunfee, newly appointed vicar general for the Diocese of Steubenville, pastoral administrator of the elementary and junior high, and pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Mingo Junction, as well as Permanent Deacon Thomas E. Graham, celebrated the Mass.

Awards were distributed to faculty for years of service and excellence following the Mass. Former students, who were the first graduating class from Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary and Junior High, attended the celebration, as well.

"It's exciting to hit the 10-year mark," said Theresa Danaher, principal of Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary and Junior High. "We're celebrating new traditions that have been built over the past 10 years."

The schools, officially established July 1, 2008, were created from a realignment of parochial schools in Steubenville — All Saints Central, Aquinas Central and Holy Rosary Central — which closed after the 2007-08 school year. When St. Agnes Central, Mingo Junction, closed in 2007 and St. Francis Central, Toronto, closed in 2010, students from those parochial schools were welcomed to the Steubenville schools, as well.

"There was a lot of apprehension at first from families that were dealing with the closing of schools to form the new elementary and junior high schools," Danaher said. "Families had to give up a lot. But, over time, things got progressively better, and new traditions were built, which makes this celebration special."

The restructuring of the Steubenville Catholic schools was a result of an education task force, which was created to consider the future of Catholic education in the city. The task force unanimously recommended the realignment of schools, which was accepted by then-Diocese of Steubenville Bishop R. Daniel Conlon, currently the bishop of Joliet, Illinois.

In November 2007, members of the Local Education Advisory councils, which were comprised of parents from parishes



Father James M. Dunfee, newly appointed vicar general for the Diocese of Steubenville, pastoral administrator of Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary and Junior High schools, Steubenville, and pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Mingo Junction, pictured right, and Permanent Deacon Thomas E. Graham, at left, celebrate Mass at Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, in Berkman Theater, Lanman Hall, April 27. Students and faculty from both schools attended the Mass, which also celebrated the schools' 10th anniversary. (Photo by DiCenzo)

that supported the Steubenville Catholic schools, then-pastoral administrators of the schools Msgr. Gerald E. Calovini and Father Richard J. Tuttle, as well as principal and vice principals designate Theresa DiPiero, Victoria Nurczyk and Danaher, met to decide the name of the schools. It was decided that the schools would be named in honor of the Diocese of Steubenville's first bishop, and that the preschool through six-grade students would be educated in the Aquinas and Holy Rosary school buildings, becoming the Lovers Lane and Rosemont campuses, respectively, and the seventh- and eighth-grade students in the junior high would be educated in a wing at Catholic Central High School. Bishop Mussio's episcopal motto, "Charity Impels Us," was chosen as the motto for the schools.

Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary and Junior High schools opened for the 2008-09 school year. Before the beginning of the inaugural year, renovations began at the high school to prepare the facility for the junior high in a wing of the school, becoming the first Catholic junior high school in the Steubenville Diocese. Renovations were estimated to cost around \$250,000.

DiPiero, who at the time was principal at Holy Rosary Central, became the first principal of the elementary school, and Nurczyk became the elementary vice principal. Danaher, who was previously the principal at All Saints Central, became the principal of the junior high school.

The elementary school operated at two locations, the Lovers Lane and Rosemont campuses, until the 2010-11 school year, when the school was consolidated into the

Rosemont campus building, located behind Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, which is nearby to the high school and the junior high. The athletic programs at the school have continued to use the Lovers Lane building's gymnasium.

Kathy Butler became the principal of the elementary in July 2012. In July 2015, Danaher, became principal of the elementary school and continued as the principal of the junior high. Danaher is currently serving in both capacities.

Throughout the years, even as recent as the 2016-17 school year, Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School and one of its teachers, now currently the vice principal of the junior high, Sandy Morelli, received awards for excellence in STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The school has been consistently singled out by the Ohio Academy of Science and awarded the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research accomplishments. Students have also qualified for the district fair, as well as the State Science Day. STEM education is also integrated into the classrooms, with the usage of Smart Boards, math competitions

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St. Mary School holds appreciation luncheon



Students at St. Mary School, Marietta, as well as parents and community members, attend a community appreciation luncheon at St. Mary School Parish Center April 18. The students began the pasta lunch with the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by an invocation from Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, and pastoral administrator of St. Mary School. The lunch was held during the Diocese of Steubenville's version of Catholic Schools Week, as a way to thank everyone who supports the school, said Tammi Bradley, who handles marketing and community relations for St. Mary School. (Photo by DiCenzo)

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“Women Giving with Joy,” DCCW convention theme

By Dino Orsatti
Editor

The 73rd annual convention of the Steubenville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) will be held June 6 at Holy Family Church, Steubenville. The theme of this year’s convention is, “Women Giving with Joy.”

Steubenville DCCW President Joanne Kolanski and past president and current treasurer DeDe Kidder said the keynote speaker will be June Lawrence, development officer at Cross Catholic Outreach, a ministry founded to help the poor throughout the world. Lawrence has worked for Cross Catholic since 2005, first in clergy and diocesan relations and now in the parish and services department.

Lawrence will focus her presentation on the convention’s giving theme, including her ministries’ Box of Joy program, which delivers food and provides shelter and hope to the poorest of the poor. “We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God, and we hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards,” Lawrence explained.

Born in Barbados, Lawrence migrated to Jamaica at an early age. A graduate of the University of West Indies, she also completed some of her studies in England, before coming to the United States in 2003. She received a master’s degree in counseling psychology from Trinity International University in 2010. She has been married to Donald Lawrence for 36 years. The couple has two adult sons and one granddaughter.

Women from throughout the diocese will gather at Holy Family Church, 2608 Hollywood Blvd., at 8:15 a.m., for the registration. The business meeting will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the memorial service and Liturgy of the Eucharist at 11 a.m., with Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton as the celebrant.

Following Mass, lunch will be served and an afternoon program will be presented.

Overnight accommodations can be made at the Best Western Plus Franciscan Square Inn and Suites, 200 Franciscan Square, Steubenville, OH, 43952. Discounts for block rates end May 5. To receive the discount, reservations must be made by phone and notice given that the caller is with the DCCW. The preconvention dinner will be held June 5, at Bella



June Lawrence

(Photo provided)

Hall, corner of Braybarton Road and Sunset Boulevard, Steubenville. The social hour begins at 6:00 p.m., with dinner served at 7:00 p.m.

Reservation forms and checks, made payable to the DCCW, should be mailed to Kidder, P.O. Box 31, Toronto, OH 43964. Reservations are due by May 29.

During the convention, a raffle, to benefit diocesan seminarians, will be held under the sponsorship of the Visitation Deanery Council of Catholic Women.

Questions can be raised to Kolanski by telephoning (740) 695-1617 or email, jkolanski51@comcast.net; or Kidder, (740) 632-3018 or email, dede.kidder@gmail.com.

Bishop Monforton’s Schedule

May

- 7-10 Annual priests’ retreat, Loyola Retreat Center, Clinton, Ohio
- 10 Speaker, Serra Club, Steubenville Country Club, noon
- 11 Baccalaureate Mass, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 6 p.m.
- 12 Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, St. Clairsville, 4:30 p.m.
- 14-17 Region VI bishops’ retreat, Washington, Michigan
- 17 Diocesan Information Systems Conference conference call, 3:30 p.m.
- 18 Preordination dinner, Toronto, 5 p.m.
Priesthood ordination, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Toronto, 7 p.m.
- 19 First Mass, Father Joshua D. Erickson, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Toronto, 10 a.m.
Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Ironton, 5:15 p.m.

