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## Official

**Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton** has made the following appointments to the Office of Worship, diocesan Liturgical Commission all effective Sept. 25.

The following priests have been reappointed to serve on the diocesan Liturgical Commission: **Father Victor P. Cinson**, pastor of St. Gabriel Parish, Minerva, and St. Francis Xavier Parish, Malvern; **Father Bradley W. Greer**, parochial vicar to Father Timothy J. Huffman, pastor of St. Peter Parish, Steubenville and bishop's master of ceremonies; **Father Thomas F. Hamm**, pastor of St. Louis Parish, Gallipolis and **Father Thomas Marut**, pastor, St. Mary Parish, Martins Ferry.

Bishop Monforton also newly appointed to the diocesan Liturgical Commission **Father Edward Maxfield Jr.**, parochial vicar to Father Thomas A. Chillog, pastor of St. Mary Parish, St. Clairsville.

Bishop Monforton also appointed the following laypeople: **Tony Bruno, Ron DuBois, Theresa Jurasko and Lisa Zamberlain.**

**Patricia A. D'Anniballe** was reappointed to the position.

## News Briefs

### Pope says people thirst for God, Gospel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While it may be more difficult to notice today, people are still thirsting for the Gospel message and for signs of God's love and mercy, Pope Francis said.

"If we are still able to look deeply, we will find a genuine desire for God, who is making restless the hearts of many people who have fallen, despite themselves, into the abyss of indifference, which prevents them from savoring life and serenely constructing their futures," the pope said Sept. 29, addressing members of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization.

Whatever the challenges, he said, the task of evangelizing is part and parcel of being a Christian.

"The people of God strongly felt the gift of mercy and lived the jubilee particularly by re-discovering the sacrament of reconciliation as a privileged place to experience the goodness and tenderness of God and his pardon, which knows no limits," Pope Francis said.

### Vatican pushes for support of refugees

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While encouraging Catholics to reach out to migrants and refugees, the Vatican is reaching out to governments as they struggle to work out international policies and principles for dealing with the large number of people fleeing violence and poverty.

The involvement of the church and church agencies in the U.N. process for drafting the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees goes hand in hand with the much more personalized effort to encourage individual Catholics to meet a migrant or refugee and listen to that person's story.

## Decades of hope becomes a reality in Carrollton



**Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, third from left, anoints the altar with chrisam oil at the new Our Lady of Mercy Church at the Sept. 24 dedication Mass. Concelebrant diocesan priests and deacons, from left to right, include Permanent Deacon Randall Redington, Father Bradley W. Greer, Permanent Deacon Charles J. "Chuck" Schneider, Father Edward A. Maxfield Jr. More than 300 people attended the celebration. (Photo by Orsatti) •Additional photos/Page 12**

By Dino Orsatti

CARROLLTON — On Sept. 24, the feast day of Our Lady of Mercy, the energy and excitement of Our Lady of Mercy Parish community was as clear as the skies as members gathered on the hilltop to celebrate the long-awaited dedication of their new church. The decades of planning and nearly 16-month construction project culminated with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton.

The rite of dedication began with a solemn entrance when Bishop Monforton, along with concelebrating priests, deacons and ministers as well as more than a dozen other diocesan priests, approached the main outside church door. The faithful were assembled outside of the closed door.

The bishop addressed the people, "We have come together to dedicate this church by offering within it the sacrifice of Christ. May we open our hearts and minds to receive his word with faith; may our fellowship born in the one font of baptism and sustained at the one table of the Lord, become the one temple of his Spirit, as we gather round his altar in love."

After addressing the people, the bishop called upon Father Anthony R. Batt, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, to open the main church door.

"This new church is positive evidence of the growth and the spiritual health of the community," the bishop explained.

Father Batt, was visibly elated and said his parishioners

are "thrilled and overjoyed" about this historic day. He went on to say, "that building a new church is a grace and a way to unify churchgoers."

Concelebrating the Mass with the bishop were Father Batt, Father Edward A. Maxfield Jr., parochial vicar to Father Thomas A. Chillog, pastor of St. Mary Church, St. Clairsville, and Father Bradley W. Greer, master of ceremonies to Bishop Monforton, as well as Permanent Deacons Randall Redington and Charles J. "Chuck" Schneider.

Bishop Monforton began his homily by saying, "Father Batt, you nailed it," recognizing the beauty of their new surroundings and the hard work it took to make it happen. The bishop then noted the once anti-Catholic attitude of the residents of the community and said, "you can't back down and the only way for Catholics to combat that position is to build." Parishioners and church leaders at Our Lady of Mercy never backed down.

The bishop then stood with his arms extended, "May this building, which we dedicate to your name, be a house of salvation and grace where Christians gathered in fellowship may worship

you in spirit and truth and grow together in love."



**Our Lady of Mercy Church**

(Photo by Orsatti)

you in spirit and truth and grow together in love."

To Page 5

## 'Ask the Bishop'

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

**Q:** How old do you have to be to get into the seminary?

**Andrew Wetherell  
Mingo Junction**

**A:** You must be 18 years of age in order to enter the seminary. In the area of education, a candidate for entrance must possess a high school diploma or equivalent.

You see, entering the seminary can be similar to beginning your first year of college. However, like myself, many seminarians transferred from other colleges in order to enter the seminary.

**Q:** Why were Abraham and Sarah renamed in the Bible?

**Anna Arai  
Bloomingdale**

**A:** This is a very good question for how did Abram and Sarai become Abraham and Sarah in the Book of Genesis (Gn 17:4-16)? In fact, it was God who changed the names of Abram and Sarai to Abraham

and Sarah because a new mission was established and a covenant was renewed.

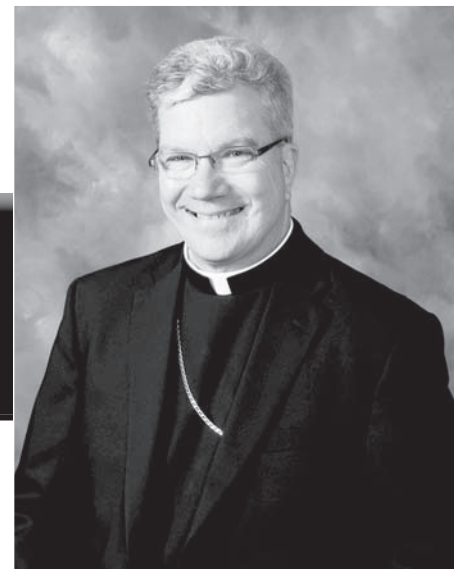
The change in names signifies a new life for Abraham and Sarah as they would be proud parents of Isaac, and "give rise to nations." This "mission change" is the very fact Abraham would have countless descendants.

**Q:** How can we love God more besides praying and reading the Bible and going to Mass?

**Anna Doyle  
Wintersville**

**A:** You mentioned a good foundation regarding our love of God as expressed through prayer, meditation on the Bible and attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. What we read, hear, do and, most importantly *Who* we receive at Mass, equips us with the ability to deepen our love for God. Jesus is the way to the Father and he sustains us through the Eucharist and all the sacraments, not to mention, of course, the revealed word in the Bible.

That being said, we can take lessons from lives of two priests born in the United States, namely, Blessed Father Stanley Rother of Oklahoma City and soon-to-be declared



**Bishop Monforton**

Blessed Father Solanus Casey of Detroit.

Both priests exemplified putting our faith into action, thereby deepening their love for God in service for others. We can do the same by seeing Jesus in each person we encounter, especially those who are on the peripheries, that is, people marginalized in society, such as the poor.

We can even deepen our love for our Lord in how we interact with our family members, encouraging them in times of challenges and sharing our joys with them as well. I encourage you to deepen your love for God in reading about the lives of the saints.

