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Official

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton has appointed **Father David J. Cornett** moderator of the Presentation Deanery Council of Catholic Women, effective immediately.

Father Cornett is pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Barnesville, and St. Mary Parish, Temperanceville.

Presentation Deanery includes parishes in Jefferson County, ones in Adena, Dillonvale, Tiltonsville and Yorkville, and parishes in Belmont County, ones in Barnesville, Bellaire, Bridgeport, Colerain, Martins Ferry, Neffs, Powhatan Point, St. Clairsville, Shadyside and Temperanceville.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton has appointed **Father Timothy Davison**, a priest of the Diocese of Tulsa (Oklahoma) administrator of St. John the Baptist Parish, Churchtown, effective July 8.

Father Virgil L. Reischman, current pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, will retire from active parish ministry.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton has appointed **Father Timothy J. Kozak** pastor of St. Bernard Parish, Beverly, and St. James Parish, McConnelsville, effective July 1.

Father Kozak is parochial vicar to Msgr. Robert J. Kawa, current pastor of St. Bernard and St. James parishes. Msgr. Kawa will retire from active parish ministry.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton has appointed **Father Jonas A. Shell** parochial vicar to Father Paul E. Hrezo, pastor of Christ Our Light Parish, Cambridge, and chaplain of St. Benedict School, Cambridge, effective July 1.

Father Shell presently serves as parochial vicar to Father Mark A. Moore, pastor of the Athens and Pomeroy Catholic communities.



The statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary – in churches in the Diocese of Steubenville during the Year of Reconciliation of the diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary – will stand in Holy Family Church, Steubenville, June 2-9 and will be carried in procession June 24 – Story/ Page 11. (Photo by DeFrancis)



Celebration of the 150th anniversary of St. John the Baptist Church – which sits atop a hill in Churchtown – is underway. The former convent, restored for parish use; the former rectory, which houses meeting rooms, archives and a preschool in the lower level; and the rectory, where pastor Father Virgil L. Reischman resides, are visible. A cemetery is adjacent to the church and the grotto and school, right, are just beyond the church and complete the St. John properties, along Ohio 676 in Washington County. (Photos by DeFrancis)



Churchtown parishioners celebrating 150 years

CHURCHTOWN — Despite a light drizzle, dozens of people happily greeted one another as they gathered May 21 to begin the celebration of St. John the Baptist Church's 150 years.

Most had come to the Knights of Columbus Council 4617 hall on Ohio 676 for lunch from the nearby St. John Church, where Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton had celebrated morning Mass, during which 36 children received the sacrament of confirmation.

Father Virgil L. Reischman, St. John the Baptist Parish pastor, concelebrated the Mass at the church, built in 1866 and blessed in the fall of 1867.

Since the Diocese of Steubenville is not half as old as St. John Church, Diocese of Columbus records reveal the parish beginnings. Those records read that St. John, as was

common at that time, originated as a mission, sometime in the 1800s. Not unusual, either, Mass, originally, was offered in residences. Then, what was described as a roomy, frame structure was built on land donated by Michael McDermott. Pastors from St. Mary Church, Marietta, traveled to Churchtown once a month to celebrate Mass.

Land for the present church was donated by Matthew Jorden, church history shows. The brick used in the construction was made from the clay on the property surrounding the construction site. James Farrell was in charge of brickmaking.

Ken Pottmeyer, who served as the master of ceremonies at the kick-off celebration for the church anniversary, marveled at what the scaffolding must have looked like as the work on the church progressed. It took 15 months to build the

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Top grads listed for parochial high schools in Bellaire, Ironton, Steubenville

BELLAIRE/IRONTON/STEBENVILLE — Seniors have graduated, or are expected to graduate, at the three parochial high schools — St. John Central, Bellaire, St. Joseph Central, Ironton, and Catholic Central, Steubenville — in the Diocese of Steubenville.

Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton has congratulated seniors individually and collectively at baccalaureate Masses at churches — St. John, St. Joseph and St. Peter — in the communities Bellaire, Ironton and Steubenville — where the high schools are located.

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

During his homily at the Masses for the graduates and their families, Bishop Monforton challenged the high school seniors to not forget that they are continuing the Acts of the Apostles. "Wherever you go, whatever may be, you carry that same Holy Spirit," Bishop Monforton said.

Though the bishop told the graduates that their faith will be rattled, at times, he asked them to hold fast to the faith. "If you go to church every week, you will be strengthened," he advised.

Bishop Monforton, also, suggested that the graduates not cut themselves short. "... Embark to share the Gospel in your own way; don't give up. ... Jesus has already won it for us. ... Take the field."

Catholic Central High School Principal

Rich Wilinski, who is retiring at the close of the 2016-17 school year, was surprised at the end of the baccalaureate Mass at St. Peter Church by Bishop Monforton with an apostolic blessing. The framed document that Bishop Monforton presented Wilinski read, in part, "Pope Francis imparts the apostolic blessing to Rich Wilinski and invokes abundance of divine graces."

The blessing was requested "in grateful appreciation for his service as principal of Catholic Central High School, Steubenville," by Bishop Monforton and pastors. They include Father Thomas R. Nau, Central pastoral administrator and pastor of Triumph of the Cross Parish, Steubenville; Father James M. Dunfee, St. Agnes, Mingo Junction; Father Timothy J. Huffman, St. Peter; Father John J. "Jack" McCoy, St. Joseph, Amsterdam, and St. John Fisher, Richmond; Father Thomas A. Vennitti, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph, Toronto; Msgr. Gerald E. Calovini, Holy Family, Steubenville; and Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes, Wintersville.

Wilinski, who has decades of involvement in education to his credit, first taught at Catholic Central for nine years. Then, he served the school for nine years as principal, beginning in the 2008-09 school year, said Deacon Ward. Previously, Wilinski spent at least 18 years in public education in Ohio. Wilinski and his wife Barbara are members of Holy Family Parish, Steubenville. They are parents and grandparents.

At St. John Central graduation May 21

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Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton presents an apostolic blessing from Pope Francis to Rich Wilinski, Catholic Central High School principal. After decades in education, Wilinski will retire as Catholic Central's principal at the end of the 2016-17 academic year. (Photo by DeFrancis)

Teaching Position Available

St. Mary School, Marietta, Ohio, has a teaching position available for a full-time sixth-grade teacher/homeroom, with a focus on history, for the 2017-18 school year; minimum bachelor's degree required.

For additional information, contact Principal Susan Rauch susanrauch@stmaryscatholic.org or telephone (740) 374-8181.

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Top grads listed for parochial high schools

From Page 2

in the gymnasium at the 3625 Guernsey St., school, **Brock DeCoy** was singled out as the valedictorian and **Bryce Ramsay**, salutatorian.

The son of Dirk and Lori DeCoy of Bellaire, Brock will attend The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, in the fall and major in political science. A member of St. John Parish, Bellaire, Brock was president of the National Honor Society at St. John Central High School, as well as vice president of Student Council and the recipient of awards in physics, Spanish, religion and English. The summa cum laude graduate, too, was the recipient of scholarships.

Salutatorian Bryce is the son of Mark and Carrie Ramsay of Belmont. Also a summa cum laude graduate of St. John Central, Bryce was a member of the National Honor Society and president of the History Club, while in high school. He, too, was the recipient of several scholarships, including one from the Ohio High School Athletic Association. A member of St. Mary Parish, St. Clairsville, Bryce will attend the University of Cincinnati (Ohio) in the fall and major in political science.

Kim Leonard, principal of St. John Central High School, listed other members of the 2016-17 graduating class: Hannah Boyer, Kaitlyn Brown, Austin Butler, Allyson Goclan, Matthew Gress, Jeremy Hagiloizou, Cody Hamilton, Gillian Johnson, Kate Lovinski, Taylor Lowe, Cameron Opic, Aaron Rataiczak, Rachel Russell, Ava Scatterday, Logan St. John, Logan White, Rachael Zaccirey and Brooke Zonkoski.

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

In **Ironton**, graduation was expected to be held the evening of June 2 at St. Joseph Church, adjacent to St. Joseph Central High School.

Paul Mollett is principal of the high school, where Father David L. Huffman, pastor in the Ironton Catholic community and administrator of St. Mary Mission, Pine Grove, is pastoral administrator. Chris Monte is assistant principal.

Five students were named valedictorians at the 912 S. Sixth St., Ironton, school, said Christi Bare, guidance counselor. They include **John "Joey" Bush**, **Daniel Hodges**, **Megan Riley**, **Morgan Turner** and **Isaac Walker**. Two salutatorians were named and are **Jonah Lewis** and **Leonard "Tre" Neal III**.