Deacon Erickson

From Page 1

After taking a year off from school after graduation, Deacon Erickson spent two years at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, Colorado, before he said it was clear that God was calling him to his home diocese. That’s when Bishop Monforton assigned him to the Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, where he has been since 2015.

Deacon Erickson added, “I have been blessed to have Msgr. Daniel Trapp as my spiritual director. His mentoring in prayer and healing will help me in my future ministry. I am also incredibly grateful to my classmates and faculty here at Sacred Heart, who have challenged me to grow in my faith.”

Deacon Erickson will graduate from the Sacred Heart Major Seminary this month with a Master’s of Divinity and Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology.

Deacon Erickson served as a deacon at St. Ambrose

Church, Little Hocking, during the summer of 2017 and St. Mary Church, Royal Oak, Michigan, in the fall of 2017 and this past winter. Some of the deacons’ outside interests include hunting, traveling, and hanging out with friends and family.

As far as his upcoming ordination and taking that next big step in his life, he continued, “I have been praying a lot about my decision to become a priest and I’m at peace knowing that God will be there for me.” When his mother told him his ordination date is the birthdate of St. John Paul II, Deacon Erickson remarked, “That’s pretty awesome.”

When asked what he looks forward to most about becoming a priest, the deacon replied, “I want to celebrate the Mass.” Following ordination to the priesthood, Deacon Erickson will be appointed parochial vicar to Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta.

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Students at St. Benedict School display charity efforts at 'Learning Fair'



Students from St. Benedict School, Cambridge, chose the theme "Solidarity and Care of God's Creation" for the 2017-18 school year. Each grade level chose a project, which the students worked on throughout the year. A "Learning Fair" was held in the school gymnasium April 19, where students presented their work. Pictured at the "Learning Fair," in the left photo, from left, are Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity June Smith, Claire Calvert, Jakob Adamik and Ella Binkiewicz. Pictured at right, from left, are Owen Buxton, Rhonda Masters, Samantha Delik and Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity Sharon Paul; an observer is visible in back. For "Project Linus," students made blankets and distributed them to Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio. Another project titled "The Humane Society," involved students collecting newspapers for cats; socks were also collected and filled with catnip. Students then visited the humane society and entertained the cats. With project "Books for Africa," students collected 141 books, which were sent to Africa. Project "Clothing Drive" featured children collecting clothes, which were sold to family stores. The proceeds helped fund adult rehabilitation centers. The "Hands Down: First Responders Are The Best" project consisted of students visiting a fire station and bringing care packages and thank you cards to those who work there. They were given a tour of the station, learned about the firefighters and equipment they used, and witnessed a call while there. For project "Sgt. Joel Thompson: Our Hero," students sent letters and care packages to Thompson and the troops in his group. A former student of St. Benedict School, Thompson served in Afghanistan. He made a visit to the school students when he returned home. (Photos provided)

Pope asks Catholics to pray the rosary for peace each day in May

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis prayed that the hopes for peace strengthened by the meeting of the leaders of North and South Korea will not be dashed, and he urged Catholics during the month of May to pray the rosary for peace.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in made a "courageous commitment" to ongoing dialogue to achieve "a Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons," Pope Francis said April 29, after leading some 30,000 people in praying the "Regina Coeli."

"I pray to the Lord that the hopes for a future of peace and more brotherly friendship will not be disappointed and

that the collaboration may continue bringing good fruits for the beloved Korean people and the whole world," the pope said.

Noting that May is a month the Catholic Church dedicates to Mary in a special way, Pope Francis told the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square that he would begin the month with a visit to Rome's Shrine of Divine Love and lead a recitation of the rosary there.

"We will recite the rosary praying particularly for peace in Syria and the whole world," the pope said. "I invite you to spiritually join me and to prolong for the whole month of May praying the rosary for peace."

Child protection contact named

STEUBENVILLE — Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton has announced that any incidents regarding any abuse of a child in the Steubenville Diocese needs to be directed to Thomas S. Wilson, attorney, diocesan Office of Civil Law.

The announcement was made after Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, the diocese's former vicar general, resigned April 27. Wilson will handle any reports of abuse

in the diocese.

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 secular authorities.

Wilson can be reached in the downtown Steubenville chancery, 422 Washington St.; via telephone (740) 282-3631; or by emailing twilson@diosteub.org.

Bishop John King Mussio

From Page 2

and a focus on engineering principles. In addition, the school has a partnership with the Jefferson County Soil and Water staff for stream monitoring and Trinity Health System, Steubenville, which provides a minicourse on medical careers.

Community service and charity have been a great importance for the schools' students, as well, Danaher noted. Students have gone to the soup kitchen at Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville, to volunteer throughout the years and have raised money for various causes – including Mary's Meals in 2017, as part of the Scottish International Relief, for students who are among the less fortunate.

Danaher said the number of students at the elementary school has grown throughout the past decade. In addition to the increase of students, Danaher said a new playground has been added, as well as a

special education program, which has been established for approximately five years at the elementary, junior high and the high school.

The Steubenville Catholic schools receive support from Triumph of the Cross, St. Peter and Holy Family parishes in Steubenville; Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes, Wintersville; St. Agnes, Mingo Junction; St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph, Toronto; and St. John Fisher, Richmond.

Currently, Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary has 380 students enrolled at the school and Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High has 110 students enrolled.

Danaher said she appreciates all the people who have made Bishop John King Mussio Central schools a success and thanked everyone who attended the 10-year anniversary celebration.

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Clergy abuse survivors grateful after private meetings with Pope Francis

By Junno Arocho Esteves

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After private meetings with Pope Francis, three survivors of clergy sexual abuse from Chile said they felt they had been heard and were hopeful for changes in the way the Catholic Church handles accusations of abuse.

“I spoke for more than two and a half hours alone with Pope Francis. He listened to me with great respect, affection and closeness, like a father. We talked about many subjects. Today, I have more hope in the future of our church. Even though the task is enormous,” Juan Carlos Cruz tweeted April 29 after meeting with the pope.

Pope Francis had invited Cruz, James Hamilton and Jose Andres Murillo to stay at the Domus Sanctae Marthae, the Vatican residence where he lives, and to meet with him individually April 27-29. The three were to meet with the pope again as a group April 30.

Although the three survivors tweeted after their private

meetings, Greg Burke, director of the Vatican press office, said Pope Francis “expressly wished” that no official statements would be released by the Vatican regarding his discussions with the survivors.

“His priority is to listen to the victims, ask their forgiveness and respect the confidentiality of these talks,” Burke said in a statement April 27. “In this climate of trust and reparation for suffering, the desire of Pope Francis is to allow his guests to speak as long as necessary, in a way that there is no set timetable or pre-established content.”

In a tweet sent after his April 27 meeting, Murillo said he spoke with Pope Francis for two hours and that “in a respectful and frank way, I expressed the importance of understanding abuse as an abuse of power, of the need to assume responsibility, of care and not just forgiveness.”

Hamilton sent two tweets April 28 shortly after his meeting with the pope, saying that it lasted a “little over two



Pope Francis met with three survivors of clergy sexual abuse from Chile, who said they felt they had been heard and were hopeful for changes in the way the Catholic Church handles accusations of abuse. Pope Francis had invited Juan Carlos Cruz, James Hamilton and Jose Andres Murillo to stay at the Domus Sanctae Marthae, the Vatican residence where he lives, and to meet with him individually April 27-29. (CNS photo)

hours” and that it was “sincere, welcoming and enormously constructive.”

I am “very happy and satisfied,” he said.

The Chilean survivors have alleged that Bishop Juan Barros of Osorno – then a priest – had witnessed their abuse by his mentor, Father Fernando Karadima. In 2011, Father Karadima was sentenced to a life of prayer and penance by the Vatican after he was found guilty of sexually abusing boys.