**May you and your family have a blessed October and as we celebrate *Respect Life Month*.**

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

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



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An annual rosary crusade, part of the nationwide Public Square Rosary Crusade, will be held at noon, Oct. 14, on the Belmont County Courthouse Plaza, St. Clairsville. St. Mary Parish, St. Clairsville, daily Mass attendees, who typically stay after the Mass to pray the rosary, gather on a recent morning to promote the crusade with their pastor, Father Thomas A. Chillog, back center, Diocese of Steubenville episcopal vicar for pastoral planning and personnel. In front, from left, parishioners include John Budinscak, Donna Shidell, Eleanor Gaynor, Kay Moyer, Mary D'Ambrosia, Robin Kinney, Diana Mazgaj and Betty Jo Sproull. Second row, from left, are Edward Butch, Mary Hendershot, Eileen Fasola, Lori Hocking, Janice Frye and Beverly Tisko. Third row, from left, are Ron Marshall, Dennis O'Donnell, Nathan Anderle, Rick Clay, Mark D'Ambrosia, Dennis Menoski, John Jeskey and Walt Rozanski. The crusade is prayed for peace in the world and part of the America Needs Fatima campaign. For additional information, telephone Mary D'Ambrosia at (740) 695-2746. (Photo by DiCenzo)

## Bishop Monforton's Schedule

### October

- 7 Evening prayer, followed by dinner, Marians of the Immaculate Conception, Steubenville, 5:20 p.m.
- 8 Mass and annual religious women celebration, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, noon  
Mass, Christ the King University Parish, Athens, 6 p.m.
- 9 Rosary congress Mass, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 7 p.m.
- 10 Mass, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 7:45 a.m.  
Catholic Conference of Ohio meeting, Columbus, Ohio, noon  
Dinner with seminarians, Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio, 6 p.m.
- 11 Adoration for rosary congress, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 5 p.m.  
Rosary congress Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 p.m.
- 12 "Misa con Hermanas," Mass with Spanish Sisters, Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Oratory, Lovers Lane, Steubenville, 9 a.m.  
Presbyteral Council meeting, St. Mary, St. Clairsville, noon
- 13 Vocations Awareness Day Mass, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 12:05 p.m.  
Welcoming dinner, Catechism of the Catholic Church conference, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 6 p.m.  
Catechism of the Catholic Church conference, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Mass, Our Lady of Fatima, Apostolate for Family Consecration, Bloomingdale, 9 a.m.
- 15 White Mass, Christ the King University Parish, Athens, 10 a.m.  
Mass, "Rise Up! Let Your Light Shine," Diocese of Steubenville youth conference, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 5 p.m.
- 16 Meeting, diocesan Liturgical Commission, Steubenville, noon  
Project Rachel Mass, Holy Family Church, Steubenville, 7 p.m.
- 17 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m.  
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 6 p.m.
- 18 Mother of Hope Deanery "Day With Bishop Monforton," Sacred Heart Church, Hopedale, 11 a.m.  
Evening prayer, followed by dinner with Third Order Regular Franciscans, Steubenville, 5 p.m.
- 19 WAOB radio segment, 7:40 a.m., 8:40 a.m. and 6:40 p.m.  
Mass, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 12:05 p.m.  
Visit Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults class, Blessed Sacrament Church, Wintersville, 7 p.m.
- 20 Chancery staff day of recollection, Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother, Toronto, 9:30 a.m.



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Life chain participants spread out along Sunset Boulevard, Steubenville, left. Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton celebrates a Respect Life Mass at St. Agnes Church, Mingo Junction, center. Bishop Monforton meets and prays with Msgr. Gerald E. Calovini and some of the life chain supporters at Holy Family Church, Steubenville, right. (Photos by Orsatti)

## Life chains line streets throughout the diocese on Respect Life Sunday

MINGO JUNCTION — People in the Diocese of Steubenville joined thousands of others throughout the United States and Canada on Oct. 1 to respect life by forming life chains along roads in many of the dioceses 13 counties.

The theme of Respect Life 2017 is, “Be Not Afraid ... Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age,” reads Matthew, Chapter 28, Verse 20.

Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton celebrated a Mass for a greater respect of human life at St. Agnes Church, Mingo Junction, on Respect Life Sunday.

The bishop addressed the congregation in his homily, “All life is precious from conception to actual life. Share the dignity of others and reach out to others with this message.”

For those who have had abortions, the bishop said, “we need God’s grace, we need God’s forgiveness.”

Following Mass, the bishop met with the parishioners in the church hall. Bishop Monforton also met with some of the Steubenville life chain formers in the parking lot of Holy Family Church along with their pastor, Msgr. Gerald E. Calovini.

The participants held up various signs along Sunset Boulevard, which read, “Dad’s for Life,” “Adoption the Loving Option,” and “Jesus Forgives.”

Life chains were formed along roads in many of the dioceses 13 counties, including Washington Boulevard in Belpre; on Ohio 60 in Beverly; at the intersection of Ohio 7 and U.S. 40 in Bridgeport; in front of the Guernsey County courthouse in Cambridge; on Ohio 43 in Carrollton; near the Sixth Street bridge in Chesapeake, Eastern Avenue in Gallipolis; Muskingum Drive in Marietta; and Main Street in Pomeroy.

Mother Rose Catherine Marshall said she has participated in life chains for many years, “We need to make people aware that abortions are taking lives.”

“It gives people a reminder that abortion is destroying lives,” explained Kellen Gotta on why he participated in the life chain in Steubenville.

Clare Vosteen said adoption is a better option to abortion. Vosteen said she has family members who are “very thankful for their lives because of their adopted children.”

## Diocesan rosary congresses planned

STEUBENVILLE — The 100th Anniversary of Fatima will be celebrated at the diocesan rosary congresses from Oct. 7-13, under the direction of Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton.

Diocesan rosary congresses are being held simultaneously at three locations in the diocese: Triumph of the Cross (Holy Rosary Church) in Steubenville; the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta and St. Joseph Church in Ironton, the only official Fatima shrine in the diocese.

A rosary congress is seven days and six nights of perpetual adoration, hourly rosaries, Divine Mercy chaplets, special Masses, confessions, conferences and processions.

The week will provide the opportunity to learn more about the messages of Our Lady of Fatima and her peace plan for mankind.

### Triumph of the Cross (Holy Rosary Church), Steubenville

Some of the highlights include:

9 p.m. every night, nocturnal adoration and prayer

**Oct. 7**

4 p.m. – Opening Mass

7 p.m. – Conference: Visits of the Angel of Peace of Fatima – Father Wolfgang Seitz

**Oct. 8, 7 p.m.;**

Conference: Responding to Our Lady of Fatima’s Message Today – Mark Miravalle

**Oct. 9, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.;**

Devotion presentation – Marian Room

**Oct. 10, 7 p.m.;**

Healing Mass with prayer for healing the family tree – Father Wolfgang Seitz

**Oct. 11, 7 p.m.:**

Special youth Mass – Bishop Monforton

**Oct. 12, 8 p.m.:**

Candlelight eucharistic procession

**Oct. 13, 7 p.m.:**

Closing Mass in honor of the family and consecration of the family

### Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta

24 hour adoration and rosary

**Oct. 7, 5:30 p.m.:**

Opening Mass – Msgr. John Michael Campbell

**Oct. 9, 7 p.m.:**

Mass with Bishop Monforton

**Oct. 10, 7 p.m.:**

Father Timothy J. Shannon, adoration and vocations

**Oct. 11, 7 p.m.:**

Anointing Mass – Msgr. John Michael Campbell

**Oct. 12, 7 p.m.:**

Mass – Father Timothy J. Kozak

**Oct. 13, 7 p.m.:**

Closing Mass in honor of the family

If you would like information for the rosary congress in Ironton, contact Maria Whaley at St. Joseph Parish, email mlwhaley@hotmail.com or telephone Sister Mary Brigid at the chancery at (740) 317-5678.

## ChristLife training held in diocese

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The first ever Diocese of Steubenville ChristLife training conference was held on Sept. 29-30 at St. Mary Church in St. Clairsville.

Steubenville Diocese Permanent Deacon Richard G. Adams, coordinator for ChristLife, said the training conferences are made up of three courses, “Discovering Christ,” “Following Christ” and “Sharing Christ.”

More than 120 people from 20 parishes attended the “Discovering Christ” conference in St. Clairsville.

Deacon Adams said the courses are for the Catholic who needs an awakening of faith, for people not active in their parish and for a person who has no affiliation with the church. Deacon Adams said the national speakers noted a special dynamic over the weekend as “people were embracing new possibilities for their own personal faith and how that could be applied in the life of their parishes.”

Dave Nodar, founder of ChristLife in

1995, spoke on relaunching evangelization in the Catholic Church.

Father Michael Saporito discussed the benefits of running the ChristLife series in his Westfield, New Jersey parish and the impact on his parishioners.

New York regional ChristLife director Dianne Davis talked about how she went from loving Jesus to falling in love with him and how her life has never been the same.

Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton initiated ChristLife in the diocese. The bishop asked seven parishes to be pilot parishes and additional ones have come on board.