John is the son of Al and Cristi Bush of Ironton. The valedictorian plans to attend the University of Akron (Ohio) in the fall and major in aerospace systems engineering. While at St. Joseph Central, John was a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society. He, too, participated in the school's Science Club and academic competition at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, and played basketball, baseball and soccer. As well, John was a member of the school's choir. A St. Joseph Parish, Ironton, parishioner, John was a member of the parish council and an altar server.

The son of Tim and Maria Hodges of Flatwoods, Kentucky, Daniel expects to attend the University of Louisville (Kentucky) and major in accounting. He is the recipient of university scholarships. While at St. Joseph Central High School, Daniel was a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society. He participated in academic competition at Marshall University and was a member of the St. Joseph Mock Trial Team, as well as its Quiz Bowl. A class officer, Daniel, also



Brock DeCoy



Bryce Ramsay

played in the school band and was a baseball, basketball and soccer team player. He represented the high school at various leadership conferences and seminars, too. Daniel was a lector in the Kentucky Catholic Church, Holy Family, where he is a parishioner.

The daughter of John and Kathy Riley of Ironton, Megan plans to major in nursing when she attends Marshall University in the fall. She has received a college scholarship. While a St. Joseph Central student, Megan was a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society and Science Club, which she served as president. She was a retreat leader, class officer, academic award recipient, band and choir member and basketball, softball, soccer and volleyball team player. Megan, too, was on the yearbook staff and a medical explorer's club member. She is a parishioner at St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish, Ironton.

Morgan is the daughter of John and Denise Turner of Coal Grove. A scholarship recipient, after graduation, Morgan plans to attend the University of Akron and major in nursing. As a student at St. Joseph Central High School, Morgan was a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, which she served as vice president. She, too, was student body president. Morgan, also, was a choir member, Science Club officer, medical explorer's club member, Catholic Club vice president and player on basketball, softball and volleyball teams. She is a member of St. Joseph Parish and served as a lector and retreat leader.

The son of Paul and Pam Walker of Ironton, Isaac will attend Ohio University, Athens, and major in chemistry, after his graduation from St. Joseph Central. He is the recipient of scholarships. The valedictorian was a member of the St. Joseph Central National Honor Society, the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society and Science Club. He, too, received academic awards, participated in band and choir, as well as was a Quiz Bowl Team member and retreat leader. He, too, played basketball, soccer, baseball

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Bishop Monforton's Schedule

June

- 3 Transitional diaconate ordination, Joshua Erickson, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 10 a.m.
- 4 Mass, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 10 a.m.
- 6 Episcopal ordination and installation of Bishop-designate Steven Biegler, Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming
- 7 Radio segment WDEO 990 AM, 10:15 a.m. Mass, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Holy Family Church, Steubenville, 11 a.m.
- 8 "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, 8:30 a.m. Visit lunch program at Sacred Heart Center of Hope, Steubenville, noon
- 9 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m. Chancery staff picnic, Steubenville, noon
- 12-15 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops spring general assembly, Indianapolis
- 15 WAOB radio segment, 7:40 a.m., 8:40 a.m. and 6:40 p.m.
- 17 Seminarian challenge breakfast, Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, 620 Roswell Road NW, Carrollton, 10 a.m.



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Joe Billante

Top grads listed for parochial high schools



John Bush



Daniel Hodges



Megan Riley



Morgan Turner



Isaac Walker



Jonah Lewis



Leonard Neal

From Page 3

and golf. A St. Joseph Parish parishioner, Isaac was an altar server and choir member.

Salutatorian Jonah is the son of Kevin and Jennifer Lewis of Pedro, Ohio. He plans to attend The Ohio State University and major in biology. Jonah has received a university scholarship. At St. Joseph Central High School, Jonah was member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society. He participated in academic competition and received academic awards. Jonah was a bowling team member, served on the Mock Trial Team and was a member of the Quiz Bowl Team.

Also, a salutatorian, Leonard is the son of J.R. and Melissa Neal of Ironton. Leonard plans to major in chemical engineering when he attends Ohio University in the fall, where he has received scholarships. At St. Joseph Central High School, Leonard was a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, as well as an academic competitor and class officer. He was a member of the Quiz Bowl, choir and yearbook staff. Leonard played soccer, baseball and basketball, as well as was a bowler and served as a kicker for the Ironton High School football team. A member of St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish, Leonard was an altar server and extraordinary minister of holy Communion.

St. Joseph Central graduates include Peyton Adkins, Dylan Arrington, Blake Balestra, Ashlee Blankenship, Geoffrey Bowling, Michael Brislin, Phillip "Trey" Clark III, Preston Cooper, Brea Eastham, Natalie Heaberlin, Erin Jenkins, Zachary McGraw, Blake McKee, Jenna Rawlins, Bradley Rist, Kaylee Sheridan and Nicholas Ward.

The May 28 graduation of **Catholic Central High School** students singled out **Natalie Mastroianni** as valedictorian and

Kenzie Zamberlan as salutatorian.

The daughter of Tom and Kathy Mastroianni, Natalie was involved in a list of activities and sports while at Catholic Central. She was a member and officer of the Key Club, a member and officer of the Catholic Daughters Club and a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions, the Pep Club and Foreign Language Club. As well, Natalie was a member of the National Honor Society, an academic letterer, junior class and Student Council officer and basketball and track participant. A receiver of various academic honors and scholarships, Natalie intends to attend West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, and major in biochemistry. Natalie is a member of St. Peter Parish.

Kenzie is the daughter of Ronald and Lynn Zamberlan. While at Catholic Central, she was a member of the Pep Club, Catholic Daughters Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions and Drama Club. She, too, was on the yearbook staff. Kenzie, also, participated in school musicals and served as a class officer. Outside of the classroom, Kenzie studied piano and voice. A member of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Wintersville, Kenzie was an altar server and cantor. The recipient of scholarships, Kenzie expects to attend Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, in the fall and major in pharmacy.

Other members of the Catholic Central High School Class of 2017 in the top 10 are: Catherine Beaulieu, Jacob Bolger, Ste-

phen Bolster, John Martaus, Evan Moore, Ethan Phillips, Joseph Schlich and Naomi Spencer.



Natalie Mastroianni



Kenzie Zamberlan

The 2017 Central graduates include, also: Cassidy Arai, Brittany Bertoia, Gabriella Capaldi, Rebecca Christian, Austin Clark, Luke Coniker, Stephanie Cuervo, Hayden Daley, Natalie D'Amico, Joella Daniel, Anthony

DeFallo, Edward DiBenedetto, Vincenzo DiCarlantonio, Lucca DiMichele, Theresa Duff, Cristine Fornasaglio, Austin Fowkes, Daniel Harris, Nathan Kilonsky, Teagan Larkins, Alexandria LaRue, Anthony Le-luika, Dima Lorenzi, Mary Maguire-Kish, Stephen Marcino, Francheska Marino,

Abigail Mello, Brody Mihalyo, Shayna Mirabella, Thomas Mort, Virginia Olszewski, Alyson Orsatti, Mikayla Pfouts, Chloe Pieniazek, John Rice, Michael Sherin, Samantha Simmons, Madelyn Sollom, Hannah Spiess, Emily Stevens, William Thompson, Kevin Wells and Zachary Zatta.

Jude Lucas, Catholic Central High School director of student services, said that of the 53 members of the Class of 2017, 23 have selected the medical field in which to continue their studies; five, business; eight, engineering; and three, education.

The students received approximately \$2.7 million in merit-based scholarships from colleges, Lucas said, and another \$49,550 worth of education aid from local benefactors and foundations.

Also, in the Catholic Central Class of 2017, 35 students achieved the Ohio honors diploma and 16 seniors completed the Catholic Central honors curriculum.

Diocese of Steubenville Chief Financial Officer

The chief financial officer provides operational and programmatic support to the diocese. He/she supervises the finance unit and is the chief financial spokesperson for the diocese. The CFO reports directly to the executive assistant to the bishop and receives direction from the diocesan Finance Council and directly assists the executive assistant to the bishop on all matters relating to budget management, cost benefit analysis, forecasting needs and the securing of new funding.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities:

- assists in performing tasks necessary to achieve the diocese's mission and help execute staff succession and growth plans;
- participates in developing new programs;
- ensures adequate controls are installed and that substantiating documentation is approved and available so purchases may pass independent and governmental audits;
- prepares and oversees the management and coordination of all fiscal reporting activities;
- develops and maintains systems of internal controls to safeguard financial assets of the diocese and oversees federal awards and programs;
- analyzes business operations, trends, costs, revenues, financial commitments and obligations, to project future revenues.

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's of Science in Accounting, Finance or related field;
- hands-on experience with QuickBooks;
- a minimum of 10 years experience in the management of financial systems and budgets, financial reporting, financial data analysis, auditing, taxation and providing financial advice;
- experience with nonprofit accounting;
- proven supervisory skills.

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Longtime diocesan comptroller to retire, replaced by chief financial officer

STEUBENVILLE — David A. Franklin, comptroller for the Diocese of Steubenville for 32 years, is retiring.