Although he initially defended his 2015 appointment of Bishop Barros as head of the Diocese of Osorno, Pope Francis apologized after receiving a 2,300-page report from a trusted investigator he sent to Chile to listen to people with information about the bishop.

The investigator, Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta, is president of a board of review within the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; the board handles appeals filed by clergy accused of abuse or other serious crimes. The archbishop also had 10 years of experience as the Vatican’s chief prosecutor of clerical sex abuse cases at the doctrinal congregation.

After a “careful reading” of the testimonies, “I believe I can affirm that all the testimonies collected speak in a brutal way, without additives or sweeteners, of many crucified lives and, I confess, it has caused me pain and shame,” the pope said April 11 in a letter to the bishops of Chile.

The pope also said he was convening a meeting in Rome with the Chilean bishops to discuss the findings of the investigations and his own conclusions “without prejudices nor preconceived ideas, with the single objective of making the truth shine in our lives.”

The three survivors, who have been outspoken about the church’s handling of abuse cases, welcomed Pope Francis’ letter and accepted his invitation to meet so he could ask “forgiveness of all those I have offended.”

Bishop Monforton celebrates Mass with Catholic schools



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton celebrated Mass at St. John Church, Bellaire, with Catholic school students and faculty from St. John Central Grade and High School, Bellaire; St. Mary Central School, Martins Ferry; and St. Mary Central School, St. Clairsville. The Mass was celebrated during Bishop Monforton’s visits to Catholic schools in the diocese’s version of Catholic Schools Week. (Photo provided)

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St. John Paul II The Spirit and New Life

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

“The Holy Spirit ... is the inner source of the new life which Christ shares with those who believe in him.” Thus, St. John Paul II begins his consideration of the new life of the Christian that is sometimes referred to as “life in the Spirit,” “born again,” etc. These are recent terms, of course, and can be misleading. For many they mean an initiative on the part of the individual to turn over a new leaf, or the result of an urge for spiritual self-betterment that touches a person and moves him or her to join a group of similarly moved enthusiasts. We must remember that we are speaking here of a work in which the Holy Spirit is the effective cause, not the individual who is the benefactor of the Spirit’s action. That action can take place even without the recipient knowing or choosing it, e.g., in infant baptism. To best understand it, let us go, with the pope, to what sacred Scripture and the traditional understanding of the church has to tell us.

St. Paul speaks of this life of the Spirit at length in the 12th Chapter of his Letter to the Romans, e.g., “If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies through the Spirit that dwells in you” (Rom 8:11). John Paul describes it as “... (A) new state of life begun in our hearts ‘through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us’” (Rom 5:5). We use the word, *grace*, (in Greek, “Charis”) to designate it. We saw before that the word means a “gift” and its root is seen in words like *grateful*, *gratitude*, *gracious*, etc., as well as in *charism* and *charity*. The pope quotes Thomas Aquinas to the effect that, “This life is developed not only by the natural faculties of man – intellect and will, and senses – but, also, by the new capacities that are added on along with grace.” Among other things, these capacities include faith in what has been revealed and participation in that divine Love that is the Holy Spirit himself! Such faith and love are essential conditions of one’s eternal salvation.

We speak of a “state of grace,” that the pope says “is like a new interior organism in which the law of grace is made manifest: a law written in hearts rather than on stone tablets or manuscripts.” St. Peter tells us: “His divine power has bestowed on us everything that makes for life and devotion. ... (H)e has bestowed on us precious and very great promises, so that through them you may come to share in the divine nature. ...” (2 Pt 1:3-4). Moreover, the pope tells us that this divine life that we share is received by each “in the concrete existential situation in which he or she lives, according to the measure of God’s love from which each one’s vocation, journey and spiritual history take their origin.” Unpacking all that, he’s saying that we share the divine life of God in proportion as we love God, which, itself, is a work of grace that God “custom-fits” to the needs and circumstances of each individual. Notice that “grace” is being used both in the sense of a *state* in which the soul is the recipient of the Holy Spirit as well as a kind of *helping hand* that the Holy Spirit gives the soul when needed. This is as good a place as any to make the distinction between *habitual* and *actual* grace.

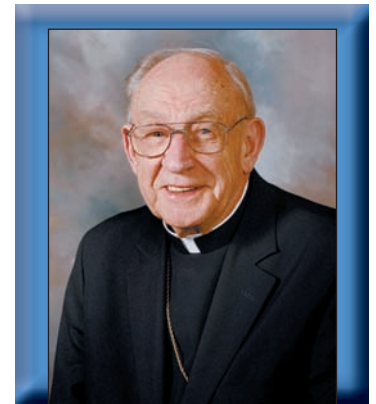
Habitual or “sanctifying” grace is a participation in the divine life itself as a result of the Holy Spirit’s indwelling in our soul. It is that “new life” of which Our Lord spoke in his dialogue with Nicodemus: “‘No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said. ... ‘How can a man be born again?’ ... Jesus answered, ‘Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit’” (Jn 3: 3-7). (We see here the true meaning of being “born again”). Simply put, it means being “in the state of grace.” That comes normally through baptism, but can come about extrasacramentally by direct action of the Holy Spirit. After all, God can act “outside the box,” if he so chooses!

“Actual” grace is a push or nudge that the indwelling Spirit gives us to do good or avoid evil. It’s expressed very well in the familiar hymn: “Come Holy Ghost, creator

blest, and in our hearts take up thy rest; come with thy grace and heavenly aid to fill the hearts which thou hast made ... etc.” Zeroing in on these “pushes and nudges,” i.e., actual graces, brings us to the “Gifts of the Holy Spirit.”

John Paul says of these gifts: “The medieval theology of the seven gifts was thus developed, which, although not having an absolutely dogmatic character and so not claiming to limit the number of gifts or the specific categories ... has been and remains very useful both in understanding the variety of gifts ... and giving a good structure to the spiritual life.” The seven gifts are identified as: *wisdom* (appreciation of ultimate goals, such as one’s own salvation); *understanding* (especially of divine revelation and its application); *knowledge* (of the things of God as compared to those of earthly existence); *counsel* (regarding decisions and their impact on the spiritual life); *fortitude* (ability to face crosses of whatever kind as we go through life); *piety* (orientation of one’s life in relation to God); *fear of the Lord* (“filial fear,” as a child toward a parent, involving love more than fear of punishment). Catechisms usually do not make distinctions as to degrees of dogmatic authority an item has. To do so would mean to go into all the nuances involved between revelation and theological speculation. That would turn a catechism into a theology manual and defeat the purpose of a catechism.

In essence, the “Gifts of the Spirit” indicate various areas in which actual graces are applicable from the Holy Spirit. As the pope says, this is not an exhaustive list – there may be many other areas as well. However, it is a handy guide for the spiritual life in that we can identify areas in which we can evaluate our own moral behavior, and, for the teacher, catechist, or spiritual director, that of pupils or clients.



Bishop Sheldon

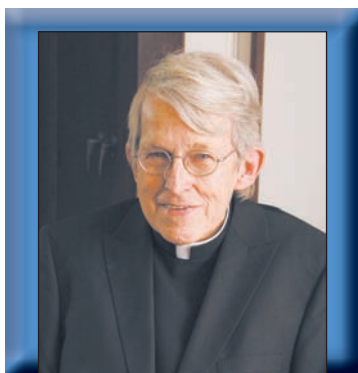
“We must remember that we are speaking here of a work in which the Holy Spirit is the effective cause, not the individual who is the benefactor of the Spirit’s action.”