Parishes in the diocese committed to ChristLife include ones in Bellaire, Cambridge, Carrollton, Ironton, Lowell, Marietta, St. Clairsville, Steubenville and Wintersville.

For additional information about future ChristLife conferences, telephone Deacon Adams at 740 283-4564 or email radams@diosteub.org.

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# Decades of hope

From Page 1

The bishop anointed the altar with sacred chrism, making the altar a symbol of Christ. The bishop then burned incense on the altar, signifying Christ's sacrifice. The incense ascends as a sign that people's prayers rise up, reaching the throne of God. The dedication continued with the bishop anointing the walls of the church.

The church is the realization of planning that began in the 1960s by Carroll County parishioners. Our Lady of Mercy parishioners started raising money with the idea that a new church would be built. A capital campaign and additional fundraisers by the parishioners were responsible for most of the funding. Parishioner Marsha Schumacher said the planning was a bonding experience for many families,

"This church is an example of generations of families getting together to see their dreams come true." Schumacher said her mother, Mary Javersak, was involved in the initial fundraising more than five decades ago.

The 19 acres, off Ohio 39, where the new church stands, were donated initially to Bishop John A. Watterson of the Diocese of Columbus in 1888 by Allen and Annie Pearch, according to Father Batt. In 1983, then Diocese of Columbus Bishop James A. Griffin deeded the former farmland to then Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Albert H. Ottenweller.

The church seats approximately 300 people in the 16-foot pews. The altar, baptismal font, windows and Stations of the Cross came from closed churches in the diocese and from churches across the country. Representatives from

Youngstown State University donated a pipe organ to the parish. A metal roof covers the new building, which includes offices for the parish priest and secretary.

Benchmark Construction of New Philadelphia was the general contractor on the estimated 2.3 million dollar project. Contractor Travis Haugh said the project went smoothly and, "I give a lot of credit to Father Batt and the church board for their organization and cooperation."

Today's church dedication was the first one in the Diocese of Steubenville in 19 years.

Shirley Dale, a parishioner at Our Lady of Mercy for 46 years, said, "I think it's wonderful, beautiful."

And as Schumacher summed up the celebration, "It's so exciting, overwhelming ... total happiness."



Bishop Jeffrey Monforton celebrates Mass at the new Our Lady of Mercy Church, center, along with the parish's pastor Father Anthony R. Batt and other concelebrants, left. Parishioners gather in the parish hall for dinner after the church dedication, right. (Photos by Orsatti)

## Crusader 5K Run/Walk and Fall Fest set

STEUBENVILLE — The third annual "Crusader 5K Run/Walk and Fall Fest" with "Little Saints Sprint" will be held Oct. 14, on the fields and trails of Catholic Central High School's Athletic Complex.

Chip-timing services and online race results will be available for the 5K. Awards will be given to the top male and female runner and the top male and female finisher in each age category. Top finishers in each age group in the "Little Saints Sprint" will also receive an award.

The \$5 admission to the fall fest includes registration for the "Little Saints Sprint," games, face painting and crafts. The 5K entry fee is \$20 for adults, \$10 for students up to high-school age.

Everyone registering for the 5K by Oct. 6 will receive a free T-shirt. Register online at runtheday.com, keyword: Crusader 5K, or pick up a registration form at Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary or Junior High School.

Race day onsite registration begins at 8 a.m. The 5K and fall fest start at 9 a.m. and "Little Saints Sprint" begins at 10:15 a.m. Fall fest activities will run until 11 a.m. CCHS Athletic Complex is located at 2103 St. Charles Drive, behind the Carriage Inn. The race will be held rain or shine.

All proceeds will benefit the Catholic schools in Steubenville.

For additional information, telephone (740) 346-0028, or visit facebook.com/crusader5K.

## Project Rachel Ministry coordinator named

STEUBENVILLE — Ginna Dombrowski has been named coordinator for the Diocese of Steubenville's chapter of the Project Rachel Ministry.

In a letter to the priests involved in this ministry, Joseph A. Schmidt, director of the Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life, wrote, "I am happy to announce that we have secured the services of Ginna Dombrowski as the coordinator of our Project Rachel Ministry. Ginna is a registered nurse and has been involved for many years in efforts to assist women in crisis pregnancies. Her gentle dedication to these women in need will be a great asset to us as we begin our outreach to women (and men) in need of healing from the wounds of abortion."

Project Rachel is the Catholic Church's ministry to those who have been involved in abortion. It is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, counselors and laypersons who provide a team response of care for those suffering in the aftermath of abortion.

In addition to referring for sacramental reconciliation, the ministry provides an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats and referrals to licensed mental health professionals.

A local confidential phone line is being established to help women who have had an abortion or anyone who has experienced abortion.

Those affected by abortion often carry deep wounds for many years (and even decades) and often live in despair of God's forgiveness and mercy.

Most people are aware of the Catholic Church's opposition to abortion and contraception. Unfortunately most people are not aware of the many efforts of the church to reach out in love and support to women (and men) who have been emotionally and spiritually wounded through abortion.

Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton will celebrate a Mass at Holy Family Church in Steubenville at 7 p.m. on Oct. 16 to launch the local Project Rachel Ministry.

To learn more about this ministry, please visit [www.diosteub.org/project-rachel](http://www.diosteub.org/project-rachel).



(Photo by Orsatti)

Ginna Dombrowski

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## St. John Paul II The Holy Spirit in Action

By Diocese of Steubenville  
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

We learn much about the Holy Spirit through his actions, of which our principal source of information is the Gospels. We met his action first in the account of the annunciation to Mary: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Lk 1:35). The Spirit was the agent of divine power in the incarnation as man of the Son of God. St. John Paul points out that God's action in the world, just as in the creation of the world is itself, an act of *divine love*. The Holy Spirit is the subsisting love of God, a concept that the pope will explain later. All of God's actions in the world are, therefore, acts of God's love and attributed to the action of the Holy Spirit. We read that Mary's relative, Elizabeth, was "filled with the Holy Spirit" at the visit of Mary and acknowledged Mary as the mother of the Messiah: something she could not have known except by divine revelation (see, Luke, Chapter 1, Verse, 4). Again, Simeon, at the presentation of Jesus, was divinely inspired to prophecy about Jesus and Mary (see, Luke, Chapter 2, Verses, 27-35).

The Holy Spirit's actions are revealed even more dramatically in the life of Jesus himself. Recall that no special powers came from his human nature, which was the same as ours "except for sin." But, as man, he possessed grace through his divine nature, in a measure far beyond that even of Mary's "fullness of grace." He was the recipient of the Holy Spirit's actions in ways we cannot imagine. Elizabeth and Simeon were grace-filled people and were endowed by the Spirit accordingly. With Jesus, we might say "all the stops were let out." Just how his divine and human natures worked together is a mystery beyond our comprehension. Jesus referred to it when he identified himself as the recipient of the "anointing by the Spirit of God" that was prophesied by Isaiah (see, Luke, Chapter 4, Verses, 18-19). In our own crude way, we might describe it as "teamwork" between the third person of the blessed Trinity and the incarnate second person.

The writers of the Gospels stress the actions of the Holy

Spirit on Jesus as those of one person influencing another person. For example, we read that Jesus "was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Mk 1:12). The resistance of Jesus to Satan's suggestions was a human action on his part, but supported by divine grace – the same that is available to all those in the state of grace. Jesus once openly declared that his preternatural powers were through the work of the Spirit: "But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you" (Mt 12:28). The implication is that this same power would be available to all of mankind. In fact, it is, as we believe the graces given to us in our daily lives, to say nothing of the miracles that have been worked by the saints through the ages ever since.

A more subtle indication of the personhood of the Holy Spirit is Our Lord's reference to "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit" (Mt 12:31-32). Blasphemy implies insult against a divine person. It is unforgivable because it cuts one off from the one source of grace that offers repentance and forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, himself.

Thus far, the references have been from the synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke. In the Gospel of St. John, we find the Holy Spirit as a person with an intimate relationship with ourselves. We read at the beginning of this Gospel: "No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him" (Jn 1:18). The pope says of this statement: "The depth and wealth of the content it offers will never be exhausted or fully explained."

