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News Briefs

Church 'stands ready' to help refugees

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic Church “stands ready to help” in efforts to assist refugees fleeing war-torn countries in the Middle East, said the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops earlier this month.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, said, also, that Catholics in the U.S. and “all people of good will should express openness and welcome to refugees fleeing Syria and elsewhere in order to survive.”

Tens of thousands of people from Syria and other countries are “fleeing into Europe in search of protection,” he said, adding that images of those “escaping desperate” circumstances “have captured the world’s attention and sympathy.”

The archbishop noted that Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency, has been providing humanitarian aid to refugees in the Middle East and Europe, and in the U.S., he said, “nearly 100 Catholic Charities agencies and hundreds of parishes” assist refugees coming into the country each year.

Archbishop Kurtz’s statement follows Pope Francis urging Catholics in Europe to respond to the needs of refugees entering their countries.

Campaign takes aim at US poverty rate

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — Seeking to create awareness about poverty in the United States and to stand in solidarity with Pope Francis’ commitment to the poor, Catholic Charities USA has launched a new national campaign.

Dominican Sister Donna Markham discussed the effort in early September in her first address as president and CEO of the organization during its national convention in Omaha.

Dubbed “#End45 – Raise a Hand to End Poverty in America,” the name reflects the 45 million people in the U.S. who live in poverty.

“That’s scandalous,” said Sister Donna, the organization’s first female president.

The campaign is appearing online nationwide on member websites, Facebook, Twitter and other social media accounts, with videos of people who have been helped by Catholic Charities.

In addition, people are encouraged to show support by taking a picture of their hand with “End45” written on their palm and post it to their social media channels using the hashtag “End45.”

“We are asking our country to work with us to end 45,” Sister Donna said.



President Barack Obama walks with Pope Francis as the pope greets dignitaries upon his arrival at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland just outside of Washington Sept. 22. (CNS photo/Kevin Lamarque, Reuters)

On plane, pope defends his teaching on social issues

By Cindy Wooden

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM CUBA (CNS) — Pope Francis defended his position on the economy, the environment and other social issues as faithful repetitions of the basic Catholic social doctrine.

Speaking to reporters flying with him from Cuba to Washington Sept. 22, the pope was asked about comments, mainly from the United States, claiming the pope is a communist and about the Newsweek headline, “Is the pope Catholic?”

“I am certain I have never said anything more than what is in the social doctrine of the church,” he responded. “I follow the church and in this, I do not think I am wrong.”

“Maybe I have given an impression of being a little bit to the left,” the pope admitted. “But if they want me to recite the creed, I can!”

Pope Francis said a cardinal “who is a friend” was telling him about an older Catholic lady, “a good woman, but a bit rigid,” who had questions about the description of the Antichrist in the Book of Revelation and if that was the same thing as an “anti-pope.”

“Why are you asking,” the cardinal said. “Well, I am sure Pope Francis is the anti-pope.”

“Why do you say that?”

“Well, because he renounced the red shoes, which are so historic,” the pope said the woman responded.

People have all sorts of reasons to think: “He’s communist or he’s not communist,” the pope said.

Pope Francis also referred to the social teaching of the church when asked about the U.S. economic embargo of Cuba. The social doctrine is critical of economic embargoes, especially those that last for years, because of their impact on the poor.

But he said he did not intend to discuss the Cuban embargo in his speech to the U.S. Congress, but he would talk more in general of the importance of bilateral agreements to promote progress, peace and the common good.

“The problem of the embargo is part of the negotiations. This is public. Both presidents have said this. It is part of the journey toward good relations that is underway,” he said.

“My desire is that they end up with a good result, with an accord that satisfies both sides,” he said.

The Sept. 19-22 visit to Cuba was “a bit of a coincidence,” the pope said. He had hoped to enter the United States through Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, like so many people do. But the idea changed when Cuban President Raul Castro and U.S. President Barack Obama announced they had an agreement to begin normalizing their relations.