The Diocese of Steubenville Finance Council in a May 24 meeting in the chancery perused duties of a chief financial officer who would replace Franklin.

A native of Steubenville, Franklin was hired as comptroller for the diocese in April 1985. He has served in that capacity under four diocesan bishops, Albert H. Ottenweller, Gilbert I. Sheldon, R. Daniel Conlon and, currently, Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton.

Franklin and his wife Christine are members of Holy Family Parish, Steubenville.

They are the parents of two children and grandparents to five.

Christine Franklin, who has been involved in Catholic education for 24 years, first at All Saints Central School, Steubenville, and presently as treasurer at Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, will retire June 30.

The Franklins plan to relocate to Kentucky to be closer to their grandchildren.

Applications are being taken for a CFO for the diocese (See Register advertisement/Page 4).

Changing diocesan financial operations from a comptrol-

ler to a CFO model will relieve Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general and pastor in the Wintersville Catholic community, of one of his responsibilities – the diocese's finance officer – said James G. Piazza, executive assistant to the bishop.

In other business, finance council reviewed results of a diocesan audit, conducted by Steubenville and Marietta firms.

After discussion, council concurred that research needs to be done on past bequests to the diocese to be able to document the original intent of the person or persons who willed the money.

Franklin explained that years ago it was specified by those in charge of diocesan finances that when bequests were received for a particular purpose only the income from the invested funds would be used, so the money could continue to earn interest and the restricted fund could go on forever.

The outside auditors questioned labeling funds, restricted or unrestricted.

Also, council was advised that as a result of Mission Advancement Planning in the diocese, a Catholic Community Foundation of Southeast Ohio will be set up to

raise and house funds. Sister Mary Brigid Callan, diocesan stewardship and development director, said such a foundation would be a separate entity with a separate board of trustees.

The foundation would provide people with more information on what is happening with the funds they have donated, she said.

A foundation would require possibly three staffers, including an executive director, administrative assistant and development person.

An approximate \$2.8 million diocesan budget for 2017-18 was given final approved by council members who learned from Franklin that the current budget is on track for income and expenses.

When assessments that some parishes owe the diocese were reviewed, Msgr. Kemo said plans to repay the money are being worked on by him and pastors.

This year's Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign shows dollars pledged this year at the same time last year are up, Msgr. Kemo, DPSC director, said. "We hit the million-dollar-mark sooner this year, than last," he reported.

Next meeting of finance council was set for 9:30 a.m., Sept. 13, in the chancery in downtown Steubenville.

Fifth grade will be the norm for the sacrament of confirmation in diocese

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Youth in the Diocese of Steubenville will receive the sacrament of confirmation in fifth grade.

In a meeting May 25 in Marian Hall, St. Mary Church, St. Clairsville, Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton advised the diocesan Presbyteral Council of his decision. In past meetings, the council – comprised of priests who aid the bishop in the governance of the diocese – discussed the practicality of having a set age for confirmation in parishes throughout the diocese.

Changes for youth to receive the sacrament will be made in a reasonable time, Bishop Monforton said. And, for example, he said, smaller parishes may combine fifth, sixth and seventh grades for confirmation.

Introduction of the common age for confirmation will be done in a deliberate way, Bishop Monforton stressed. "It may take a couple of years."

In other business at the meeting, chaired by Father Thomas A. Chillog, diocesan episcopal vicar for pastoral planning and personnel and ex-officio member of the

council, Shannon Minch-Hughes, diocesan Office of Human Resources, presented possible scenarios for eye and dental insurance coverage for the diocese's priests.

After discussion, agreement came for Father Chillog to poll clergy to determine if they prefer a yearly monetary salary increase or the added insurance coverage.

Ways to boost the Steubenville Priests' Retirement Plan were another topic for discussion at the Presbyteral Council meeting. If a collection were held in the fall in parishes in the diocese and priests each made a personal contribution to the plan, it could be 90 percent funded, Father Chillog explained.

The plan is separate from any funds controlled by the diocese and supports diocesan clergy who retire from active parish ministry at 70.

Sister Mary Brigid Callan, stewardship and development director for the Steubenville Diocese, talked about Mission Advancement Planning, which grew from Bishop Monforton's call for a renewal of the diocese in his presentation "With Immense Hope." The more than 3,500 survey

responses from 9- to 97-year-olds have been returned to parishes, she said. Parish groups have had a second planning training. Information on needs and resources are expected to be compiled by Sept. 1, Sister Callan said.

Meanwhile, James G. Piazza, executive assistant to the bishop, said that the diocese's strategic plan will be circulated by July 1 to priests and parishes.

Bishop Monforton reminded council members of the reconsecration of the diocese June 24 at a noon Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta; of the Sept. 29-30 training in parishes for ChristLife, a new evangelization tool; and of the possibility for younger clergy to participate in additional formation on a variety of topics via Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Too, Bishop Monforton said a religious order, The Servants of the Institute of the Incarnate Word, may minister in Ironton.

Presbyteral Council will meet again Sept. 14.

It's a wrap for diocese's MAP Advisory Task Force

CAMBRIDGE — Four topics were the focus of discussion at a final meeting of the Mission Advancement Planning Advisory Task Force May 22 at St. Benedict Church.

Mission Advancement Planning has been underway in the diocese at the direction of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton.

The process has been guided by Thomas J. Sonni, president, Greater Mission Development Services, Elkridge, Maryland, and Sister Mary Brigid Callan, director, stewardship and development for the Steubenville Diocese.

The planning began after Bishop Monforton introduced "With Immense Hope" in the fall of 2016 to clergy who he had sat with earlier to listen.

Through input from a diocesanwide survey and parish input, the advisory task force has focused on identifying

the most important pastoral needs in the diocese and how to fund them, as well as supported the establishment of a Catholic Community Foundation of Southeast Ohio. The foundation can provide for engagement of lay leaders, professionally managed endowments and enhanced investment opportunities. The bishop retains ultimate authority.

The four topic areas that have been cited most often are Catholic schools; youth – how to engage and keep them; evangelization/revitalization; and support for clergy – vocations, formation/education and retirement, Sister Callan said.

Though the advisory task force will not meet again, formally, Sister Callan said information will continue to be disseminated via email. The process to renew the diocese is not ended, she stressed.

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St. John Paul II Spirit, Word, Wisdom

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

Pope St. John Paul II has up to this point been pointing out hints in the Old Testament concerning the existence and the role of the Holy Spirit. He next focuses primarily on the Book of Wisdom. Like the other “wisdom books” of the Old Testament (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs and Sirach) the Book of Wisdom was attributed by the ancient Israelites to King Solomon, as their author. Solomon, the son of King David, was noted for his wisdom. We read how God appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him that whatever he asked for would be given him. Solomon replied to God: “Give your servant ... a listening heart to judge your people and to distinguish between good and evil.”... The Lord was pleased by Solomon’s request. So God said to him: ‘Because you did not ask ... for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, not for the life of your enemies, you asked for discernment to know what is right, I now do as you request. I give you a heart so wise and discerning that there has never been anyone like you until now, nor after you will there be anyone to equal you. In addition, I give you what you have not asked for: I give you such riches and glory that among kings there will be no one like you all your days’” (1 Kgs 3:9-14). John Paul explains: “King Solomon ... is presented as the author of this book by *literary contrivance*.” People of the ancient world did so freely and without our modern concern about strict literal truth. This was the case, too, e.g., with the “Pentateuch,” the first five books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). They were traditionally attributed to Moses as their author. We know that this could not have been the case, at least for all five, because we read in Deuteronomy about the death and burial of Moses (see, Deuteronomy, Chapter 34, Verses 3-5). However, there is no doubt that these five books convey the teaching and spirit of Moses that formed the basis of the life of the Chosen People until the coming of Christ.