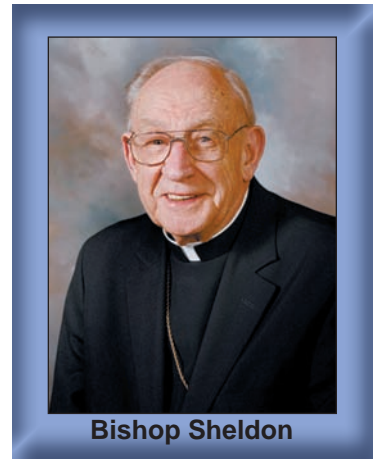
Add now Jesus' words at the Last Supper: "I will ask the Father and he will give you another advocate to be with you always, the Spirit

of truth which the world cannot accept because it neither sees nor knows him" (Jn 14:16-17). The Greek word "advocate" always refers to a person who stands by, defends or supports another person. Jesus was the original "advocate" of the apostles. He was to be followed by another. Jesus calls this new advocate "The Spirit of truth" (Jn 14:17). His support to them is spelled out: "The advocate – the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name – will teach you everything and remind you of all that I taught you" (Jn 14:26). John Paul observes: "The mission of preach-

ing truth, entrusted to the apostles and the church by Christ, is and will always remain bound by the personal activity of the Spirit of truth." The pope continues: "For that very reason the Holy Spirit is also the invisible master who will continue to impart from one generation to the next the teaching of Christ himself. ... From this

we deduce that the Holy Spirit will not only watch over the church as regards the solidness and the identification of the truth in Christ. He will also indicate the way to transmit (it) to the coming generations ... according to their needs and their ability to understand, giving each person the strength to assent ... to that truth and conform his or her life to it." He leaves to later the obvious implications for the church's "magisterium" and teaching authority.

For now, the pope calls attention to another somewhat confusing statement of Jesus concerning the advocacy of the Spirit: "And when he comes, he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation" (Jn 16:8). "Convict" is also translated "convince." It also means to *confront* or *accuse*. "Sin and righteousness" refer to morality: right and wrong. "Condemnation," as Christ explains, refers to the condemnation of the devil, who seeks to turn souls toward what is wrong. One implication is that joining in such wrongdoing is accountable for the erring soul as well. This raises the question of the possibility of forgiveness, and here, too, we see the role of the Spirit. In the upper room after his resurrection, Jesus breathed on the apostles and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (Jn 20: 22-23). On the positive side, those who accept and conform to the apostolic teaching will receive the Holy Spirit themselves "to be with you always" (Jn 14: 17). We call this the "indwelling" of the Holy Spirit, the presence of the Spirit in the individual soul. In the words of St. John Paul: "This is the greatest and holiest element in Christian spirituality."



Bishop Sheldon

*"The Holy Spirit's actions are revealed even more dramatically in the life of Jesus himself. Recall that no special powers came from his human nature, which was the same as ours, 'except for sin.'"*

## A Prayer for Stillness

By Father Ron Rolheiser

*Be still and know that I am God.* Scripture assures us that if we are still we will come to know God, but arriving at stillness is easier said than done. As Blaise Pascal once stated, "All the miseries of the human person come from the fact that no one can sit still for one hour." Achieving stillness seems beyond us and this leaves us with a certain dilemma, we need stillness to find God, but we need God's

help to find stillness. With this in mind, I offer a prayer for stillness.

*God of stillness and of quiet ...*

- Still the restlessness of my youth: still that hunger that would have me be everywhere, that hunger to be connected to everyone, that wants to see and taste all that is, that robs me

of peace on a Friday night. Quiet those grandiose dreams that want me to stand out, to be special. Give me the grace to live more contentedly inside my own skin.

- Still the fever I inhale from all the energy that surrounds me, that makes my life feel small. Let me know that my own life is enough, that I need not make an assertion of myself, even as the whole world beckons this of me from a million electronic screens. Give me the grace to sit at peace inside my own life.

- Still my sexuality, order my promiscuous desires, my lusts, my polymorphous aching, my relentless need for more intimacy. Quiet and order my earthy desires without taking them away. Give me the grace to see others without a selfish sexual color.

- Still my anxiety, my heartaches, my worries, and stop me from always being outside the present moment. Let each day's worries be sufficient unto themselves. Give me the grace to know that you have pronounced my name in love, that my name is written in heaven, that I am free to live without anxiety.

- Still my unrelenting need to be busy all the time, to occupy myself, to be always planning for tomorrow, to fill every minute with some activity, to seek distraction rather than quiet. Give me the grace to sit in a quiet that lets me

savor a sunset and actually taste the water I'm drinking.

- Still the disappointment that comes with age. Soothe

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### The Steubenville Register

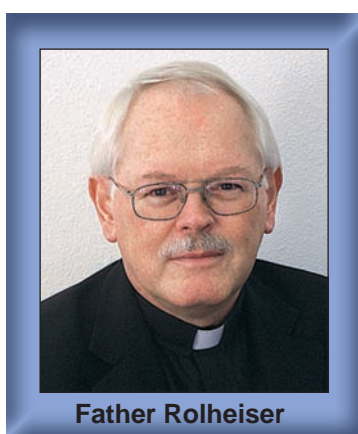
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Father Rolheiser

## We Are All Invited (28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A)

By Father Paul J. Walker

How do you see God? Do you see or understand God the same way you did when you were 7 years old, or 12 or 17 or 30 or 40?

Jesus' vision or understanding of God seemed to be unique among his contemporaries. It was a notion that often scandalized and angered the religious leaders of his day who thought they had God all figured out, nicely defined and perfectly safe. Their rules and religion reflected the way God saw and accomplished things.

Throughout the synoptic Gospels, (Mark, Matthew and Luke), Jesus moves about telling stories of all kinds of people and situations, and although God is never mentioned by name in any of them, they are all stories about the reign of God. Some of them are startlingly outrageous: the irresponsible father of a wayward son; the reckless shepherd leaving the 90 and nine to search for one; the vineyard owner whose unfair labor practices know generosity if not equity, and on and on. These parables tended to settle in the imagination and the heart giving rise to anger and fear while luring people toward change and conversion of heart.

The Gospel story for this 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Oct. 15) (see, Matthew, Chapter 22, Verses 1-14) is contextualized as being told to the "chief priests and elders of the people" – the ones who would have found it hardest to hear. Their God was the sum of their professional study and religious piety. They put their own "spin" on the tales and traditions of their ancestors, thereby stuffing God into their sewn-tight pockets.

In both the Hebrew and the Christian Scriptures, eating together – sharing a meal – held enormous religious significance in Jewish life and thought. Sharing the meal was sharing more than mere food and fellowship; it was to partake in the profound experience of communion and covenant. To be welcomed to Jewish ritual meals was a sign of one's inclusion in the heavenly banquet; it was to have a place at table at the "Supper of the Lamb." It was no wonder that people got upset when Jesus took meals with folks that the official religion said would be excluded from the reign of God. This great feast was welcoming tax collectors, prostitutes, Gentiles, Samaritans – "those people." The dynamic at work here seems to be: The professionally qualified are being rejected (their choice, and,

just as shockingly, the officially disqualified were taking their place ("... bad as well as good"). Jesus was suggesting that the people everyone expected to be seated at the heavenly supper would be excluded (ironically, by themselves); and the folks everyone expected to be excluded would be admitted.

The first reading for this 28th Sunday raises Isaiah's vision as he speaks of this heavenly banquet. The prophet sees "... the veil that veils all peoples, the web woven over the nations." Thus, the way we see now is veiled, webbed, clouded over; the way we see often excludes. God's way of seeing always includes – it takes in everyone. Any excluding is on our part – sometimes we even exclude ourselves. We are often harder on ourselves than God could ever be! The way we see, Isaiah says, will be corrected so that we may see all people having a place at the table.

Finally, we always have an insight available Sunday after Sunday at the church's liturgy – the way we have sung and prayed down through the ages. The liturgy from ancient times has spoken and sung of this heavenly banquet as the "Supper of the Lamb": "Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world," "Behold the Lamb of God ..." It is our Eucharist, a sacrament and foreshadowing of the great heavenly banquet – the Supper of the Lamb.

We have all been invited; a place is reserved at table and Jesus, as gracious host, offers all a wave of welcome. But where are we to be seated? Perhaps next to people we have excluded throughout our life? What was our measuring rod – skin color, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, philosophy of life, social class, personal injury, etc.? Good grief! We can't go in. We spent our life excluding and now, ironically, have excluded ourselves. The gracious Host will respect our choice. He will urge us to come in, long for us to enter, but will never force us.