The Dawn That Scattered Darkness Sixth Sunday of Easter/Ascension

By Father Paul J. Walker

As the Easter season draws to its close, it is helpful to put together all of the Scripture readings (daily and weekends) in order to understand and appropriate to ourselves the event that is the central proclamation of all those readings – it is the “kerygma” of our Christian faith (see, 1 Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verses 3-8).

The four Evangelists are not in agreement in many parts of their narratives, but one thing on which they all agree is the slow and sluggish way in which Jesus’ closest followers recognized him after his resurrection. This has implications for our faith individually and as the church, the body of Christ. The New Testament approaches this mystery, I believe, on two levels or, perhaps more clearly, on two tracks running parallel to one another. These are the four Gospel



Father Walker

narratives and the preaching and writing of St. Paul.

The approach of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John is narrative, that is, they are storytellers. Each takes parts of the oral tradition and arranges it to suit his own time and the particular audience for whom he writes. Therefore, we see right away that these four Evangelists are not biographers, nor are they historians. The major consensus of biblical scholars is that none were eyewitnesses to the public life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Furthermore, we can say they are not writing to *prove* anything! Their audiences are already believers involved in the proclamation of the Gospel and the ongoing task of building up the church.

Mark’s audience is the church as its persecution becomes the official polity of the Roman Empire (A.D. 64). Mark’s Gospel is often referred to as “good news for hard times. ...” His Gospel has no infancy narratives and the final 12 verses of his last chapter (16) are a later addition. His original narrative carries no accounts of appearances of the risen Jesus.

Matthew and Luke both tell stories surrounding Jesus’ birth as well as his appearances and interaction with his disciples after the resurrection. Their stories are similar, but not identical. They arrange the material in the oral tradition differently, and they have stories that are unique to each

Evangelist. John’s Gospel is altogether unique. John draws from stories in an oral tradition apparently unknown to the
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Theological Virtues

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

“So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Cor 13:13).

The theological virtues of faith, hope and love provide us essential spiritual focus every day of our lives. They are the so-called *lines of sight* that permit us to see our lives as God sees our lives. The divinely inspired words of sacred Scripture, more specifically, these words from First Corinthians today motivate us into action, namely, we take inventory of where we have been, where we are right now and where we go.

Faith is exercised in our openness and response to God’s presence. According to the Letter to the Hebrews, faith is a “sine qua non,” or it is spiritually necessary: “And without faith it is impossible to please him. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Heb 11:6). The groundwork of hope and charity intrinsically depends on the existence of faith. Faith, a gift from God, enables us to look beyond the horizon of unaided reason, to go beyond what the eyes see and the ears hear. Perhaps, we can ask ourselves: How do we allow Our Lord to strengthen our faith to penetrate the seemingly im-

pregnable walls of pride and selfishness?

Hope finds expression in prayer. We acknowledge this need for prayer because of our desire to have an interconnectedness with God, but, also, to have the ability to address the challenges before us. Anyone here who has confronted the challenges of family tragedy or compromised health is well aware that their prayer style or even content takes on a different form. If hope finds strength and expression in prayer, how do you and I pray, and do we expressly ask Our Lord for hope?

The law of *love* Jesus shares with his disciples is not reserved simply for the vertical relationship between the person and God. It extends also to the horizontal rapport between persons. In each person, one is invited to see Jesus himself. This virtue enables us to imitate the one who loves us. The disciples are commissioned and held accountable for communicating the love of God, which Jesus has shared with them.

Our communion in love reflects the reality of our communal life with God, both as being made in the image of God and of being children of God. Jesus’ divine love constitutes the radical dynamism of all Christian existence. Do we recognize the loving relationship we have with Our Lord as well as with one another, or is our love exclusive in only one way or the other?

Spiritual complacency is an unwelcome guest in the Diocese of Steubenville. Faith, hope and love give real substance and balance to our personal relationship with



Bishop Monforton

God and neighbor. Everything owes its origin to God’s love and is shaped by it. Perhaps we should ask the question: How do we embrace this symphony of the theological virtues as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ risen?

May you and your family have a blessed month of Our Lady, of our mother, Mary, the month of May.

Reasons to Believe in God

By Father Ron Rolheiser

Today, belief in God is often seen as a naivete. For many, believing in God is like believing in Santa and the Easter Bunny, nice, something for the kids, a warm nostalgia or a bitter memory, but not something that’s real, that stands up to hard scrutiny and indeed stands up to the dark doubts that sometimes linger below the surface of our faith. Where’s there evidence that God exists?

A true apologetics, I believe, needs at a point to be personal. So, here are my own reasons why I continue to believe in God in the face of the agnosticism of our overly adult world and despite the dark nights that sometimes beset me.

First, I believe in God because I sense, at the deepest level of my being, that there’s an inalienable moral structure to things. Life, love and meaning are morally contoured. There’s an inalienable “law of karma” that’s experienced everywhere and in everything: good behavior is its own happiness, just as bad behavior is its own sorrow. Different religions word it differently, but the concept is at the heart of all religion and is in essence the very definition of

morality: *The measure you measure out will be the measure that’s measured back to you.* That’s Jesus’ version of it, and can be translated this way: *The air you breathe out is the air you will re-inhale.* Simply put: If we cut down too many trees, we will soon be breathing in carbon monoxide. If we

breathe out love, we will meet love. If we breathe out hate and anger, we will soon enough find ourselves surrounded by hatred and anger. Reality is so structured that goodness brings goodness and sin brings sin.

I believe in God because blind chaos could not have designed things this way, to be innately moral. Only an intelligent Goodness could have built reality this way.

My next reason for believing in God is the existence of soul, intelligence, love, altruism and art. These could not have emerged simply from blind chaos, from billions and billions of cosmic bingo chips coming out of nothing, with no intelligent loving force behind them, endlessly churning through billions of years. Random chaos, empty of all intelligence and love from its origins, could not have eventually produced soul and all that’s highest inside it: intelligence, love, altruism, spirituality and art. Can our own hearts and all that’s noble and precious within them really be just the result of billions of fluke chances colliding within a brute, mindless process?

I believe in God because if our hearts are real then so is God.

Next, I believe in God because the Gospel works – if we work it. What Jesus incarnated and taught ultimately resonates with what’s most precious, most noble, and most meaningful inside of life and inside each of us. Moreover, this checks out in life. Whenever I have the faith and courage to actually live out the Gospel, to roll the dice on its truth, it always proves to be true, the loaves multiply and feed the thousands and David defeats Goliath. But, it doesn’t work unless I risk it. The Gospel works, if we work it.

The objection could be raised here, of course, that many sincere, faith-filled people risk their lives and truth on the Gospel and, from all appearances in this world, it doesn’t work for them. They end up poor, as victims, on the losing side of things. But again, that’s a judgment we make from

the standards of this world, from the gospel of prosperity, where whoever has the most worldly success wins. The Gospel of Jesus undercuts this. Anyone who lives it out, as faithfully as he or she is able, will be blessed with something beyond worldly success, namely, the deeper joy of a life well-lived, a joy which Jesus assures us is deeper, less ephemeral and more lasting than any other joy.

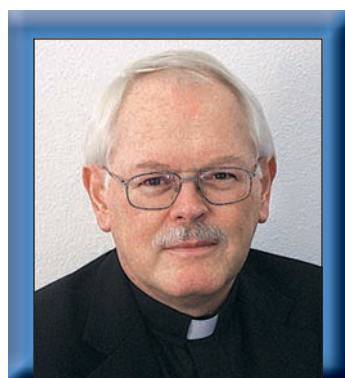
I believe in God because the Gospel works! As does prayer!