*It is through his Holy Spirit
that God communicates his will to us.*

“The experience of the Old Testament prophets accents especially the link between the Word and the Spirit,” John Paul observes. It is through his Holy Spirit that God communicates his will to us. The Spirit is, also, the means by which he tells us, that is, *reveals* to us, facts about realities that we cannot see or experience, as mere humans. There are many incidents in the Old Testament where the prophets, having been spoken to by God – usually in a vision or dream – pass on that information to their fellow Israelites, and, in particular, to those in authority. The word “prophet,” as we have seen, means one who speaks for – on behalf of – another person. From the time of the first king, Saul (about 1000 B.C.), to the end of the “Babylonian exile” in the fifth century B.C., the top authority was a king. The prophets were not always believed and followed. All too often they were rejected and persecuted, frequently having to pay with their

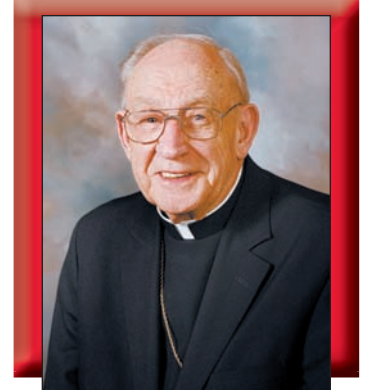
lives for speaking in God’s name. This was because the king, and/or his advisors – often the high priests – did not like what the prophet had to tell them. They would kill the bearer of bad news! We see this, e.g., in the account of the prophet Zechariah (see, 2 Corinthians, Chapter 24, Verses 20-21). We see it again with the prophet Jeremiah (see, Jeremiah, Chapter 28). In the case of Isaiah, there is only a legend (not too reliable) that he was slain by being sawed in two. We see it, with a somewhat different twist, in the case of the prophet Daniel. He brought God’s word, not to the king of his own people, but to their conqueror, Belshazzar, king of Babylon. In that case, the will of God caught up with Balthasar, before he could react against Daniel (see, Daniel, Chapter 5). We have already seen it in the New Testament in the case of John the Baptist and King Herod. Finally, we have seen it in the case of Jesus Christ, himself, who stood before a combination of the Jewish Sanhedrin and the Roman governor.

Turning to the Book of Wisdom again, another dimension of the action of God’s Spirit is that of *wisdom*, itself. The Spirit conveys not only information, but information that is salvific, i.e., spiritually beneficial to the individual and to mankind in general. John Paul observes that “the link between wisdom and the Spirit is so stressed that the two

are almost identical.” We find that wisdom is a generous spirit, but one that does not tolerate evil or deceit: “For wisdom is a kindly spirit, yet, she does not acquit blasphemous lips; because God is the witness of the inmost self and the sure observer of the heart” (Wis 1:6). Among the functions of this spirit-wisdom is that of making known the divine will: “Who ever knew your will, except you had given wisdom and sent your Holy Spirit from on high” (Wis 9:17)? The pope explains: “By means of his Holy Spirit, God makes known his own will, his plan for human life, much more deeply and surely than a mere promulgation of a law in formulae of human language.”

The Book of Wisdom spells out for us what God’s will is in our regard. To quote just a few well-known verses: “Trust in God and he will help you; make your ways straight and hope in him” (2:6). “They multiply sin who demean their mother” (3:11). “Kindness to a father will not be forgotten ... in time of trouble it will be recalled to your advantage” (3:14-15). “Humble yourself the greater you are and you will find mercy in the sight of God” (3:18). “Without the pupil of the eye, light is missing; without knowledge, wisdom is missing” (3:15). “Do not mock the life of the poor; do not turn your face from the poor” (4: 1-4). “Wisdom teaches her children ... those who love her love life; those who seek her win the Lord’s favor” (4:11-12).

John Paul comments thus about the Book of Wisdom: “We are at the summit of religious philosophy, not only of Israel, but of all ancient peoples. Here, the biblical tradition answers the great questions unresolved even by Hellenistic (i.e., Greek) culture. Here ... the truth of all things. ... And all is under the power of the eternal love with which God loves all his creatures: love in which we now recognize the person of the Holy Spirit.”



Bishop Sheldon

Coming Full Circle – From Story Books to Spirituality

By Father Ron Rolheiser

My first love was literature, novels and poetry. As a child, I loved story books, mysteries and adventures. In grade school, I was made to memorize poetry and loved the exercise. High school introduced me to more serious literature: Shakespeare, Kipling, Keats, Wordsworth, Browning. On the side, I still read story books, cowboy tales from the Old West, taken from my dad’s bookshelf.

During my undergraduate university years, literature was a major part of the curriculum; and I learned then that literature wasn’t just about stories, but also about social and religious commentary, as well as about form and beauty as ends in themselves. In classes then, we read classic novels: “Nineteen Eighty-Four,” “Lord of the Flies,” “Heart of Darkness,” “The Heart of the Matter,” “East of Eden.” The curriculum at that time

in Canada heavily favored British writers. Only later, on my own, would I discover the richness in Canadian, USA, African, Indian, Russian and Swedish writers. I had been solidly catechized in my youth and, while the catechism held my faith, literature held my theology.

But after literature came philosophy. As part of preparation for ordination, we were required to do a degree in philosophy. I was blessed with some fine teachers and fell into first fervor in terms of my love of philosophy. The courses then heavily favored scholasticism (Aristotle, Plato, Augustine, Aquinas), but we were also given a sound history of philosophy and a basic grounding in existentialism and some of the contemporary philosophical movements. I was smitten, philosophy became my theology.

But after philosophy came theology. After our philosophical studies, we were required to take a four-year degree in theology prior to ordination. Again, I was blessed with good teachers and blessed to be studying theology just as the Second Vatican Council and a rich new theological scholarship were beginning to penetrate theological schools and seminaries. There was theological excitement aplenty, and I shared in it. In Roman Catholic circles, we were reading Congar, Rahner, Schillebeeckx, Schnackenburg and Raymond Brown. Protestant circles were giving us Barth, Tillich, Niebuhr, and a bevy of wonderful Scripture scholars. The faith of my youth was finally finding the

intellectual grounding it had forever longed for. Theology became my new passion.

But after theology came spirituality. After ordination, I was given the opportunity to do a farther graduate degree in theology. That degree deepened immeasurably my love for and commitment to theology. It also landed me

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Father Rolheiser

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Bishop Celebrates Sacraments, Year of Reconsecration

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

*“This is my body that is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me”*
(Cor 11:24).

First Communion

This past month our diocese celebrated First Communion for our younger brothers and sisters. Rightfully so, this was a great event in the parish community and the profoundest of moments in the life of the family, especially in the life of the one receiving Jesus Christ’s Body and Blood at First Communion.

How deeply grateful we are to our Lord Jesus Christ who strengthens us in the Eucharist, providing us the ability to become more like him in our daily lives. Jesus’ Body and Blood sustains us and instills within us the supernatural zeal to become holy, training our eyes constantly on his holy face.

At the reception of First Communion our young ones have embarked on the journey to have a deeper understanding that God loves them, thereby enabling them to grow in faith. A great celebration of First Communion can be considered a launching of sorts of one’s heart into a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ as the young person matures in faith and reason. We pray for the families of first communicants, as they are the first schools of faith for the children.

Confirmation

We presently are in the midst of Confirmation season and how fitting that this very weekend we celebrate the solemnity of the descent of the Holy

Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost (June 4). The very same Holy Spirit imparted upon the Apostles is received by our brothers and sisters in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In the prayer of Confirmation, I explicitly state the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as:

- wisdom,
- understanding,
- knowledge,
- counsel,
- fortitude,
- piety,
- fear of the Lord,

for these gifts both equip the recipient of the sacrament with the ability to be an effective ambassador of Jesus Christ as the Gifts of the Holy Spirit grow and flourish within the person.

Please pray with me for those who receive the Sacrament of Confirmation that they be recognized through the seal of the Holy Spirit that Jesus Christ has entrusted them with the mantle of responsibility to go out and share the Gospel in both word and deed.

Year of Reconsecration

Come Saturday, June 24, at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta at noon we will celebrate our diocesan solemnity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, patroness of our beloved diocese. While this celebration falls on the very solemnity of the Birth of St. John the Baptist, we have received permission from the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments that while the rest of the parishes of the diocese will celebrate the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, we will celebrate the solemnity of our patroness at the basilica in Marietta.

Furthermore, we also have received word from the Apostolic Penitentiary at the Holy See that this closing of the



Bishop Monforton

Year of Reconsecration in the Diocese of Steubenville to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a privileged day in which the faithful may receive a plenary indulgence. More information will be shared regarding all of the preceding in this and the next Steubenville Register.

Please join me in praying for all who have received and are in the midst of receiving First Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation, not to mention our couples celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony, as they embark on their pilgrimage in a deepening of their encounter with Jesus Christ.

May you and your family have a blessed “restart” of Ordinary Time.

Veni, Sancte Spiritus Pentecost Sunday

By Father Paul J. Walker

John’s Gospel account for Pentecost presents the disciples as fearful, scared to death of the Jewish authorities. Though no stone sealed them in, they were nonetheless “entombed” behind locked doors. Nobody went out. Nobody could go in – except Jesus. When Jesus did come, he realized he had a bunch of dying disciples on his hands, their spirits practically snuffed out. So what does he do? He does the very same thing his Creator Father had done at the original creation: “He breathed on them,” the Gospel says. Recall the opening verses at the very beginning of the Bible (see, Genesis, Chapter 1, Verse 2) where a “wind from God swept over the face of the waters,” God’s very life-breath breathing life and light into the chaos and darkness. Jesus assumes this perennial posture of God: breathing life, light into chaos and fear. He breathed on them, he blew into their hearts, minds, souls and imaginations the very breath (life) of God. Here was the Creator God once again blowing over the chaos of the community’s confusion and fear following Jesus’ death. So, again, God was about to renew the face of the earth and bring forth new life – the life of God’s Son now united with the community as the body of Christ, the church.