Matthew and Luke (see, Luke, Chapter 14, Verses 15-24) both carry this parable, but Matthew's account has a harsher edge to it: The second envoy of the king's servants are mistreated and murdered, resulting in the king's order to destroy the murderers and burn their city; and there are the final four verses about the unfortunate guest without a wedding garment. Could Matthew's author be "talking tough" to a complacent church of his day and also admonishing us as well? Just getting in to the banquet is no great feat since both "bad and good alike" filled the banquet hall.

It may have to do with receiving Jesus' invitation to the kingdom and acting upon it so one can be ready to participate when the banquet actually begins. Perhaps it has to do with Paul's invitation about "putting on Christ." So for us, being baptized is one thing, living ("putting on," "wearing") our baptismal commitment is another.

The "price" for a place at table has already been paid. The Lamb, to whose supper we will be gathered, is a Lamb that has been slain (see, Revelation, Chapter 5, Verse 6). The "ticket" to the supper is neither our religious observance nor our moral righteousness, but God's lavish generosity and amazing grace.

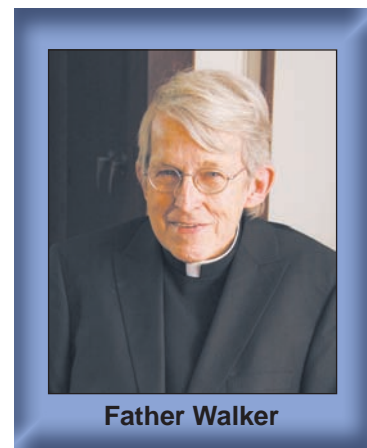
Let me sign off with Augustine of Hippo, fourth-century bishop in North Africa:

Let no one delay in coming to the supper ... And who have come but the poor and the feeble and the lame and the blind? But the rich have not come there, nor the healthy, who could walk well and see clearly, sure of themselves, and the more arrogant were they, the more endangered.

Let the poor come, for he who invites us, though rich, became poor for our sakes, that by his poverty we might be made rich.

Compel them to come in ... The Gentiles came from the streets and lanes ... Let us, they say, come in of our own will. But this is not what the Lord commanded. Compel them, he says, to come in. (St. Augustine, Sunday Sermons, III, Pages 179-180)

**Father Walker is a Diocese of Steubenville priest, who is retired from active parish ministry. He was a former director of the diocesan Office of Worship. A resident of McConnellsville, his hometown, Father Walker often celebrates Mass at St. James Church, there. He, too, writes a regular column for The Steubenville Register.**



Father Walker

## George Weigel's 'Lessons in Hope'

By Bishop Robert Barron

George Weigel's latest book "Lessons in Hope: My Unexpected Life with St. John Paul II" is the third panel in a great triptych he has composed in honor of the most consequential Catholic figure of the second half of the 20th century. While the first two books – "Witness to Hope" and "The End and the Beginning" – are marked by careful analysis and thousands of footnotes, this last volume is



Bishop Barron

more personal, filled with anecdotes and stories about the author's many encounters with John Paul over the years. Taken as a whole, it is a magnificent reflection on the saintly pope's observation that, in the final analysis, there are no coincidences, but rather only features of the divine providence that we

have not yet fully understood. Weigel shows the interweaving of his own life and John Paul's as an operation of grace that served – as is always the case when grace is in play – to benefit both men.

His distant preparation for the encounter with John Paul commenced with his studies in philosophy as a young man. The introduction to the great Western philosophical tradition enabled him, many years later, to understand the work of a pope whose mind was formed in large part by Thomist metaphysics and the phenomenological method of Edmund Husserl. The apprenticeship continued with Weigel's immersion in the Sturm und Drang of the post-conciliar scene in both America and Canada. Many intellectuals at the time were convinced that Vatican II represented, at best, a promising first step toward the full modernization of the church. Their program, accordingly, was radical accommodation to the current scene, not so much a "reading of the signs of the times" as a surrender to them. The inadequacies of the liberal theology of the 1970s caused Weigel to take a deeper look at the thought of Henri de Lubac, Hans Urs von Balthasar and Joseph Ratzinger, three men who felt that the post-conciliar conversation had gone off the rails and who would play a pivotal role in the papacy of John Paul II.

A final and crucial propaedeutic to telling the story of

John Paul was Weigel's deep immersion in the political and intellectual culture of Poland in the years following the revolution of 1989. Interviewing ecclesiastics, politicians, labor union leaders, artists and ordinary folks, Weigel heard, over and over, that the key to understanding the transformation of life in Poland was the visit of John Paul to his home country in 1979. Speaking in public of God, of human rights, of sin and redemption, of the Incarnation and eternal life, John Paul, during that historic pilgrimage, awakened in his own people a desire for that most fundamental of freedoms: religious liberty. The cry, "We want God! We want God! We want God!" echoing for 15 minutes in the central square of Warsaw during John Paul's homily gave expression to the aspirations of oppressed people throughout Eastern Europe and proved to be the beginning of the end of Soviet communism.

The combination of these experiences were preparing Weigel for the fateful dinner that he would share in 1995 with Richard John Neuhaus, papal secretary Stanislaw Dziwisz, and John Paul II himself. Having read Weigel's treatment of the Polish revolution of 1989, the pope was convinced that the young(ish) American scholar was the right person to compose the definitive biography. With

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## A Prayer for Stillness

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the unacknowledged anger I feel from not achieving much of what I've wanted in life, the failure that I feel in the face of all that I've left untried and unfinished. Still in me the bitterness that comes from failure. Save me from the jealousy that comes unbidden as I begrudgingly accept the limits of my life. Give me the grace to accept what circumstance and failure have dealt me.

• Still in me the fear of my own shadow, the fear I feel in the face of the powerful, dark forces that unconsciously threaten me. Give me the courage to face my darkness as well as my luminosity. Give me the grace to not be fearful before my own complexity.

• Still in me the congenital fear that I'm unloved, that I'm unlovable, that love has to be earned, that I need to be more worthy. Silence in me the nagging suspicion that I'm forever missing out, that I'm odd, an outsider, that things are unfair, and that I'm not being respected and recognized for who I am. Give me the grace to know that I'm a beloved child of a God whose love need not be earned.

• Still in me my false fear of you, my propensity for a misguided piety, my need to treat you like a distant and feared dignitary rather than as a warm friend. Give me the grace to relate to you in a robust way, as a trusted friend with whom I can jest, wrestle and relate to in humor and intimacy.

• Still my unforgiving thoughts, the grudges I nurse from my past, from the betrayals I've suffered, from the negativity and abuses I've been subject to. Quiet in me the guilt I carry from my own betrayals. Still in me all that's wounded, unresolved, bitter and unforgiving. Give the quiet that comes from forgiveness.

• Still in me my doubts, my anxieties about your existence, about your concern and about your fidelity. Calm inside me the compulsion to leave a mark, to plant a tree, to have a child, to write a book, to create some form of immortality for myself. Give me the grace to trust, even in darkness and doubt, that you will give me immortality. Still my heart so that I may know that

you are God, that I may know that you create and sustain my every breath, that you breathe the whole universe into existence every second, that everyone, myself no less than everyone else, is your beloved, that you want our lives to flourish, that you desire our happiness, that nothing falls outside your love and care, and that everything and everybody is safe in your gentle, caring hands, in this world and the next.

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

## George Weigel's

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some gentle prompting and encouragement from Neuhaus, the pope, as it were, popped the question, and Weigel knew that his life would never be the same. One might think that the account of the composition of this enormous study would be a tad dry. On the contrary, Weigel's anecdotes of interviews with some of the most significant figures in the Vatican are fascinating, and his stories of conversations with many of the pope's Polish colleagues, especially the members of his original youth group

in Krakow, are deeply moving and often quite funny. Though he explored this theme in the previous two books on John Paul, Weigel brings out with particular clarity in this volume how the pope universalized many of his moves and initiatives as priest and bishop in Krakow when he took the chair of Peter, the series of World Youth Days being the most striking example.

In the second half of "Lessons in Hope," Weigel several times describes lunches and dinners that he shared with John Paul and his inner circle. Marked by prayer, good

food and wine, the speaking of a variety of languages, lots of laughter, a rich exchange of ideas and vibrant discussion of the latest cultural trends, these meals served, it seems to me, as a symbol of John Paul's vibrant papacy. Precisely because he was an ardent disciple of Jesus Christ, John Paul was a passionate humanist. His favorite passage from the Vatican II document "*Gaudium et Spes*," cited again and again in his papal writings, is "The truth is that only in the mystery of the Incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light." It was the

pope's Christian faith that enabled him, at a crucial moment in modern history, to propose to the world a correct and liberating anthropology. Through the grace of God, George Weigel was uniquely positioned to tell that story.