Pope Francis also was asked why he did not meet Cuban dissidents and other opponents of the Cuban opposition.

“It was very clear I was not holding private audiences in

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Holy Name Cathedral
renovation, restoration and renewal
Presbyteral Council/Page 12

'Ask the Bishop'

STEUBENVILLE — Kindergarten through 12th-graders in the Diocese of Steubenville "Ask the Bishop," Jeffrey M. Monforton.

With the first question answered, Bishop Monforton is responding to the 100th question posed to him via "Ask the Bishop."

Q: Why do we have to go to church every Sunday?

**Alex Marley
Lewisville**

A: This is a very good question, for many people wonder why they have to go every Sunday when so many Catholics and non-Catholics have decided not to. Attending Mass every Sunday (or Saturday evening) is actually one of the Five Precepts of the Church. What is a precept? A precept is a general rule or command. For our purposes here, the precept enables us to grow in the love of God and neighbor. Your question is regarding the First Precept of the Church and that is, "You shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and rest from servile labor." What we do when we attend Mass every Sunday is sanctify that holy day with our own lives as we continue to grow as Christians. Here is a good question: What in our lives could be more important than receiving the Body and Blood of Christ each week?

Recall how, for many of us who played team sports or band, we had to practice before the next game or concert. Well, by going to Mass every week, we become better Christians and most certainly have a better understanding of Jesus' "game plan" for each and every one of us, as well as for the human family. As in sports, if you continue to miss practice, you become less and less an effective member of the team. While Mass is much more than practice, I hope you get the point.

Just for your information, the other precepts are: You shall celebrate the Sac-

rament of Penance at least once a year; you should receive the Eucharist at least once during the Easter Season; you shall reserve the days of fasting and abstinence (especially during Lent) established by the Church and the final precept, you shall help to provide for the needs of the Church, namely to assist your pastor in the parish community to be faithful Christian stewards among the community.

Q: Why do we wear robes when we serve (at Mass)?

**Luke Baumgard
Marietta**

A: We recognize in many parishes there are servers who wear robes (also known as albs) and in others, especially at Masses with the Bishop at which I am blessed with the opportunity for our diocesan pontifical servers, we have cassocks. I'll start with the cassock. The cassock and surplice are special garments worn by servers as they serve at Mass. Many a time, when you see a man in a cassock and surplice, he may already be a priest or a seminarian preparing for priesthood. The cassock can convey the message that this young man is thinking about the priesthood.

Albs, which can be worn by young men, young women or boys or girls, designate that they have a special role at Mass, namely to assist the presider and deacon at the liturgy. The white alb is a reminder for you and me of our baptism, for a server must be baptized, of course, before being able to serve at the Mass.

The robes set the servers apart from the rest of the community indicating that they have a special role in serving Jesus and his Church.

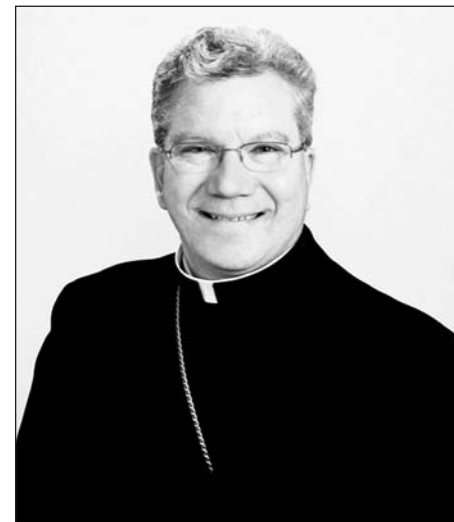
Q: Why is the Vatican City in Rome?