We have taken our first tentative steps into the third millennium and as a church find ourselves in uncertain times. This does not necessarily mean disaster; it can also mean a crossroad, a moment of present opportunity, even a grace. It is a “carpe diem” moment. But, many times we are like those disciples, we hide in upper rooms and



Father Walker

fear inscribed tombs. We can withdraw in fear, and fear can cripple and bind the church in every age. So often we gasp for God’s breath, as we struggle and strain to live as that new creation. We gasp through the foul air of our time that would suffocate and darken the life and light of God’s Holy Spirit: the air of hate and greed, of power and competition, of war and violence, of callous disregard for life in a “culture of death,” as St. John Paul II described in “Evangelium Vitae.” In such an environment, it is not easy for people today to discover within the field of their experience anything they might try to call the “works” or “gifts” of the Holy Spirit.

The late Jesuit theologian Father Karl Rahner wrote: “If we want to get rid of the impression of a secular world in which there is nothing like a Holy Spirit, then we shall have to stop looking for him only under explicitly religious labels of the kind our religious grounding has accustomed us” (“Opportunities For Faith,” Pages 40–45). Many people of different religious persuasions and of no religious grounding are able, without knowing how, to break out of self-centeredness, bitterness, anger; they experience in life and in relationships love, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and cannot name the source. When such things occur, what we Christians call the Holy Spirit is at work. What is going on in these and similar experiences is not a controllable or definable factor of our experience. Again, from Rahner: “We Christians *least* of all need to think of this nameless Holy Spirit, ‘poured out upon all flesh,’ as locked up within the walls of the church ... rather we form the church as the

community of those who confess explicitly in historical and social forms that God loved the world (not merely us Christians) and made his spirit the innermost dynamic principle of the world” (“Opportunities For Faith,” Pages 40–45).

This having been said, could it be that sometimes we *fear* the Holy Spirit? I think I do. It shouldn’t surprise me, since I usually want to know what I’m getting involved in and clearly define the parameters and limits that lie before me. I want the Spirit in smaller, more manageable doses. It is sometimes terrifying to think of God as what Rahner calls “infinite incomprehensibility into which the Holy Spirit wants to hurl us.”

We should know from the weekday Lectionary’s presentation of the Book of Acts during this past Eastertide that the Holy Spirit’s work in the first century church was anything but predictable and tidy! Grounded in the ancient stories of Genesis 1 and 2, the Spirit pours out a new story – a story of origins and an evolving creation faithful to the experience, knowledge and empirical evidence of our times. Through study, research and prayerful reflection by scholars, both in science and religion, the “new story” unfolds *not* as an accurate account of human history over 6,000 or 7,000 years, but as sacred history of the very universe itself over billions and billions of years – eons of time! While honoring the religious and mythical content of Genesis, our first story, the new creation story sets out a larger context within which to place the biblical story (and the stories of all peoples and cultures).

The “new story” says that from a sacred origin event (“Big Bang”?) some 17 billion years ago, all that is, all that ever was and all that will ever be has emerged and continues to unfold (evolve) from simplicity to greater

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Churchtown

From Page 1

church, he said. This was at a time when many people in the area still lived in log cabins, Pottmeyer added. "They were not rich people. It took a lot of dedication."

Father Magnus Eppink was the first pastor of the parish.

Churchtown was mainly a farming community. Many of the families, some of German descent, others from Ireland, have continued generation after generation to reside in Churchtown or the surrounding area and sit in the pews at St. John the Baptist Church. In 1879, members of the parish are said to have contributed the value of every 50th bushel of wheat and with the proceeds bought the main altar.

A bell tower – the steeple topped by a cross – which can be glimpsed from several places in Washington County, was added to the church in 1885. It was constructed of the same handcrafted bricks.

The vestibule that sits close to the hilltop roadway was built at that time, also, church documents state.

On most days, a brisk wind blows across the church grounds, Pottmeyer observed to The Steubenville Register on a recent blustery afternoon. In 1887, ones that reached cyclone strength, the story goes, damaged the church and necessitated replacement of St. John's roof.

When the 100th anniversary of St. John was commemorated, Father William H. Campbell, who is said to have taken up residence in Churchtown in 1961 to aid in the spiritual administration of Churchtown and Vincent and serve as a substitute pastor of St. Bernard Parish, Beverly, and princi-

pal of a parochial high school in Marietta, was credited with writing the "History of the Church in Churchtown." He told of central heating that replaced a potbellied stove to heat the church and the installation of electricity.

In addition, a Marian shrine, patterned after the one at Lourdes, France, was built.

Msgr. Charles F. Highland became the pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in 1956. He served the parish until his unexpected death in 2000. During those years, the church historian wrote that the skilled workers among the congregation rewired, relighted, repainted and beautified the church. In 1966, to prepare for the parish's centennial celebration, the church was sandblasted and outside doors added for easy accessibility.

In 1979, the parish drilled its own oil well to supply the heat for a rectory, convent, the church and a school that dates to at least 1887. The present St. John Central School was constructed, beginning in 1955, on acreage adjoining the church property that was purchased for \$3,500.

Also, in the 1950s, the parish pastor's house was renovated into a convent for sisters who taught at St. John Central School; the parish hall was converted into a home for priests; and the Knights built their hall, where the May 21 lunch was held.

Church records indicate that in the 1980s the church basement was renovated; the church steeple restored and the cross that stands 150 feet in the air replaced by a stainless steel one.

When the interior of the church was painted in 2000, records showed that 95

gallons of paint and 3,000 pounds of plaster were used.

Father Frederick C. Kihm, now pastor of parishes and a mission in the Harrison County Catholic community, served as pastor of St. John's from 2002 until 2007, when Father Reischman was assigned as pastor of the parish.

At the time of Father Kihm's appointment as St. John pastor, parishioners had begun to renovate the former rectory/convent. The structure is thought to have been built in 1890, as a rectory, longtime pastor Msgr. Highland had said, prior to his death. It was used as a residence for parish priests until 1958, when the Missionary Sisters of the Assumption arrived to teach in St. John Central School. The refurbished convent, where Father Kihm resided, today, is used for meetings and display of historical items, Pottmeyer said, on a tour of the structure. It would have been considered a mansion when it was built, he mused about the large facility, which includes a basement and an attic, as well as a many-room first and second floor.

More recently, the rectory where Msgr. Highland resided for many years has become a parish center, as well as a pre-school.

A new rectory was built for Father Reischman, who will retire June 30 as St. John pastor.

Father Reischman was born July 3, 1943, in Miltonsburg, one of four children of Raymond and Edith Kress Reischman. He received his early education at St. Sylvester Central School, Woodsfield, and obtained degrees from St. John Vianney Seminary, Bloomingdale, The College of Steubenville

and The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Ordained to the priesthood in May 1969, by Bishop John King Mussio, Father Reischman served at parishes or schools in Steubenville, Bellaire, St. Clairsville, Shadyside, Ironton and Pine Grove. In 1988, he ministered at parishes in Fairpoint and Maynard and a mission in Crescent. Beginning in 1991, he was assigned as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Amsterdam. Then, in 1998, he was appointed pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Barnesville, and St. Mary, Temperanceville.

Father Reischman has served as a priest for the diocese under all five of its bishops. He started serving the diocese while still in seminary, he chuckled. He was the person who maintained the floors there for 12 years, he said.

"I have enjoyed the priesthood," Father Reischman said. "I have been busy. I have been a principal of a high school, principal of a grade school," as well as a pastor of parishes.

To those assembled in the Knights' hall he offered a thank you for coming to celebrate and a suggestion that they look where they have been and where they are going. "This is a class A plus, plus, plus parish," Father Reischman said.

As he expressed his pleasure at having lived in Churchtown, he said, "We've done everything. Everything is up to date, because of your generosity and help. ... I enjoy my work."

Pottmeyer concluded, "The church looks as good, if not better, than when it was built."

Coming Full Circle

From Page 6

a teaching job and for the next six years I taught theology at a graduate level. These were wonderful years; I was where I most wanted to be, in a theology classroom. However, during those six years, I began to explore the writings of the mystics and tentatively launch some courses in spirituality, beginning with a course on the great Spanish mystic John of the Cross.

My doctoral studies followed those years and while I focused on systematic theology, writing my thesis in the area of natural theology, something had begun to shift in me. I found myself more and more, both in teaching and writing, shifting more into the area of spirituality, so much so that after a few years I could no longer justify calling some of my former courses in systematic theology by their old catalogue titles. Honesty compelled me now to name them courses in spirituality.