**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. Additional information is available on it at [www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org).**

## Congressman Scalise credits power of prayer for his shooting recovery

By Carol Zimmermann

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Three and a half months after he was shot during an early morning baseball practice, Louisiana Congressman Steve Scalise, the House majority whip, received thunderous applause and standing ovations from the House floor Sept. 28 where he attributed his recovery to the power of prayer.

"I'm definitely a living example that miracles really do happen," he told his colleagues after acknowledging: "You have no idea how good it feels to be back here at work at the people's house."

The congressman, a parishioner at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Metairie, Louisiana,

along with his wife, Jennifer, and their two children, said the past few months have been challenging for him and his family, but he said the outpouring of love, warmth and prayer gave them the "strength to get through all of this."

"It starts with God," he said, noting that right after he was shot on the Alexandria, Virginia, baseball field and couldn't move, he "just started to pray."

"I will tell you, it gave me an unbeliev-

able sense of calm knowing that at that point it was in God's hands," he said. He also recounted how he prayed for specific things and many of those prayers were answered, which gave him "renewed faith and understanding that the power of prayer is something that you just cannot underestimate."

Scalise and fellow Republican House members along with staffers and others were practicing June 14 for the annual Congressional Baseball Game, which is played

for charity, when James Hodgkinson from Illinois, who was targeting the group, opened fire. He wounded Scalise and four others, including Capitol police officers on Scalise's protective detail, a congressional staffer and

a lobbyist. The gunman died at a local hospital from gunshot wounds.

Scalise's shot fractured bones, injured internal organs and caused severe bleeding that required multiple surgeries.

The congressman thanked the Capitol Police, especially the officers on his security detail, David Bailey and Crystal Griner. He also thanked the doctors at MedStar Washington Hospital Center who gave him "a second chance at life."



**House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., is applauded as he arrives on the floor of the U.S. House chamber in Washington Sept. 28 after returning to Congress for the first time since being shot and seriously wounded. (CNS photo/TV handout via Reuters)**

He thanked his wife and the many people who reached out with prayers and support, including colleagues from both parties and world leaders.

Scalise said many people have asked whether the shooting changed him.

"Yes, it changed me, but not in ways you might think," he said on the House floor, noting that the experience strengthened his faith in God and his belief in the goodness of people, since he witnessed "how much compassion there is out there."

A big takeaway for him was the reaction of world leaders.

"Sure, they cared about my well-being," he said, but he also is convinced they saw the shooting as an attack on U.S. political leaders as a whole, which he attributed not just to their personal concern for him.

"They count on us to be successful," Scalise said, reminding his colleagues to rise above the challenges of the day because "all around the world, people are counting on us."

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# Bishops' requests on repeal bill go for naught as effort collapses

By Julie Asher

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' effort urging senators to protect the poor and amend the Graham-Cassidy bill, meant to replace the Affordable Care Act, became a moot point as opposition to the bill stiffened amid frantic rewriting to get critical senators' votes and ultimately led to a decision to have no vote on it.

By mid-afternoon Sept. 26, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, said the measure would not be put to a vote.

Republican Sens. John McCain of Arizona, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Susan Collins of Maine said they would not vote for the bill, which doomed the legislation. The bill, which was being considered under budget reconciliation rules, needed only a simple majority to pass.

"We urge you to think of the harm that will be caused to poor and vulnerable people and amend the legislation while retaining its positive features," the bishops said in a letter to all senators dated Sept. 22.

Republican Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana co-sponsored the legislation.

"Without significant improvement, this bill does not meet the moral criteria for health care reform outlined in our previous letters and must be changed," the bishops said. That criteria includes respect for life and dignity; honoring

conscience rights; access for all; and a high-quality plan that is affordable and comprehensive.

The bishops criticized the measure's Medicaid "per capita cap" because it puts an "insufferable burden" on poor and vulnerable Americans. They did praise the bill for correcting "a serious flaw" in the ACA by ensuring "no federal funds are used for abortion or go to plans that cover it." They had called on senators to amend the bill to address its flaws but retain the pro-life provisions.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would have repealed the ACA and replaced it with block grants for the states to spend as they see fit. The block grants' size, though, would shrink over time and disappear altogether in 2027.

The bishops also applauded that Graham-Cassidy redirected funds from organizations that provide abortion.

The bishops' objections to the bill

were voiced by 3,000 religious leaders who signed a letter from the Interfaith Healthcare Coalition opposing the bill.

The letter was signed by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty; Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; and Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the Committee on Migration.

"As faith leaders, it is our duty to care for and

minister to people in our communities. As senators, you have a similar duty to care for your constituents," said the letter, issued Sept. 25. "Please focus on bipartisanship rather than political posturing, oppose Graham-Cassidy, and extend CHIP and DSH funding."

CHIP is the Children's Health Insurance Program, which is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services

and provides matching funds to states for health insurance to families with children who have incomes that are modest but too high to allow them to qualify for Medicaid. DSH is the Disproportionate Share Hospitals Program, which allows hospitals to get at least partial compensation for treating indigent patients.

Allowing those programs to lapse, the letter said, would "allow the health of America's most vulnerable people to face unnecessary and immoral obstacles."

Among the Catholics who signed the letter were Sister Simone Campbell, a Sister of Social Service who is executive director of Network, the Catholic social justice lobby; Holy Cross Sister Joan Marie Steadman, executive director of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious; Mercy Sister Patricia McDermott, president of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas; and Sister Patricia Chappell, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, who is executive director of Pax Christi USA.

The bishops, in their letter, said the bill's provisions to ensure no federal funds would be used for abortion "or go to plans that cover it" was "praiseworthy," because they would "finally address grave moral problems in our current health care system."

But they took the bill to task for giving block grants to states "in place of premium tax credits, cost-sharing subsidies and the Medicaid expansion," saying that arrangement would only harm the poor.



The U.S. flag flies in front of the Capitol dome. The latest version of the Republican measure in the Senate to repeal the Affordable Care Act was not put to a vote. (CNS photo/Joshua Roberts, Reuters)

## Cardinal urges passage of Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Saying he was speaking "on behalf of our country and the children whose lives are at stake," Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York Sept. 29 urged members of the U.S. House to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

The measure, H.R. 36, proposes a ban on abortions starting at 20 weeks after fertilization, about the time doctors have determined that an unborn child can feel pain. It is expected to come to the House floor the first week of October. It was introduced by Rep. Trent Franks, R-Arizona.

"All decent and humane people are repulsed by the callous and barbarous treatment of women and children in clinics ... that abort children after 20 weeks," said the cardinal, who is chairman of the U.S.

bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. He made the comments in letters to each member of the House.

"While there are divergent views on the practice of abortion," Cardinal Dolan said, "it is widely recognized from public opinion polls that a strong majority of the public is consistently opposed to late-term abortions."

"Planned Parenthood's callous and disturbing practices of harvesting fetal body parts from late-term abortions, partial-birth abortions and the deplorable actions of late-term abortionist Dr. Kermit Gosnell ... have shocked our nation and led many Americans to realize that our permissive laws and attitudes have allowed the abortion industry to undertake these procedures," Cardinal Dolan said, calling

the bill's 20-week ban a "common-sense reform."

He said "the proposed ban on abortion at 20 weeks after fertilization is a place to begin uniting Americans who see themselves as 'pro-life' and as 'pro-choice.'"

"The Supreme Court's past insistence that unborn children must be 'viable' to deserve even nominal protection is not meaningful or workable," Cardinal Dolan said, adding that medical technology "is moving the point of viability earlier in the pregnancy putting Roe on a collision course with itself."

"There are life-threatening dangers to women undergoing abortions beyond 20 weeks," he continued.

He said that some have tried to argue that such difficult and risky procedures

as later-term abortions "be done in more 'mainstream' abortion clinics, but 'those clinics generally refuse to perform the risky procedures.'"

"What does it say about us as a nation, if we will not act against abortions that even full-time abortionists find abhorrent?" Cardinal Dolan asked.

He reaffirmed the right to life of humans at every stage of development, as the Catholic Church teaches, and he said that the church remains committed to advocating for the full legal protection of all unborn children.