**Andy Schmidt
St. Clairsville**

A: Here is another very good question. Did you know that both St. Peter and St. Paul were martyred in Rome? Historically, we have St. Peter being martyred right near where St. Peter's Basilica stands today. That area of Vatican Hill is where the basilica was constructed by the Emperor Constantine. Over a thousand years later, St. Peter's was rebuilt, and we see today the end result of this beautiful major basilica. The geographic center of the Roman Catholic Church has remained in Rome ever since the early days of the Church, in particular as this is the location where St. Peter was martyred. Did you know that we have scientific evidence from bones beneath St. Peter's that take us back to the first century? Most likely, the bones below St. Peter's are the actual bones of the first pope, St. Peter himself.

In the years following, of course, those "successors of St. Peter" resided in Rome throughout Church history with just a few exceptions. Pope Francis resides in Vatican City, and this reminds us of the continuity of all popes from St. Peter to our present successor of St. Peter, the Vicar of Christ, Pope Francis himself. Did you know that Vatican City is only 108.7 acres? Many golf courses are much larger than that!

On a personal note, I wish to thank all those who shared with me their best wishes and prayers on the occasion of my third anniversary as your shepherd. As I mentioned



Bishop Monforton

in a previous article, I truly am blessed to be both your shepherd and your fellow brother here in the Diocese of Steubenville. *May Our Lord Jesus continue to bless you and your family as we endeavor into this Ohio Valley autumn with our lord Jesus Christ.*

To "Ask the Bishop," address questions to Joseph M. Taylor, catechetical consultant and youth ministry coordinator in the Diocese of Steubenville Office of Christian Formation and Schools – via U.S. mail, P.O. Box 969, Steubenville, OH 43952; email, jtaylor@diosteub.org; or telephone, (740) 282-3631.

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At the annual Blue Mass at St. Peter Church, Steubenville, Sept. 13, Toronto Police Chief Randy Henry, left, and Cross Creek Township Police Capt. John DiBacco offer the gifts to Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, who praised first responders for the selfless work they do.



During a White Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church, Wintersville, Sept. 20, where Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, third from right, is pastor, Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton celebrated health care works. Among those at the Mass are Fred Brower, Trinity Health System, Steubenville, CEO, left; Michelle Wilson, YMCA, Steubenville, director, second from left; Lew Musso, Trinity Health System vice president of human resources, back; Sister of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, Nancy Ferguson, director of mission integration and leader of the Mission/Standards Team, Trinity Health System, right, and Sister of St. Joseph Cynthia Prezkop, pastoral care, Trinity Health System, back, second from right. (Photos by DeFrancis)

Bishop Monforton's Schedule

- Sept. 26-28 Pope Francis, Washington, D.C., and eighth World Meeting of Families, Philadelphia
- 29 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m.
St. Vincent Seminary Board of Regents meeting, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, noon
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 6 p.m.
- 30 Radio segment WDEO 990 AM, 12:20 p.m.
Catholic Conference of Ohio meeting, 2 p.m.
- Oct. 3 Meet with Knights of Columbus at their district meeting concerning renovation, restoration and renewal of Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville, at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church hall, Barnesville, 2 p.m.
- 4 Mass and annual religious women celebration, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, noon
- 5 Mass, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 12:05 p.m.
- 6 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m.
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 6 p.m.
- Oct. 7-8 Diocesan clergy conference, Newark, Ohio
- 10 Diocesan Respect Life Conference Mass, Holy Family Church, Steubenville, 8:30 a.m.
Mass of solemn profession of vows, Mother Marija Benedykta of the Cross, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 7 p.m.



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Joe Billante

Diocesan training continues for those who minister to children, young people

STEUBENVILLE — Because of workshops on the “Decree on Child Protection,” Diocese of Steubenville clerics, religious and laypeople who minister to children and young people in the diocese have joined the millions in the Catholic Church who have been trained to prevent the abuse of children and assist if an incident occurs.

Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general, and members of the diocese’s Child Protection Review Board reviewed the decree at workshops in Gallipolis, St. Clairsville, Steubenville and Marietta. During the workshops, earlier this month, priests, deacons, principals and catechetical leaders reviewed the decree. Originally instituted in the diocese in 2003 and updated in 2009 and again in 2014, the decree was drafted at the mandate of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, who wrote a “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,” in response to sex abuse by some clergy, nationwide.

As Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton opened the workshops for the 23 laypeople in Gallipolis, 39 in St. Clairsville, 220 in Steubenville and 40 in Marietta, he said that last year, 98 percent of the 2 million volunteers, employees, educators and clergy in the Catholic Church were trained to prevent child abuse and to react if it occurs. In that same year, an estimated 4.4 million children were prepared to recognize abuse, he said.

Belmont County Common Pleas Court Judge Frank A. Fregiato, chairman of the diocese’s Child Protection Review Board, explained that annually the decree – in which child abuse is defined to include sexual activity, physical and mental abuse, endangering or injuring a child, providing a child with alcohol or illegal drugs or using demeaning language – is reviewed to refresh the memories of regular volunteers and paid employees who work with children. While the decree is meant to prevent the abuse of children through education and screening and provide for assistance

for handling incidents, it also is to protect clerics, religious and laypeople from unfounded allegations, he said.

Every five years those same people who work with children must have a criminal background check, with fingerprinting, from both federal and Ohio authorities. They, also, must provide three references, that must be checked, and complete an applicant’s certification form.

In the presentation – which can be viewed on the diocese’s website www.diosteub.org – it was pointed out that the decree is administered in the Diocese of Steubenville by the vicar general. Anyone who is a religious or in a paid or volunteer position in the diocese who suspects child abuse must contact Msgr. Kemo and civilian authorities.

“All allegations are taken seriously,” PowerPoint viewers were told.

Any victim or victims harmed by a priest or anyone serving on behalf of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Steubenville is urged to contact diocesan and secular authorities (Msgr. Kemo can be reached in the chancery in Steubenville – telephone (740) 282-3631 or email kkemo@diosteub.org).

At the conclusion of the PowerPoint, Fregiato stressed, “You must read the decree for yourself. ... The children need your help.”

Paul D. Ward, director, diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools, reminded workshop participants that the “Safe Environment Program,” which include five main components – a report an incident page that provides contact information; a general information and adult



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, right, prepares to open a workshop at Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, for clerics, religious and laypeople who minister to children and young people. Other workshop participants include, from the left, Paul D. Ward, director, diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools; Belmont County Common Pleas Court Judge Frank A. Fregiato; Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general; Michele A. Santin, director, diocesan Office of Family and Social Concerns (Catholic Charities); and Belmont County Prosecuting Attorney Daniel P. Fry. (Photo by DeFrancis)

training page that includes such things as locations for background checks (available through the diocese); a resources page with such items as materials for parents; a forms page and a verification of compliance, can be found on the diocesan website, also.

A final component of the workshops, attended also in Gallipolis by a deacon and nine clergy, in St. Clairsville by two deacons and 20 clergy, in Steubenville by seven deacons and 31 clergy and in Marietta by one deacon and 12 clergy, was a video presentation by Attorney Brian Butcher of the Dublin, Ohio, firm of Clemans-Nelson

and Associates Inc. He discussed social media. While Butcher agreed that the computer enables people to create and share ideas, pictures and information, online, he reminded workshop-goers that the idea that such information is easily deleted is a mistake.

In conjunction with the “Decree on Child Protection,” the Diocese of Steubenville, like other dioceses nationwide, is audited by a professional firm. StoneBridge Business Partners, Rochester, New York, will conduct an onsite audit in the diocese during the week of Oct. 12, Msgr. Kemo said.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

The Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio, is seeking a full-time director of development. Requirements include a master’s degree in development or communications, or its equivalent; experience in fundraising; ability to work with the public; knowledge of social media and skill to maintain portfolios of donors and prospects.