And what is spirituality? How is it different from theology? At one level, there's no difference. Spirituality is, in effect, applied theology. They are of one and the same piece, either ends of the same sock. But here's a difference: Theology defines the playing field, defines the doctrines, distinguishes truth from falsehood and seeks to inflame the intellectual imagination. It is what it classically claims itself to be: *faith seeking understanding*.

But, rich and important as that is, it's not the game. Theology makes up the rules for the game, but it doesn't do the playing nor decide the outcome. That's the role of

spirituality, even as it needs to be obedient to theology. Without sound theology, spirituality always falls into unbridled piety, unhealthy individualism and self-serving fundamentalism. Only good, rigorous, academic theology saves us from these.

But without spirituality, theology too easily becomes only an intellectual aesthetics, however beautiful. It's one thing to have coherent truth and sound doctrine; it's another thing to give that actual human flesh, on the streets, in our homes, and inside our own restless questioning and doubt. Theology needs to give us truth; spirituality needs to break open that truth.

And so I've come full circle: From the story books of my childhood, through the Shakespeare of my high school, through the novelists and poets of my undergraduate years, through the philosophy of Aristotle and Aquinas, through the theology of Rahner and Tillich, through the Scripture scholarship of Raymond Brown and Ernst Kasemann, through the hermeneutics of the post-modernists of my post-graduate years, through 40 years of teaching theology, I've landed where I started – still searching for good stories that feed the soul.

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



Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton welcomes parishioners, some St. John the Baptist, Churchtown, members for more than 85 years, to the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the church. (Photo by DeFrancis)

(Additional Photos/Page 12)

Pentecost Sunday

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complexity; from nonlife to life. We can know and reverence our earth and its 5-billion-year story; we can study earlier life forms and trace the human species in its several manifestations.

This Pentecost-time can widen our horizons and stretch our imaginations, as to how and where God's Holy Spirit works. Rahner saw human nature as *already* caught up in God's gracious outreach to humankind, even *before* the dawn of an awareness of what God has accomplished in Jesus Christ. Should we not expect then to be surprised by this Holy Spirit?

The late Cardinal Leon Joseph Suenens, archbishop of Mechelen-Brussels (Belgium), was once asked in such times as ours why he was a man of hope. A very short portion of his reply:

Because I believe that God is born anew each morning. ... He did not create

(the world) at a long-forgotten moment in time. It is happening now be ready to expect the unexpected from God. ... (T)he Holy Spirit is at work in the church and in the world, even where his name remains unheard. To those who welcome him he gives each day fresh liberty, renewed joy and trust. ... I believe in the surprises of the Holy Spirit. John XXIII came as a surprise ... the Council, too. They were the last things we expected ... who would dare say that the love and imagination of God were exhausted?

(“A New Pentecost?” Pages 12-13)

Father Walker is a Diocese of Steubenville priest, retired from active parish ministry. He is a former director of the diocesan Office of Worship. In retirement, he resides in his hometown of McConnelville and celebrates Mass, often, in St. James Church, there.

Pope Francis spends day in Genoa talking jobs, witness, migration

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Condemning an economy that encourages speculation more than entrepreneurship, warning priests and religious that they share responsibility for the vocations crisis and telling young people they are right to be puzzled by nations that close their doors to people fleeing persecution, Pope Francis spent a busy day in Genoa.

Besides being packed with pastoral appointments, the pope's visit to the northern Italian port city May 27 also was emotional. He told workers in a struggling steel plant that it was from the Genoa port that his father and grandparents immigrated to Argentina.

Pope Francis' daylong visit began with an intense morning of answering questions: first, from workers and business owners gathered at the steel plant; then from priests and religious in the city's cathedral; and, finally, from young people gathered at a Marian shrine overlooking the city and the sea.

The questions ended when he had lunch — featuring traditional Genovese pesto — with 120 refugees, migrants and homeless people. He also visited a pediatric hospital before celebrating Mass near the port with some 80,000 people, according to local officials.

Starting his visit with the workers, business leaders and unemployed, Pope Francis told them that for those who are able to work, having a job increases dignity, bringing a way to support their family and contribute to society. For that reason, he said, government policies should not be so much about ensuring everyone gets a monthly check of some sort, but that everyone who can work can find a decent job. "It must be clear that the true objective to reach is not 'an income for all,' but 'a job for all,'" he said.

A good entrepreneur, the pope said, is no stranger to hard work, and he knows his employees because he works with them and alongside them.

Unfortunately today, he said, "an illness of the economy is the progressive transformation of entrepreneurs into speculators." A business owner who uses his business for speculation "does not love his company (and) does not love his workers, but sees the company and the workers only as means to a profit," the pope said. "Firing, closing (or) moving the company creates no problems for him," because such a person is interested only in the money.



Pope Francis greets workers as he arrives at the ILVA steel plant during his May 27 pastoral visit in Genoa, Italy. (CNS photo/Giorgio Perottino, Reuters)

Pope Francis also warned the workers and business leaders against the highly touted idea of "meritocracy" in the workplace and the economy. The idea, he said, takes a positive, "merit," and "perverts it" by mistaking as merits the "gifts" of talent, education and being born to a family that is not poor.

"Through meritocracy, the new capitalism gives a moral cloak to inequality," because seeing gifts as merit, it distributes advantages or keeps in places disadvantages accordingly, he said. Under such a system, "the poor person is considered undeserving and, therefore, guilty. And if poverty is the fault of the poor, then the rich are exonerated from doing anything."

The obligation to do something also was on the pope's mind when he moved to the cathedral for the meeting with bishops, priests and men and women religious. He told pastors their day should look like the days Jesus had: time in prayer, but mostly time spent on the road and with a crowd. "This means being close to people and to their problems. He didn't hide."

Priests, he said, also must take care to nurture a sense of brotherhood with other priests, praying for them, helping them when they are in trouble, sharing experiences and even having debates about the best way to handle situations they all face. "We run the risk of creating the image that a priest knows everything and has no need for anyone to tell him anything," the pope said. "Today kids would say, 'This is a Google priest or a Wikipedia priest!'"

Disagreements are natural and not something to fear, he said. The late Cardinal Giovanni Canestri of Genoa used to say, "The church is like a river and what is important is being in the river."

"If you are in the center or more to the right or more to the left, but in the river, this is legitimate variety," the pope said. "So many times we want the river to narrow only to our side and we condemn the others — that's not fraternity!"

Asked about the dropping vocation rate, Pope Francis said one can't ignore the impact on vocations of Catholics having smaller families than in the past. But, also, he said, priests and religious themselves must look at the kind of witness they give young people. "We have to give a witness that shows we are happy and that we will end our lives happy that Jesus chose us," he said.

When a priest or religious has no joy, "a young person will see them and say, 'I don't want to live like that.' It pushes people away."

Joy and love were still on his mind when he met young people from the Archdiocese of Genoa who had spent a year as missionaries to their peers, to people on the streets and those in difficulty. To fulfill Jesus' command to share the Gospel with others requires learning how to see them with "the eyes of the heart," listening carefully and loving them, he said. "Love is being able to take a hand that is dirty and the ability to look in the eyes of those who are in distress and say, 'For me, you are Jesus.' This is the beginning of every mission, this love with which I must go out and speak." If one cannot love the people one meets on mission, he said, "it's better to stay home and pray the rosary."

To be Christians who make a difference, he said, young people must have the same qualities as Genoa native Christopher Columbus and the other explorers: the ability "to look beyond your own nose" and the courage to set off, not always accepting what other people say is "normal," the pope told them. Is it normal, he asked, that so many refugees and migrants have such difficult lives when they finally reach a safe country? "Is it normal that the Mediterranean is becoming a cemetery" with refugees drowning? "Is it normal that in the face of someone's pain, our attitude is to close the doors?" the pope asked. "If it's not normal, get involved!"

Faith, love, service are key to bishops' ministry, pope wrote to Italians

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Bishops must be models of confident trust in the Lord, constantly reaching out with the good news of the Gospel and avoiding all temptation to despair or to cling to vestiges of worldly power, Pope Francis wrote to the bishops of Italy.

The pope opened the annual general assembly of the Italian bishops' conference May 22 at the Vatican. But rather than reading the speech he prepared, he had it distributed to them. Instead, as "servant of the servants of God," he said he was ready to answer their questions, listen to their experiences and even to their criticisms. "When one presides and does not permit dialogue, gossip reigns."

Pope Francis thanked the journalists present for their interest in covering the bishops' conference, but said, "extra omnes," the formal Latin phrase for "everyone out." The phrase is pronounced at the beginning of a conclave when only cardinals are allowed to remain in the Sistine Chapel to elect a new pope.

According to the Vatican press office, the pope and bishops spent about two hours speaking behind closed doors.

In the text, Pope Francis wrote and handed to the bishops, he urged them to "not fear moments of disagreement. Entrust yourselves to the Spirit, who is open to diversity and reconciles differences in fraternal charity."