"Every child, from conception onward, deserves love and the protection of the law," Cardinal Dolan said. "The real problems that lead women to consider abortion should be addressed with solutions that support both mother and child."

## Pope Francis communications day theme: Truth in age of 'fake news'

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Given the strong divisions sparked and fueled by "fake news," Pope Francis is highlighting the importance of truth in his message for World Communications Day.

The message will call for studying the causes and consequences of baseless information and will promote "professional journalism," which always seeks the truth and therefore peace and understanding in the world, the Vatican Secretariat for Communication said, announcing the theme.

"The truth will set you free': Fake news

and journalism for peace" will be the theme of the church's celebration of World Communications Day 2018. The day's theme is announced every year on Sept. 29, the feast of the archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

The theme Pope Francis chose "relates to so-called 'fake news' -- namely baseless information that contributes to

generating and nurturing a strong polarization of opinions," the announcement said. "It involves an often misleading distortion of facts, with possible repercussions at the level of individual and collective behavior."

With so many key players in the world of social media, internet and politics beginning to face the phe-

nomenon, it said, "the church, too, wishes to offer a contribution."

The pope's message for the day will propose "a reflection on the causes, the logic and the consequences of disinformation in the media," and it will try to help "promote professional journalism, which always seeks the truth, and therefore a journalism of peace that promotes understanding between people."

Most dioceses will celebrate World Communications Day 2018 on May 13, the Sunday before Pentecost. The Vatican will release the pope's message for the observance Jan. 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of journalists.



Pope Francis (CNS photo)

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**Adena/Dillonvale** — Pets, on leashes or in pet carriers, will be blessed at 1 p.m., Oct. 8, on the festival field at St. Casimir Church, Adena, and at 2 p.m., in the parking lot of St. Adalbert Church, Dillonvale. Attendees can bring a can/bag of cat or dog food, which will be donated to Hounds Haven animal shelter, 22 Township Road, Dillonvale.

**Athens** — Throughout the month of October, the rosary will be prayed 20 minutes prior to the celebration of weekend Masses at Christ the King University Parish and immediately following Sunday Masses, at St. Paul Church.

Pets, on leashes, will be blessed on the lawn in front of Christ the King University Parish, beginning at 12:45 p.m., Oct. 8.

**Belle Valley** — Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will meet from 6-8 p.m., Sundays, at Corpus Christi Church. Anyone wanting to learn more about the Catholic faith can attend. For additional information, telephone (740) 732-4129.

**Bridgeport** — St. Anthony of Padua Parish will sponsor an annual turkey dinner from 11:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., Oct. 8, at St. Anthony School hall, 630 Main St. Dinners, consisting of turkey, dressing, mashed or sweet potatoes, gravy, green beans, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, roll, beverage and dessert, cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Takeout orders will be available at St. Anthony Center, which is located under the church rectory. The 50/50 and basket raffles will be drawn at 3 p.m. There will be transportation from all parking lots to and from the dinner.

**Buchtel** — A Mass for the anointing of the sick will be celebrated at 11 a.m., Oct. 26, at St. Mary of the Hills Church. All who have experienced impairment due to age or chronic illness can attend. Transportation will be available by telephoning (740) 753-2337.

**Cambridge** — A Bible study titled "The Bible and Prayer" will be held Mondays, at 6:30 p.m., at St. Benedict Church, in the Marian Room. The presenter for the series will be Jeremiah Hahn, a Diocese of Steubenville seminarian, who is in a ministerial year at Christ Our Light Parish. Cost to attend is \$12. For additional information, telephone Hahn at (740) 432-7609 or email jhahn@diosteub.org.

**Cambridge** — The annual St. Benedict School spaghetti dinner will be held from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Oct. 26, at St. Benedict Church social hall. Cost for the dinner, which includes spaghetti with meat or marinara sauce, tossed salad, rolls, desserts and beverages, is \$7 for adults; \$4 for children under the age of 12; free for children under the age of 5. For takeouts, telephone (740) 432-6751, extension 123.

**Fulda** — Bible study will be held at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesdays. For additional information, telephone Carol Schell at (740) 783-3565.

**Hopedale** — Mother of Hope Deanery Council of Catholic Women will sponsor a "Day With the Bishop" Oct. 18 at Sacred Heart Church, 209 Cross St. Recitation of the rosary will begin at 10:30 a.m. Mass will be celebrated by Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey Monforton at 11 a.m. Following lunch, an afternoon discussion will take place. There is no charge to attend the event. For additional information or reservations, telephone Karen Jochims at (740) 937-2062 or Diana Vargo at (740) 937-2941, prior to Oct. 11.

**Ironton** — The St. Joseph Central High School Service Team will sponsor a blood drive from 1-6:30 p.m., Oct. 13. Register online at redcrossblood.org and enter St.Joe\_Ironton, to schedule an appointment, or telephone (800) Red Cross.

**Lore City** — The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women biannual meeting will be held at 10 a.m., Oct. 21, at Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory hall. Cost of \$6 includes lunch. For additional information or to make a reservation, prior to Oct. 17, telephone DeDe Kidder at (740) 544-5925 or (740) 632-3018,



**St. John Fisher Parish, Richmond, will hold an annual Oktoberfest celebration from noon-4 p.m., Oct. 8, at the church. The menu will include roasted turkey and pork loin, mashed potatoes and gravy, haluski, sauerkraut, green beans, stuffing, roll and homemade desserts. Coffee, tea, punch and water will also be available. Cost for the dinner is \$10 for adults; \$5 for children ages 4-11; children ages 3 and under eat for free. Takeout is available by telephoning (740) 765-4142. Live music, 50/50 raffle, basket raffle and country kitchen, with homemade crafts and treats, will be part of the event. Parishioners, from the left, Georgie Weiser, Lisa Teramana, Arlene Redish, Betty Mazur, David Pizzoferrato, and seated, Pat Simpson, gather with their pastor, Father John J. "Jack" McCoy, to announce the event. Father McCoy is also pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Amsterdam. (Photo provided)**

or email dede.kidder@gmail.com.

**Lowell** — Our Lady of Mercy CWC will sponsor a craft show Nov. 11. For booth information, telephone Angie Lang at (740) 896-2491. Anyone who wishes to donate items for the country store can telephone Donna Arnold at (740) 896-2529.

**Malvern/Minerva** — The parishes of St. Francis Xavier, Malvern, and St. Gabriel, Minerva, will participate in the "Food Backpack Program," which will provide weekend meal items for less fortunate students. Items such as Goldfish crackers, raisins, applesauce and fruit snacks can be taken to the churches.

**Marietta** — The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, with the assistance of the CWC, the basilica's gift shop, St. Mary School and Knights of Columbus Council 478, will partner with Cross Catholic Outreach, which serves the less fortunate worldwide, to fill 100 "Boxes of Joy," which will be sent to children in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Nicaragua, for Christmas. Boxes are available at the basilica's Fourth Street entrance, and should be returned prior to Nov. 1. For additional information, telephone the basilica office at (740) 373-3643.

**Martins Ferry** — St. Mary Central School will sponsor an annual "Tiger Trot Walk-A-Thon" Oct. 8 at Mazerowski Park, Rayland. Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. Three hours of music, walking and food will follow. Proceeds from the event will be used to support the operating expenses at the school.

"Enjoy Coupon Books" will be available to purchase at St. Mary Central School office, 24 N. Fourth St., the second week of October. For additional information, telephone the school office at (740) 633-5424.

**Minerva** — St. Gabriel CWC will sponsor an annual boutique Nov. 2 and Nov. 3. To make donations or for table rental, telephone Judy Wood at (330) 418-1067.

**St. Clairsville** — Mass will be celebrated in Spanish at 2:30 p.m., Oct. 15, at St. Mary Church. The sacrament of reconciliation will precede Mass at 2 p.m.

**Tiltonville** — "Enjoy Coupon Books" will be sold at St. Joseph Church. For additional information or to reserve a copy, telephone (740) 859-6473.

**Tiltonville/Yorkville** — Throughout the month of October, the rosary will be prayed 25 minutes before the celebration of Masses at St. Joseph Church, Tiltonville, and St. Lucy Church, Yorkville.

**Wintersville** — The Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will have general registration for food assistance for Thanksgiving, Christmas and the year 2018, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., Oct. 13, at the food pantry, which is located at Blessed Sacrament Church. Registration is open to all residents of Wintersville and Bloomingdale, and to any parishioner in need, regardless of where they reside. For additional information, telephone (740) 264-9547; leave a message, and the call will be returned.