Finally, though certainly not least, I believe in God because of the community of faith that stretches back to the beginning of time, that stretches back to the life and resurrection of Jesus, and that baptized me into the faith. Throughout all of history, virtually all human communities have been also communities of faith, of belief in God, of worship, and of sacred ritual and sacrament.

I believe in God because of the existence of families of faith and the existence of church and sacrament.

I wrote my doctoral thesis on the classical proofs for the existence of God, arguments for God’s existence taken from some of the great intellectuals in history: Anselm, Thomas Aquinas, Descartes, Leibnitz, Spinoza and Alfred North Whitehead. I rambled through nearly 500 pages of articulating and evaluating these proofs and then ended with this conclusion: We don’t come to believe in God because of the compelling power of some mathematical equation or logical syllogism. God’s existence becomes real to us when we live an honest, sincere life.

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.



Father Rolheiser

The Dawn

From Page 6

other three Evangelists. He writes at the end of the first century and, therefore, is likely under the influence of Hellenistic thought and culture. John's post-Easter accounts have a more *detailed* sense than do the other three (Thomas' profession of faith, Jesus helping with the great catch of fish, Jesus on the sea shore preparing and sharing breakfast with the disciples). All four are wanting to show us a Jesus whose fundamental reality has changed (he didn't merely *revive* and walk out of the tomb). Yet, it is clear from the four accounts that something remained the same. This mystery of Jesus' risen body may be best seen through Jesus' words to Mary Magdalene when she finally recognizes him in the one she mistook for the gardener: "*Do not hold onto me ...*" (Jn 20:17). In other words, do not hold onto the flesh and blood person Jesus once was,

but from now on come in faith.

The mystery is approached on the other *track* by St. Paul. We don't know what exactly happened on the road to Damascus, but, whatever it was, fundamentally changed him, allowing Saul, the Pharisee, to become Paul the Apostle. From his Damascus experience, Paul claimed discipleship no less than the Twelve (see, Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verses 8-11). Paul, however, writes more as the theologian than storyteller.

Paul's scope of the mystery of the Resurrection goes beyond a narrative to one of cosmic proportions. The Letter to the Ephesians notes that he "... ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things" (Eph 4:10). From Paul, we get the sense that not only did Jesus make a quantum leap to a higher life, but he took all things (us and the cosmos) with him. History is now divinely grounded, nothing

can ever be the same!

As we close this Eastertide and we hear about and reflect on the resurrection of the Man of Sorrows, we know that all sorrows are now grounded in God's grace. The outcome is here already: alpha, omega, beginning and end, all in all.

This is, likewise, the center of much of the late Jesuit, Karl Rahner's thought. For Rahner, the beginning of the transformation and glory of all things is already upon us. Rahner writes:

"It is difficult in well-worn human words to do justice to the joy of Easter. Not simply because all the mysteries of the Gospel have difficulty penetrating the narrow limits of our being and because it is even more difficult for our language to contain them."

(Rahner, "Everyday Faith," Pages 76-93)

Therefore, I leave the last word to the poet:

*"In a flash, at a trumpet crash
I am at once what Christ is,
since he was what I am, and
this Jack, joke, poor potsherd,
patch, matchwood, immortal
diamond, is immortal diamond."*

(Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1888)

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

Bishops throw support behind another bill to protect undocumented youth

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration announced support for a bipartisan bill that provides a pathway to citizenship for young adults brought into the country as minors without legal documentation.

The proposed bill also calls for an increase in security at the border between Mexico and the U.S., an increase in immigration judges and ties U.S. aid to certain Central American countries based on their efforts to address smuggling and steps to combat corruption as well as to strengthening rule of law at home.

In a statement, Bishop Joe S. Vasquez, of Austin, Texas, voiced his support for what's called the USA Act, or "Uniting and Securing America" Act of 2017. The proposed legislation was introduced earlier this year by Representatives David Aguilar, a Democrat from California, and Will Hurd, a Republican from Texas.

"We are hopeful our support of the current version of the USA Act, and our continued support of the Dream Act, will encourage Congress to act now and find a humane legislative solution for Dreamers," said Bishop Vasquez, referring to the group of young adults who would be affected by the legislation.

As a group, they are referred to as "Dreamers," a reference to the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, or DREAM Act, a proposed bill in Congress aimed at granting legal status to many of the young adults, as long as they meet certain criteria. Over the years, the bill has had support, but never enough votes to pass.

Instead, many of the so-called "Dreamers" benefited from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program enacted by the executive action in 2012 by then-President Barack Obama. President Donald Trump rescinded the program in September while urging Congress to find a legislative solution, but lawmakers have been unable to find one.

On April 24, a federal judge for the District of Columbia dealt a blow to the Trump administration's attempt to end the program saying its attempt to terminate the DACA program on the grounds that it was



People stand near the U.S. Capitol in Washington. U.S. bishops announced support April 25 for a bipartisan bill that provides a pathway to citizenship for young adults brought into the country as minors without legal documentation. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

"unlawful" was "virtually unexplained."

The statement from Bishop Vasquez said "the USA Act would provide qualifying Dreamers with protection from deportation, as well as a path to citizenship." While DACA protects the young adults from deportation and provides work permits and other documents, it does not allow beneficiaries to apply for citizenship or any sort of permanent legal status.

The USA Act proposal also seeks to protect more than the 800,000 young adults who benefited from DACA and may also include those who have benefited from the Temporary Protected Status program.

Bishop Vasquez said action to protect the young immigrants is urgent.

"Every day, my brother bishops and I witness directly the constant anxiety of Dreamer youth and their families, and that experience of urgency moves us to press Congress for an immediate and durable solution to this problem," he said in the statement.

Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, vice president of the U.S. bishops' conference, also weighed in, saying that the "time has come for our leaders in Congress to do what is right and pass legislation that will provide a permanent solution for the nearly 2 million young people who were brought to this country as small children by undocumented parents or family members."

In an April 25 column, he said more than a quarter of the Dreamers live in California, the state where his archdiocese is located, "and by most estimates there are about 125,000 living within the borders of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles — more than anywhere else in the country."

"The USA Act is compromise legislation that has bipartisan support," he said. "For several years now, immigration reform has been blocked in the House (of Representatives) by a small group of lawmakers who are using their leverage to prevent any legislation from being brought up for a vote on the House floor. This situation is

not fair and in fact it frustrates the will of the American people."

In the column, he urges Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, and Majority Leader of the House Kevin McCarthy, both Republicans, "to allow debate on this critical issue."

"There is no reason for the House of Representatives, the people's chamber, to continue to deny a vote on this issue," he said. "This is not about Republicans or Democrats. It is about right and wrong."

He continued: "As I have been saying for years now, both parties are using this issue for their own political gain. Even now, we can see there are still some who seem content to sacrifice the Dreamers' futures for the chance to mobilize voters in the next election. This is heartless and cruel. It is time to stop. People's lives are in the balance."

The Ohio-based Ignatian Solidarity Network, which comes into contact with many DACA beneficiaries at Jesuit institutions around the country, said a solution must be found and quickly. Those affected have shared their "tremendous fear regarding their ability to complete their education and pursue careers, their safety and the safety of their families, and their ability to remain part of communities that they have called home and contributed to for a significant portion of their lives," said Christopher Kerr, the network's executive director.

Kevin Appleby, senior director of international migration policy for the Center for Migration Studies and the Scalabrini International Migration Network, said that "while not perfect," the USA Act gives Dreamers a chance to obtain citizenship "without giving up a border wall in return, reduces immigration court backlogs, and attempts to address the push factors in Central America that are often ignored in Washington."