In renewing the pastoral outreach of the church and "adapting it to the mission of the church in the world today," he said, bishops must examine their consciences and scrutinize the ways they may have been resisting the promptings of the Holy Spirit. "Our infidelities are a heavy lien on the credibility of our witness to the deposit of faith, a threat that is much worse than that which comes from the world with its persecutions," the pope wrote.

A lack of "love, freshness and enthusiasm" blocks efforts to share the Gospel, he said, as do tiredness and fear, including the fear of taking initiatives that so-called "religious men and women" find strange.

"Let us safeguard trust in the surprising initiative of God," Pope Francis wrote.

He asked the bishops to struggle against "spiritual worldliness," including the adoption of "logics of power and success," even when those initially seem to improve the church's standing in the world.

"Let us return to the things that truly count: faith, love for the Lord, service freely rendered with joy," he said. Such a focus resists "the temptation to reduce Christianity to a series of principles deprived of concreteness" and to judge people without listening to them.

The Catholic Church, the pope said, is called "to throw

itself into reality without being timid," to step through every door the Lord opens and to see every encounter without another person as an opportunity to make a friend.

"By itself even the best yeast is inedible," but a little bit can make a lot of dough rise, he said. "Let's mix in with the city of men and women, collaborate effectively to encounter different cultural riches and commit ourselves to working together for the common good of each person and everyone."

Although the pope, who is the primate of Italy, had asked the bishops to move to a direct election of the conference president, rather than having a president appointed by the pope, the conference members decided to elect a slate of three candidates and ask the pope to choose from among them.

Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco of Genoa, appointed president in 2007 by now-retired Pope Benedict XVI, is stepping down. The three bishops who received the most votes the morning of May 23 were, in order: Cardinal Gualtiero Bassetti of Perugia-Citta della Pieve, Bishop Franco Giulio Brambilla of Novara and Cardinal Francesco Montenegro of Agrigento.

The Vatican announced the next day that Pope Francis went with the bishops' first choice, Cardinal Bassetti.

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Athens — A “Diocesan Catechetical Day” will be held June 17 in the Holy Family Center, which is located at Christ the King University Parish. Speakers for the event include Petroc Willey from Franciscan University, teaching “Divine Revelation” and “Christ,” and Carolyn A. Crabtree, catechetical consultant, Diocese of Steubenville Office of Christian Formation and Schools, teaching “Trinity.” The day begins with the celebration of Mass at 8:30 a.m., at Christ the King University Parish. Lunch will be provided. The workshop fulfills requirements for certification for those in catechetical ministries.

Cambridge — St. Benedict School will hold a rummage sale from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., June 29 and June 30, and from 9 a.m. until noon, July 1. An early bird sale will be held July 29 only, beginning at 8 a.m.; \$5 fee. The sale will be held at St. Benedict Athletic and Events Center, North Seventh Street. Donations of furniture, appliances, tools, household items, children’s clothing, crafts and miscellaneous items will be accepted June 24-25, following Masses at St. Benedict Church, and June 26 through June 28, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., at the school’s gym. For donation pickup, telephone Stevie Fairchild at (740) 432-2961 or Pat Farley, (740) 432-7609. All proceeds will benefit St. Benedict School.

Carlisle — Vacation Bible school, themed “Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose,” will be held June 18 through June 22, from 6 until 8:30 p.m., at St. Michael Church. Children in preschool through fifth grade can enroll and students in sixth grade through 12th grade are needed to be group leaders and assistants. For additional information or to volunteer, telephone (740) 509-2034.

Churchtown — An open house, to celebrate the retirement of Virginia Dyar, who taught at St. John Central School for 44 years, will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., June 11, at the school gymnasium, 17654 Ohio Route 676, Marietta.

Gallipolis — St. Louis Parish will hold an Italian dinner fundraiser June 3, from 4-8 p.m., in the church hall. The menu will consist of lasagna, Alfredo with penne pasta, spaghetti with meat sauce, grilled chicken, green beans, salad and beverage for \$15. Desserts will feature carrot cake, coconut rum cake and brownies.

St. Louis Parish has set up a gofundme account to help raise funds for the church’s electrical project. Anyone who has a Facebook page can visit the St. Louis Catholic Church Gallipolis page and share the gofundme link, or share the link, gf.me/u/fj8bn.

Ironton — Bobbi Shelton and Alyce Waldo were recently elected to St. Joseph Parish Council. Alternates are Bruce Davis and Don Vermilyea. Elected to St. Lawrence O’Toole Parish Council were Diane McFann and Scott Woods. Alternates include Andy Mains and Karen Williams.

Malvern — “Luck of the Draw” tickets are being sold by St. Francis Xavier Parish Catholic Order of Foresters. Tickets cost \$20 each and can be purchased by telephoning Lou Thurin at (330) 868-5881. The drawing, which will include a first prize of \$1,000, second, \$500; third, \$400 and fourth, \$100, will take place Aug. 13.

Martins Ferry — The annual salad luncheon, sponsored by the Daily Bread Center, will be held in St. Mary Central School auditorium, 24 N. Fourth St., June 15, from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$6. Tickets for the Chinese auction are six for \$5 or \$1 each. Tickets will be available at the door or by telephoning Dorothy Holler, (304) 218-4838 or Lil Laughman, (740) 633-1839.

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

Steubenville — Volunteers are needed to assist



St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Woman’s Club hosted a tea social for women new to the parish community in Colerain, said Lorraine Frohnafel, CWC representative. Josephine Probst coordinated the event and was assisted by many women who baked cookies, made tea sandwiches, created decorations, conducted games and provided entertainment that included a spring hat decorating contest. Plating cookies for the event at the parish gathering center are, from the left, Carol Banal, Donna Donley and Elaine Simpson. Father Timothy P. McGuire is pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Parish. (Photo provided)

with a summer lunch program, which will be held June 5 through Aug. 18. Lunch will be served from noon until 1 p.m., at the Sacred Heart Center of Hope, located on South Fifth Street, which is part of Cathedral Square. The event will include faith-based activities until 2 p.m. For additional information, telephone Ruth Ann Turner, social service coordinator, Diocese of Steubenville Family and Social Concerns (Catholic Charities), at (740) 282-3631.

Steubenville — A “Blessing of the Child in the Womb” will take place at 1 p.m., June 18, at Holy Rosary Church. All can attend; no registration is necessary to receive the blessing.

Wintersville — Summer Bible school, themed “Tracking Mary Mysteries and Messages,” will be held June 26 through June 30, from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., at Blessed Sacrament Church Sargus Hall. Children 3 years of age, fully potty trained, through sixth grade, can attend.

Around and About

North Canton, Ohio — Walsh University and Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy will host a “Mercy and Mercy Weekend Retreat” June 23-25, featuring Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception Father Michael Gaitley, author of “33 Days to Morning Glory.” The retreat will be held at Walsh University, 2020 E. Maple St. Registration is required; visit <http://events.marianmissionaries.org/events/mercy-mary-weekend-retreat-ohio>, or telephone (413) 944-8500, extension 10.

Steubenville — The Power and Purpose Conference will be held June 9-11 at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Centered on the theme “Abide and Arise” participants will be invited to draw deeper into the mystery of the Father’s love and to be more open to his transformative presence in their lives.

The “Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians Retreat” will be held June 19-23 at Franciscan University of Steubenville. The theme “The Gift of God” will be addressed.

The St. John Bosco Conference, with the theme “Jesus, Our Hope,” will be held July 17-20 at Franciscan University of Steubenville for those seeking certification or additional training in campus ministry, catechetics, youth ministry, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or religious education.

The Applied Biblical Studies Conference, themed “The Book of Acts: How the Holy Spirit Leads the Church Through Hard Times,” will be held July 26-28 at Franciscan University of Steubenville at the St. Paul Center.

The Defending the Faith Conference, themed “Always Reforming: Authentic Renewal, Ongoing Conversion,” will be held July 28-30 at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

For addition information about the conferences or to register online, visit www.steubenvilleconferences.com.

Franciscan University of Steubenville is offering a plenary indulgence, granted by Pope Francis, with a visit to the statue of Our Lady of Fatima at Christ the King Chapel in honor of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. The statue must be visited on the 13th of each month until Oct. 13, and one must recite an Our Father, the creed, and pray Our Lady of Fatima’s intercession, while praying before the statue. In addition, one must be completely removed from sin and receive the sacrament of reconciliation and the Eucharist within 10 days before or after venerating the statue. Christ the King Chapel is open every day from 6 a.m. to midnight.

Steubenville Catholic Engaged Encounter

Aug. 19-20

Register: www.steubenvillecee.org or telephone Jeff King (740) 424-5069

Spend a weekend away to prepare for your lifetime commitment!