## Around and About

**Caldwell** — A public square rosary rally, to pray for peace in the world, will take place at noon, Oct. 14, at the Noble County Courthouse.

**Caldwell** — The Noble County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity will sponsor a dinner/auction Oct. 14 at the Noble County Community Center, County Road 56. The dinner will include steak, baked po-

tato, green beans, salad and rolls. Silent and live auctions will be held. Doors open at 5 p.m.; dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Presale tickets cost \$20. At the door the day of the event, tickets will cost \$25. All proceeds from the evening will be used to help build the fifth Noble County Habitat for Humanity

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## Around and About

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home. For additional information or tickets, telephone Ruth Nau at (740) 581-1324 or Colleen Smith at (740) 305-5082.

**Carey, Ohio** — The Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, 315 Clay St., will host the celebration of two Masses in October. The first Mass, Oct. 8, at noon, will be in honor of the feast of St. Gerard Majella, the patron saint of motherhood. The 7 p.m., Oct. 20 Mass is for hope and healing, including cancer victims, survivors, caregivers and their loved ones. For additional information, telephone the shrine at (419) 396-7107 or visit [www.olcshrine.com](http://www.olcshrine.com).

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

**Martins Ferry** — The First Presbyterian

Church, 400 Walnut St., will sponsor an annual choir festival titled "Celebration of Unity" Oct. 15, at 6:30 p.m. Choirs from different churches in the area will participate in the festival. The offering for the evening will benefit the Daily Bread Center.

**Toronto** — Throughout the month of November, the Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother will pray for deceased members of families and friends. Names of the departed can be submitted online at [www.franciscansisterstor.org/all\\_souls/](http://www.franciscansisterstor.org/all_souls/). Mass will be celebrated at 7:15 p.m., Nov. 2, in the Father of Mercy Chapel, Our Lady of Sorrows Monastery, 369 Little Church Road.

**Manitowoc, Wis.** — Throughout the month of October, Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity will feature musicians and inspiring reflections on peace at <https://fscs-calledtobe.org>.

**FOR YOUR MARRIAGE**  
Visit [ForYourMarriage.org](http://ForYourMarriage.org)



**St. Agnes Parish (Mingo Junction) Catholic Woman's Club will hold a pumpkin roll sale. Pumpkin rolls are \$9 each and can be ordered through Oct. 25. To order, telephone St. Agnes hall at (740) 535-0098 from 9 a.m. to noon and 5-7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, or telephone Barb Crugnale at (740) 535-0174. Orders can be picked up beginning Oct. 4, and every Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to noon and 5-6:30 p.m. through Nov. 1. Gathered to announce the event are, seated from left, Debbie Riccardo, Jackie Parks, Patricia Cramblett and Rose Ann Sacco. And, standing from left, are Barbara Crugnale, Wil Crow, Diocese of Steubenville seminarian, Joanne Raha and Patty Kosikowski. (Photo provided)**

## Once abandoned himself, Kenyan man now shelters thousands of kids

By Mark Pattison

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Charles Mully has had an incredible life story. And he's not finished yet.

The Kenyan-born Mully, 68, was abandoned by his family when he was 6 years old. For a decade, he scratched out a living for himself. At age 16, he encountered Christ in a personal way and later became a successful businessman, but he ditched it all to establish the Mully Children's Family, a home to shelter kids who had been abandoned like he once had been.

A film about his life, "Mully," was shown at about 750 U.S. theaters, but for only a three-day window, Oct. 3-5.

"I was born in a very poor family" in Nairobi, Kenya's capital, Mully said in a Sept. 29 telephone interview with Catholic News Service from Detroit, where he was to speak to supporters before catching a plane to Dallas later that day. "My father was addicted to alcohol. At the same time, he created violence. My mother, myself and my younger brother (were affected). One day I woke up and found out that they had gone. That was disaster on my side of life as a young child."

After eking out an existence for 10 years, "I was completely hopeless. I felt I was rejected by society. I needed something

better. But I felt wanting to commit suicide, wanting to take my life away," Mully recalled. But "through a man who invited me to his church, I heard the word of God and through the spirit of God and through the Lord Jesus Christ, it changed completely my life."

Mully said he knocked on doors until one opened for him. The "very nice young lady" gave him food and shelter in exchange for cleaning the house and weeding the garden. A half-year later, the woman's

husband put Mully to work on his farm outside the city. There, he earned enough money to buy a car, which he used as a taxi. "Through prayer, through hard work and through determination, my business grew," he added. A series of wise investments made him wealthy.

But Mully chucked it all to assume the mantle of Kenya's "Father to the Fatherless."

From the time he opened his first home in 1989, by his account, "with my wife and I, we have rescued over 12,000; that's about when this movie was made (in 2015). Since that time there was more — about 3,000."

That number, Mully added, is only those who have completed "the program." "They have become self-reliant in their future life," he said. "We give them the best of health care, clothing and shelter, love, fatherly and motherly love. We help them spiritually to grow, give them spiritual

nourishment as well as prayer," he said, as well as education from kindergarten and grade school to high school and vocational training in such fields as construction, electrical, fabrication, roofing and woodwork.

The number of success stories "I cannot even count," Mully told Catholic News Service. But he can count about 30 former wards who have returned to work at the Mully Children's Family homes, which are now spread throughout the country and help each one of Kenya's 42 tribal peoples.

He said the Kenyan government backs his work, and that he also gets some help from the European Union. "They are coming to us, glad to see the work that we are doing," Mully said. "It does not stop

there. We export beans and vegetables to Europe, Germany, the Netherlands. It gives opportunities to over 1,300 members of our communities."

Mully's model could be spreading. He said he's fielded inquiries from interested persons in Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Uganda and Tanzania, but also from Europe, the United States and Canada.

"My prayer, my desire is also to talk to the people around the globe and also in America that we may stake a step of faith and move forward to help our people in our countries to help these children who need to be adopted," Mully said. "Equal justice for future generations, as God created everything for each one of us."



**Kenyan-born Charles Mully, 68, was abandoned by his family when he was 6 years old. (CNS photo)**

## Obituaries

**Dominican Sister of Peace Jo Ann (Alexia) Lamantia** — a native of Toronto — died Sept. 26 at Mohun Health Care Center, Columbus, Ohio.

Born in 1941, she was the daughter of Philip and Elizabeth Berarducci Lamantia.

Sister Jo Ann entered the congregation of St. Mary of the Springs, presently the Dominican Sisters of Peace, in 1959.

Earning degrees from the College of St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, and Marygrove College, Detroit, she taught in schools in Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Columbus.

Sister Jo Ann is survived by her brothers Anthony, Paul and James, a sister, Elizabeth Miser, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 29 at the sisters' motherhouse. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery, Lockbourne, Ohio.

**Matthew D. Barcus**, 47, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, Sept. 27.

**Dominic J. "Mimi" DeLaurentis**, 94, Wintersville, Holy Family, Steubenville, Sept. 24.

**Josephine Milsky Exterovich**, 88, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, Sept. 20.

**Rosemary Perun Gooch**, 86, Toronto, St. Joseph, Sept. 26.

**Lawrence Lisle**, 74, Sacred Heart, Pomeroy, Sept. 12.

**Stacie A. Powell Manter**, 48, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Sept. 5.

**Pauline M. Wickham Mizik**, 90, Corpus Christi, Belle Valley, Sept. 16.

**Judith M. Papandrea**, 73, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, Sept. 25.

**Henry Portocarrero**, 86, Steubenville, Holy Family, Sept. 29.

**Michael J. Timko**, 82, Toronto, St. Joseph, Sept. 27.



Father Anthony R. Batt opens the main door of the new Our Lady of Mercy Church for the first time for Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, left; procession of diocesan priests, center; and Knights of Columbus members from several Steubenville area chapters, right.



Dedication Mass with Permanent Deacon Randall Redington, center; Bishop Monforton delivers homily, right.



More than 300 people pack the new church, left and right, with Bishop Monforton anointing the altar with holy chrism, center.



Bishop Monforton anoints church wall, left; Catelyn Hass and Lydia Oboy bring up gifts to bishop with Pryce Rogers looking on, followed by Jessica Rogers holding Kenton Rogers' hand, center; and bishop enjoying dedication dinner with parishioners at church hall, right. (Photos by Orsatti)