It also may have one of the best chances of passing in Congress.

"I could see it gaining political traction, especially after the midterms, but the wild card, of course, would be whether President Trump would accept anything that does not at least fund his ill-advised border wall," Appleby said.

Cardinal George Pell to stand trial on multiple charges of abuse of minors

MELBOURNE, Australia (CNS) — After a monthlong pretrial hearing, an Australian judge ordered Cardinal George Pell to stand trial on multiple charges of sexual abuse of minors, charges the cardinal consistently has denied.

While dropping some of the charges, including what Cardinal Pell's lawyer described as the most "vile," Magistrate Belinda Wallington announced May 1 that she believed there was enough evidence presented in connection with about half the original charges to warrant a full trial.

The Melbourne court did not publish a complete list of the allegations, but news reports indicated they involved alleged sexual offenses committed in the 1970s at a pool in Ballarat, where then-Father Pell was a priest, and at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne in the 1990s when he was Archbishop of Melbourne.

The 76-year-old Cardinal Pell, head of the Vatican Secretariat for the Economy, took a leave of absence from his position in the summer of 2017 to face the charges. His lawyer told the court May 1 that he had already surrendered his passport.



Cardinal George Pell, head of the Vatican Secretariat for the Economy, arrives at the Melbourne Magistrates Court in Melbourne, Australia. (CNS photo/James Ross, via Reuters)

The Vatican press office released a short statement saying, "Last year, the Holy Father granted Cardinal Pell a leave of absence so he could defend himself from the accusations. The leave of absence is still in place."

Before leaving Rome, Cardinal Pell had told reporters at a Vatican news conference, "I'm innocent of these charges. They are false. The whole idea of sexual abuse is abhorrent to me."

Cardinal Pell told the press, "These mat-

ters have been under investigation now for two years. There's been relentless character assassination, a relentless character assassination."

A statement issued by his attorneys after Wallington's decision was announced said, "Cardinal George Pell has at all times fully cooperated with Victoria police and always steadfastly maintained his innocence. He voluntarily returned to Australia to meet these accusations. He will defend the remaining charges."

The cardinal also thanked "all those who have supported him from both here in Australia and overseas during this exacting time and is grateful for their continuing support and prayers," the statement said.

Archbishop Denis Hart of Melbourne "has declined to make any comment in relation to the decision of the magistrate Belinda Wallington to commit Cardinal Pell to face trial in the County Court," said a note on the archdiocesan website.

"Archbishop Hart expressed his confidence in the judicial system in Australia and said that justice must now take its course."

Pope Francis, others mourn the death of British toddler Alfie Evans

LIVERPOOL, England (CNS) — Pope Francis said he was mourning the death of English toddler Alfie Evans, who died four days after doctors withdrew his life support system.

The 23-month-old boy died April 28 after his father, Tom Evans, spent 10 minutes trying to revive him by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, according to reports in the British media.

Tom Evans, a Catholic, announced the death of his son on Facebook later that day with: "My gladiator lay down his shield and gained his wings at 02:30 ... absolutely heartbroken ... I LOVE YOU MY GUY."

Alfie's mother, Kate James, wrote: "Our baby boy grew his wings tonight at 2:30 a.m. We are heartbroken."

Soon afterward, Pope Francis, who had met Tom Evans at the Vatican April 18, tweeted: "I am deeply moved by the death of little Alfie. Today I pray especially for his parents, as God the Father receives him in his tender embrace."

The Vatican-owned Bambino Gesù hospital in Rome offered to care for Alfie, although doctors who examined him said not much could be done but to make him comfortable. On April 23, the Italian government granted citizenship to the boy so he could be evacuated by a waiting air ambulance.

But that same day, Alfie was taken off his ventilator, and he was expected to die imminently. He began breathing unaided, prompting appeals by his parents to the High Court and then the Court of Appeal

to allow their son to leave the country.

Judges upheld the original decision that it was in the "best interests" of Alfie, who suffered from a severe degenerative brain condition, to be allowed to die.

His inability to remove his child from the hospital led to passionate demands from politicians and media commentators for

an "Alfie's law," to allow parents to seek help elsewhere when doctors believe they can do no more.

In the U.S., National Right to Life President Carol Tobias said that "no parent should ever be forced to the sidelines while the government decides whether their child will receive medical treatment or not."

Youngstown Diocese announces bishop undergoing treatment for leukemia

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (CNS) — Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown has been diagnosed with "a form of acute leukemia" and will be undergoing chemotherapy, the diocese announced April 30.

In 2017, Bishop Murry, 69, a Jesuit, became the chair of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. He, also, serves as chairman of the bishops' Committee on Catholic Education.

The diocese said in its statement that he was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic April 29 and will undergo intensive treatment throughout the month of May. He will not be taking visitors, the statement said.

"Please keep Bishop Murry in your prayers," said the statement, adding that it will provide periodic updates on his health.

Bishop Murry was ordained in 1979 as a priest for the Society of Jesus and has served as auxiliary bishop of Chicago, and bishop of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Many expressed prayers and good



Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, has been diagnosed with "a form of acute leukemia" and will be undergoing chemotherapy, the diocese announced. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

wishes for the bishop via Twitter April 30, including Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, who tweeted: "Sending my prayers to Bishop Murry and the Diocese of Youngstown during this challenging time. He's in good hands at the Cleveland Clinic."

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Athens — Throughout most of the summer months, Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m., Sundays, at St. Paul Church.

During the month of May, the rosary will be prayed 20 minutes prior to the celebration of weekend Masses at Christ the King University Parish and directly following weekend Masses at St. Paul Church.

Barnesville — New socks are being collected by Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish CWC. They will be donated to the veteran's hospital. Items can be taken to the church.

Bellaire — A marriage enrichment program for married and engaged couples will be offered from 6:30-9:00 p.m., May 11, at St. John Church hall, 3745 Tallman Ave. A video by Bill Harley, a Christian psychologist and marriage counselor, will be played. The program is free to attend; donations will be accepted. To make reservations, telephone the St. John Church office at (740) 676-0051. Additional information is available at www.marriagebuilders.com.

Belle Valley — Beginning May 13, Sunday Masses at Corpus Christi Church will be celebrated at 10 a.m., until Sept. 16.

Caldwell — St. Stephen Parish will sponsor a Mother's Day bake sale, following the celebration of Mass at 5:30 p.m., May 12, and the 8:30 a.m. Mass, May 13. All proceeds benefit Noble County Ripples, which provides support to cancer patients in the county.

Cambridge — A salad luncheon will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., May 18, at St. Benedict Church social hall. Tickets cost \$7 and can be purchased at the Christ Our Light Parish office, St. Benedict School office or at the door. For additional information, telephone the parish office at (740) 432-7609.

Cambridge/Lore City — The rosary will be prayed before the celebration of Masses, throughout the month of May, at St. Benedict Church, Cambridge, and Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory, Lore City.

Christ Our Light Parish is collecting yarn and greeting cards for inmates in various correctional facilities for use in making bookmarks and prayer cloths for those in nursing homes. Donations can be taken to the St. Benedict Church Marian Room, Cambridge, and Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory, Lore City. For more information, telephone (740) 704-3608.

Carrollton/Morges — Youth from Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Carrollton, and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Morges, will sponsor a Mother's Day carnation sale May 12-13, after all Masses, to help finance a trip to the Franciscan University of Steubenville youth conference this summer. For additional information or to place a preorder, telephone the church rectory at (330) 627-4664.

Churchtown — A rosary procession, with May crowning, will be held at 2 p.m., May 6, beginning at St. John Central School, 17654 Ohio Route 676. The rosary will be prayed during the procession, which will be led from the school to St. John the Baptist Church, 17784 Ohio Route 676.