Year of Reconsecration of the diocese closes June 24 in Marietta

STEUBENVILLE — The Year of Reconsecration of the Diocese of Steubenville to the Immaculate Heart of Mary will come to an end June 24 with a Marian procession and the Reconsecration Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary statue will be carried in the procession, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary School, 320 Marion St., Marietta, moving directly down Fourth Street to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, 506 Fourth St. There, Mass will be celebrated at noon by Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton.

The Apostolic Penitentiary in Rome responded to a petition recently from Bishop Monforton granting a plenary

indulgence on the occasion.

The decree reads:

“The Apostolic Penitentiary, for the increase of the devotion of the faithful and for the salvation of souls, by the power conferred in Jesus Christ to Holy Father Francis, responding to the recent petition of the Most Rev. Jeffrey Marc Monforton, Bishop of Steubenville, from the heavenly treasury of the church, kindly grants a plenary indulgence according to the usual conditions (sacramental confession, eucharistic Communion and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father), by the truly penitent faithful compelled by charity once on the day of acquiring which can even be applied for the souls of the faithful detained in Purgatory on June 24, 2017, on the patronal feast of the Diocese of Steubenville in which it is again consecrated to the Im-

maculate Heart of Mary as they attend the specific rites determined by the bishop or at least they, on an agreed space or time, might conclude spiritual exercises with the Lord’s Prayer, the creed and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

“The elderly and the sick and all who, for a serious reason cannot leave their home, likewise can gain the plenary indulgence with true contrition for their sins and the intention of receiving the sacraments as soon as possible if they join themselves spiritually to the diocesan celebration, offering their prayers and sorrows or their own afflictions of life to the merciful God.

“Therefore, for those seeking, may the access to the divine grace through the keys of the church be made easier in the exercise of pastoral charity. This Penitentiary earnestly asks the priests endowed with

suitable faculties to hear confessions promptly and generously offering the celebration of penance.

“Nothing to the contrary should stand in the way with these.

“Given from the Apostolic Penitentiary in Rome on the May 9, 2017.”

Various means of transportation will be used for transporting people throughout the diocese to the reconsecration. Buses and vans are expected to depart from parishes.

After the procession, the Immaculate Heart of Mary statue will continue to be available for placement in parishes throughout the diocese, said Sister Mary Brigid Callan, diocesan stewardship and development director, and will find a permanent home in the renovated Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville.



Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361 celebrated its 60th anniversary in late April and singled out individuals for their volunteerism. Shawn E. Zarych, grand Knight, seated center, presented the awards at the dinner in the council hall in Mingo Junction. Cited were Richard “Flip” Herrick, seated left, an active charter member of the council, merit award named in honor of deceased former grand Knight Larry Campbell; Donald B. Zarych, seated second from left, volunteer of the year; Jennifer Fabian, seated second from right, and her husband Scott Fabian, standing second from right, family of the year; and Diocese of Steubenville Permanent Deacon Thomas E. Graham, seated right, Knight of the year; and, standing from left, Father James M. Dunfee, pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Mingo Junction, chaplain of the year; Hayden Daley, a Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, senior, youth of the year; and John Lemal, Steubenville police officer, blue coat of the year. Theresa Madden, a St. Agnes parishioner, was named lady of the year. Mike Potenzini, deputy grand Knight and council program director, and Steve Daley, council youth director, assisted in the presentation of the awards. Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, standing right, is the vicar general for the Steubenville Diocese, as well as pastor of Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes, Wintersville. He attended the annual event and congratulated the Knights on their 60 years of service, in behalf of Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton. The council received its charter in 1957, held a first meeting at St. Agnes Church, Mingo Junction, and built its hilltop Mingo Junction facility in 1962, banquet attendees were told. At the event, John Balzano was master of ceremonies. Baci Carpico, council trustee and past grand Knight and past state deputy; Erol Hosdil, a district deputy, and Donald L. Hall, vice supreme master fourth-degree Knight, also, were on the dais. (Photo by DeFrancis)

Bahen – papal awardee recipient – dies

STEUBENVILLE — Gregory P. Bahen – recipient of the Cross “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice,” a papal award – died May 29.

The Steubenville resident was honored with the “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice” award at Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville, Oct. 7, 2001. The award was presented by Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon, prior to his retirement as the bishop of the Diocese of Steubenville. The award was granted by St. John Paul II and translates to “For the Church and the Pontiff.” It is given to individuals who demonstrate outstanding service to the church.

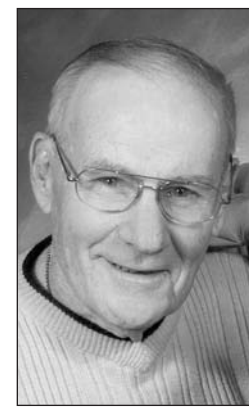
Born June 29, 1929, in Steubenville, a son of Cornelius and Helen Heaton Bahen, he attended Holy Name grade school and Catholic Central High School, Steubenville; St. Gregory Seminary, Cincinnati; Xavier University, Cincinnati; and The

College of Steubenville.

A member of Triumph of the Cross Parish, Steubenville, the 87-year-old was a daily Mass server for many years. Also, he served as master of ceremonies to the first bishop of the diocese, John King Mussio, and was president of the Holy Name Society at Holy Name Cathedral, where he was a lector, extraordinary minister of holy Communion and parish council president. He, too, spent more than 40 years coaching football and basketball in the diocesan parochial league.

A retiree of Titanium Metals Corp., Toronto, Bahen is survived by his wife Evelyn; sons Greg, Mark, Neil, Timothy and Paul; daughter Colleen, a Diocese of Steubenville employee; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. June 2 at Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville. Burial will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Steubenville.



(Photo provided)
Gregory Bahen

Obituaries

Lore Denisse Santin has died.

The 31-year-old is the daughter-in-law of Michele A. Santin, director, Diocese of Steubenville Office of Family and Social Concerns (Catholic Charities), and her husband Bryan.

Born July 11, 1985, a daughter of Loreto Hernandez Sarabia and Jose Luis Rivera Herrera in Culiacan Sinaloa, Mexico, Denisse Santin was a graduate of the Institute of Technology of Culiacan and Miami (Ohio) University with degrees in industrial engineering and environmental sciences. She was employed in Indiana, where she and her husband, Bryan M. Santin, who survives, were members of St. Therese, Little Flower Parish, South Bend.

Denisse Santin died May 28 in Culiacan.

A funeral Mass and burial were in Mexico.

John Anderson, 70, Pomeroy, Sacred Heart, May 14.

Nino Camerlengo, 93, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, May 3.

Norene Casale, 92, St. Gabriel, Minerva, May 18.

Robert A. Cichon, 76, Piney Fork, St. Adalbert, Dillonvale, May 12.

Joseph E. “Skip” Dasch, 77, Steubenville, St. Peter, May 17.

Walter J. Dobranetski Jr., 70, St. Joseph, Bridgeport, May 17.

David G. Dukich, 66, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, May 21.

Elizabeth Petras Fedash, 84, Martins Ferry, St. Francis of Assisi, Toronto, May 5.

Rita P. Peters, 85, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, May 23.

Reta Robinson, 96, Athens, Christ the King University Parish, May 16.

Jerry Schultz, 91, St. Joseph, Tiltonsville, May 1.

Edward Sedor, 91, 3845 Olive Ave., Shadyside, St. Mary, May 5.

Dorothy R. Rollandini Tuross, 91, Bridgeport, St. Joseph, May 9.

Alex Ulasiewicz, 86, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, May 12.

Churchtown



Father Virgil L. Reischman, left, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Churchtown, talks with Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton at the inaugural celebration for the 150th anniversary of St. John the Baptist Church. St. John Central School, Churchtown, proclaimed May 24 as Father Reischman day to acknowledge the priest's nearly 50 years of ordination to the priesthood, his role as pastor of St. John Church and chaplain of St. John Central School, where he taught religion classes, also, said Larry Moegling, principal.



Parishioners – some representing four generations of membership in St. John the Baptist Parish, Churchtown, celebrate the church's 150 years. Among those at the May 21 lunch at the Knights of Columbus Council 4617 hall in Churchtown is Dominican Sister Cathy Arnold, center. Sister Arnold is native to St. John the Baptist Parish and a 1972 graduate of St. John Central School, Churchtown. She ministers in Akron, Ohio, for her religious order. Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, left, visits tables of St. John parishioners.



Kathy Lough displays a coverlet that features St. John the Baptist Church, Churchtown, and the nearby St. John Central School. To order a coverlet made by Mill Creek Designs, Bridgeport, Pennsylvania, telephone Lough at (740) 525-8485. Cost of the coverlet is \$36.



Virginia Dyar, a teacher at St. John Central School, Churchtown, and herself a one-time student at the school, is retiring, after 44 years, 31 as a kindergarten teacher. Ken Pottmeyer, seated at left, with his mother, Betty, was the master of ceremonies at the St. John the Baptist Church 150th anniversary celebration beginning. (Photos by DeFrancis)