St. John the Baptist Parish CWC will be selling cookbooks. Cost is \$20. To purchase a cookbook, telephone (740) 896-3566.

A Corpus Christi procession will be held May 31, following the 7 p.m. Latin Mass, at St. John the Baptist Church.

Confessions will be heard at 6:30 p.m., every Wednesday, before the celebration of the 7 p.m. Mass, at St. John the Baptist Church. Confessions will also be heard from 5-5:50 p.m., Saturdays, and a half-hour before the celebration of Masses, Sundays, at 7:30 a.m., and 9:30 a.m.

Dillonvale — Mass will be celebrated at St. Adalbert Church at 5 p.m., Saturday evenings, throughout the month of May.

Harriettsville — St. Henry Parish will sponsor a "Mother's Day Dinner" from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., May 13, at the church. The menu includes chicken and ham dinners, mashed potatoes and gravy, green

Catholic Central Fun Fest set for July 13-14



Promoters for Catholic Central High School Fun Fest 2018 say this year's event will take place July 13-14 on the pavilion grounds. Pictured from left, Theresa Danaher, principal, Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary and Junior High schools; Rena Bolger; Dawn Capaldi; Mary Godich; and Thomas J. Costello, principal Catholic Central High School, Steubenville. Organizers say the event gives every sports team at the schools an opportunity to raise money for the entire year. Entertainment for the two-day event includes John Paul Von Arx, Tom Zielinsky, the Catholic Central High School Marching Band, the Tri-State Community Concert Band and fireworks. (Photo by Orsatti)

beans, coleslaw, homemade noodles, roll, desserts, and a beverage. Cost for a meal is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children. Takeout dinners are available in the basement of the hall. For additional information, telephone (740) 373-2882.

Ironton — St. Joseph Parish has elected the following members to parish council: Julie Fugitt, Jennifer Howard, Randy Lilly, Jackie Murnahan, Bobbi Shelton and Alyce Waldo. Alternates include Jim Parker and Francy Barron.

St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish has elected the following members to parish council: Rhonda Colegrove, Dianne McFann, Dan Hartwig, Eileen Payton, Judy Sierer and Scott Woods. Alternates include Kay McClellan and Beth Laber.

Minerva — A grief education session will be offered Wednesdays, at 6:30 p.m., in the upper level classroom area, at St. Gabriel Church. It is expected that the sessions will last from 10 to 12 weeks. Cost of the program is \$15, which covers the cost of the book. To register or for more information, telephone Lisa Burman at (330) 205-3001.

St. Clairsville — Mass will be celebrated in Spanish at 2:30 p.m., May 20, at St. Mary Church, 212 W. Main St. The sacrament of reconciliation

will precede Mass at 2 p.m.

St. Clairsville — A third annual "Spring into Shape 5K" will be held from 9 a.m.-noon, May 12, at St. Mary Central School, 226 W. Main St. The course begins at the school parking lot and will be run/walked to the north end of the National Road Bikeway, concluding at St. Mary Church parking lot. Refreshments and awards will be distributed at the school gymnasium following the event. All proceeds benefit the school. For additional information or to register, visit www.springintoshape5k.org or telephone the school office at (740) 695-3189.

Tiltonsville — The rosary will be prayed 25 minutes before the celebration of Masses, throughout the month of May, at St. Joseph Church.

St. Joseph St. Francis Society will sponsor an annual rummage sale from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., May 12, in St. Joseph Church hall. Donated items will be accepted at the parish office May 6 through May 10. For additional information or to make arrangements to drop-off items, telephone (740) 859-4018 or (740) 298-0048.

Yorkville — The rosary will be prayed 25 minutes before the celebration of Masses, throughout the month of May, at St. Lucy Church.

Around and About

Athens — Habitat for Humanity will set up "stations" on and around the Ohio University campus accepting donations from students who are moving out. "Re-Store" will be in Christ the King University Parish parking lot May 4 and May 5, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., accepting small appliances, furniture items and nonperishable food items. For details or additional information, telephone (740) 589-5865.

Carey, Ohio — Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m., May 4, in honor of St. Peregrine, patron saint of

those affected by cancer, at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, 315 Clay St. The sacrament of anointing of the sick will be offered at the conclusion of Mass; prayers for healing will also be offered. For additional information, telephone (419) 396-7107 or visit www.olcshrine.com.

Martins Ferry — Knights of Columbus Mother of God Council 1421 will hold a fish fry from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m., May 4, at the council home, 25 N. Fourth St. Eat in or takeout orders will be available. To place an order, telephone (740) 633-0528.



The Samaritan House, 424 Washington St., Steubenville, was named the recipient of the annual Parkhurst Dining/ Franciscan University of Steubenville "Love Where You Live" grant. Parkhurst Dining awards a \$5,000 grant each year to benefit the greater Steubenville community. The Samaritan House is a thrift store and emergency food bank, coordinated by the Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother, who are headquartered in Toronto. At the check presentation were, from left, Matthew Schaefer, Franciscan University director of student development; Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother Mary Michelina Belz; Philomena Clare DeHitta; Maria Clare Smith; Joan Paule Portenlanger; and David Schmiesing, vice president of student life at Franciscan University. (Photo provided)



Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361 celebrated its 61st anniversary April 20 at the Mingo Junction council hall. Shawn E. Zarych, grand Knight, seated center, presented awards at the dinner to, seated from left, Rhetta Potenzini, youth of the year; Rose Ann Sacco, volunteer of the year; Carrie Libetti, seated second from right, and her husband, John Libetti, standing second from right, family of the year; and Susan Nolan, seated right, lady of the year. Standing from left, are Diocese of Steubenville Permanent Deacon Paul D. Ward, religious of the year; Bill Dellapenna, Knight of the year; Father James M. Dunfee, newly appointed vicar general for the Diocese of Steubenville, pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Mingo Junction, chaplain of the year; Jacob Mannarino, Steubenville police officer, blue coat of the year; and standing at right, Baci Carpico, past state deputy and Knights' trustee, merit award named in honor of deceased former grand Knight Larry Campbell. (Photo by DiCenzo)

Pope Francis says even amid suffering, love highlights value of every life



Pope Francis greets the crowd during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Love is a miraculous force that helps the parents of sick children focus on the beauty of their children's lives and keeps the flame of hope for a cure alive, Pope Francis told an Italian couple and a group of their supporters.

Members of the group, known as "Una Vita Rara" ("A Rare Life"), had just completed a relay run of more than 430 miles to Rome from Monticelli Brusati in northern Italy to raise awareness about Allan-Herndon-Dudley syndrome.

Davide Boniotti, the son of Rosita and Giorgio Boniotti, was diagnosed with the syndrome 15 years ago, when he was less than one month old.

Pope Francis' meeting with Davide, his parents and about 60 supporters came just two days after he addressed hundreds of renowned researchers, physicians, health care executives and entertainers attending a three-day conference about new medical technology, the future of medicine and practical steps to promote health and health

care treatment around the world.

Pope Francis told the Boniotti family and members of their association that in every meeting he has with families of someone with a rare disease, he sees the pain of their suffering and exhaustion, but even more, he sees "the desire of the families to come together to face this reality and do something."

Choosing "A Rare Life" for the name of the association, the pope said, "expresses Davide's reality, and yours with him, but in a positive way."

"The negative exists, we know," the pope told them. "It's a daily reality."

"But this name means that you know how to look at the positive, which is that every human life is unique and that even if a disease is rare, life is even more so," the pope said.

"This positive gaze is a typical 'miracle' of love," the pope said. "It knows how to see the good even in a negative situation (and) it knows how to safeguard a small flame in the midst of a dark night."

Addressing the international "United to Cure Conference," Pope Francis had said that as scientists learn more about human life and about disease, it is becoming clearer that individuals must do more to respect the sacredness of every human life and to protect the environment.

"Human health needs to be considered in a broader context, not only in relation to scientific research, but also to our ability to preserve and protect the natural environment" and to show concern for each person, "especially those experiencing social and cultural hardships that endanger both their health and their access to adequate care," the pope said.

"While the church applauds every effort in research and application directed to the care of our suffering brothers and sisters, she is also mindful of the basic principle that 'not everything technically possible or doable is thereby ethically acceptable,'" Pope Francis reminded participants at the conference, co-sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Culture.

Citing Blessed Paul VI, the pope insisted that progress, whether in medicine or in economic development, can be measured only by how it helps all people.

Pope Francis told participants, "The problem of human suffering challenges us to create new means of interaction between individuals and institutions, breaking down barriers and working together to enhance patient care."

Throughout the conference, physicians and researchers insisted on the importance of disease prevention, particularly through lifestyle choices, especially highlighting the dangers of smoking and obesity, but also looking at the role environmental degradation plays in causing disease.

"Prevention involves taking a farsighted look at human beings and the environment in which we live," the pope said. "It means aiming for a culture of balance, whose essential factors — education, physical activity, diet, the protection of the environment, respect for the 'health codes' practiced by the various religions, timely and precise diagnosis and so many others — can help us to live better, with fewer health risks."

Obituaries

Terrance L. Alessi, 61, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, April 18.

Amber N. Board, 30, Blessed Sacrament, Wintersville, April 24.

Sue Duley, 67, St. Joseph, Tiltonsville, March 19.

Rosemary I. Fitzgerald, 86, Blessed Sacrament, Wintersville, April 17.

Lannie S. Heatherington, 72, Shady-side, St. Mary, March 28.

Joseph G. Izz, 86, Blessed Sacrament, Wintersville, March 2.

Stephen C. Korode, 73, Blessed Sacrament, Wintersville, Feb. 22.

Richard L. Lane, 72, Minerva, St. Gabriel, April 5.

Helen D. Mieczkowski, 97, St. Peter,

Steubenville, April 17.

Anne C. Modick, 92, Blessed Sacrament, Wintersville, Feb. 15.

Mary Petrozzi, 96, Our Lady of Lourdes, Wintersville, Feb. 23.

David B. Phillipson, 81, Our Lady of Lourdes, Wintersville, April 25.

Carlene A. Scurti, 76, Blessed Sacrament, Wintersville, Feb. 28.

John Signorini, 66, St. Joseph, Tiltonsville, April 10.

Mary Signorini, 97, St. Joseph, Tiltonsville, April 21.

Mary Hochevar Stemkowski, 92, Harrisville, St. Casimir, Adena, April 15.

Evelina Zorbini, 97, St. Lucy, Yorkville, April 23.

Pittsburgh Diocese plan will see number of parishes drop from 188 to 57



Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh addresses a media conference announcing the reorganization of parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. (CNS photo/Chuck Austin, Pittsburgh Catholic)

By Bob De Witt

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — After three years of discussions, Pittsburgh Bishop David A. Zubik said the 188 parishes of the diocese will be placed into 57 groupings that will eventually become new parishes.

Bishop Zubik announced the plan April 28 during a media conference, saying the effort was designed to promote vibrant faith and revitalize parishes.

The announcement detailed the maximum number of weekend Masses per grouping and timelines for each grouping to work toward mergers and clergy assignments.

The move to groupings – part of a dioc-

esan planning initiative called On Mission for The Church Alive! – were to take effect Oct. 15. No church closings are part of the plan's first phase.

The groupings are expected to merge into new parishes between 2020 and 2023, however.

"No matter how the church is structured, it is the responsibility of all the faithful – bishops and priests included – to make faith, hope and love remain alive in the world around us," he said in announcing the plan, the result of meetings and discernment that began in 2015.

"Our churches will continue to be places where local Catholics gather to be nurtured and nourished by the God who loves us. Yet, On Mission! gives us a new context and new opportunities to make ever more alive a faith that abides both within and outside of our church walls," he said.

The decision on the grouping was read in letters sent to each parish at Masses the weekend of April 28-29. Bishop Zubik wrote that the initiative is designed to offer a deeper relationship with Jesus and the Catholic Church to practicing and inactive Catholics, as well as those who have never been baptized.

The diocesan plan is being driven by reduced Mass attendance and participation in the sacraments and a declining number of priests.

The diocese reported that since 2000, Mass attendance decreased more than 40 percent and participation in the sacraments fell 40 percent to 50 percent.

Meanwhile, the number of diocesan priests available for active ministry is expected to decline from about 200 to 112 by 2025.

Launched in April 2015, the planning process invited Catholics to envision how parishes, schools and ministries can best

respond to the changes in their communities.

The diocese said nearly 30,000 parishioners participated in meetings and provided feedback that guided the decisions announced by the bishop.

"For three years, we have labored to discern how to best position our local church for the future," Bishop Zubik said in the letter. "We must respond to the reality that populations have shifted, that many Catholics have drifted away from Mass and that we will have fewer priests.

"We need to share and mobilize our resources to draw people deeper into the faith, seek the lost and serve those in need."

During the process, key consultative groups recommended that Bishop Zubik increase to 57 groupings from 48 groupings endorsed by a commission of clergy and lay leaders that initially studied church needs.

Under the new setup, a priest who serves as administrator will lead a clergy team for each grouping. An administrator has all the rights and responsibilities of a pastor, but does not have a specified term to serve.

Clergy teams may include priests who

are parochial vicars and parish chaplains, as well as permanent deacons. Priests are also being assigned as institutional chaplains to major hospitals, nursing homes, colleges, high schools and correctional institutions.

The maximum number of weekend Masses per grouping is based on the number of priests assigned there and other factors. Under canon law, the number cannot exceed three Masses per priest who has parish responsibilities. Priests who live at a parish, but whose duties are elsewhere, are not included in the count.

During the first year, clergy were to focus on building relationships with and among their parishioners.

"I truly believe that change can bring new life and joy," Bishop Zubik said during his announcement. "I realize that such transformation is rarely easy, especially in the heartfelt matters of faith and parish life. I know that this change will require us – the faithful, the clergy, and myself – to let go of some things that are precious and familiar.

"I also am convinced that our clergy and faithful have what it takes to form deep and lasting relationships within their groupings and to create welcoming communities."

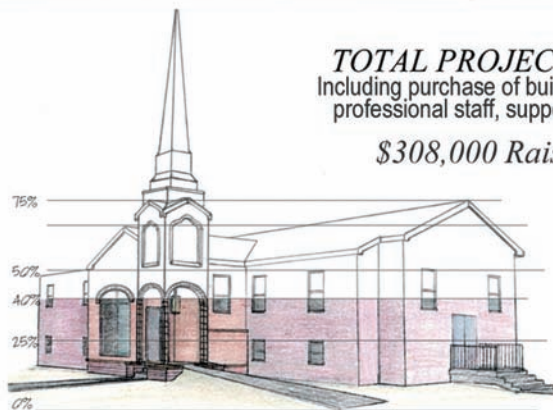
Basilica parishioners make pilgrimage



Parishioners of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the basilica, pictured at right, and Father Thomas A. Nelson, pictured at left, parochial vicar to Msgr. Campbell, made a pilgrimage to Washington and Baltimore April 23-25. The picture above was taken in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, located in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. (Photo provided)

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