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For life – chains will form, tickets need reserved, conference is Oct. 10

STEUBENVILLE — “Every Life is Worth Living” declares the 2015-16 Respect Life Program, and that theme will be highlighted when life chains form along roads in many of the Diocese of Steubenville’s 13 counties Oct. 4.

Meanwhile, people who want to attend the annual Youth Rally and Mass for Life in Washington, D.C., in 2016, must contact the Diocese of Steubenville, Office of Family and Social Concerns (Catholic Charities).

And, registration continues for the annual diocesan Respect Life Conference Oct. 10.

People discover their worth when they discover their true identity as created in God’s image and called to an eternal destiny with him, said Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley, a Capuchin, archbishop of Boston and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in the annual Respect Life Month statement.

Respect Life Month is observed in October, and Respect Life Sunday is the first Sunday in the month – Oct. 4 this year.

“Whether its lasts for a brief moment or for a hundred years, each of our lives is a good and perfect gift,” wrote Cardinal O’Malley. “At every stage and in every circum-

stance, we are held in existence by God’s love.”

The respect for life will be on display when a life chain forms in Belmont County, beginning at 2 p.m. and continuing until 3:30 p.m., Oct. 4, at the fountain, located at the intersection of Ohio Route 7 and U.S. Route 40 in Bridgeport, said Tim Snyder, Belmont County life chain coordinator.

In addition, St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Colerain, will line the front lawn of the church with 85 white crosses to represent the approximate number of daily abortions performed in Ohio, said Marge Saksa, parishioner.

Life chains will form from 2-3 p.m., Oct. 4, in Belpre, on Washington Boulevard, in front of Fruth Pharmacy, said Barbara Hintz, Washington County Right to Life, and in Beverly, on Ohio Route 60, just south of the village, said Msgr. Robert J. Kawa, pastor of St. Bernard Parish, Beverly.

The Guernsey County life chain will stand on Wheeling Avenue, in front of the Guernsey County Courthouse, Cambridge, beginning at 2 p.m., and continuing for an hour, Oct. 4, said Paula Craig, life chain coordinator.

Life marchers will gather in Carroll County on Ohio Route 43, Canton Road, between Main and 12th streets, Carrollton, at 2 p.m. The vigilance will continue until 3 p.m., Oct. 4, said the Rev. Gordon Warner, pastor of Wesley Community Chapel, Carrollton, and representing the Carroll County Right to Life. Participants in the life chain can pick up signs to hold at the chapel on 12th Street the day of the chain or a few days in advance, Rev. Warner said.

After the life chain in Carrollton, refreshments will be provided by Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Carroll County Council 15401 in the Our Lady of Mercy Parish hall, said parish pastor, Father Anthony R. Batt.

Too, parishioners of St. Joseph Parish, Amsterdam, will stand along Ohio 43, also, to salute life, said Mary Starre, parishioner.

Galia County’s life chain will congregate on Eastern Avenue, Gallipolis, near the auto parts store there, from 2:30-3:30 p.m., Oct. 4, said Father Thomas F. Hamm, pastor of St. Louis Parish, Gallipolis.

In Pomeroy, the chain will form from noon until 1 p.m. on Main Street, Sacred Heart Parish Pastor Father Timothy J. Kozak said.

In Marietta, people will form a life chain along Ohio Route 60 on Muskingum Drive in front of Greenleaf Landscapes, from 2-3 p.m., Oct. 4, Hintz said.

Dan Hawrot, Respect Life coordinator for the northern portion of the diocese, said the life chain in Steubenville will stand from 2-3 p.m., Oct. 4, along Sunset Boulevard

at Wilshire Boulevard. Participants should meet in the Holy Family Church parking lot, 2565 Alexander Ave., Steubenville, at 1:30 p.m. to obtain a sign, prior to creating the chain, he said.

As plans continue to be made for the annual Youth Rally and Mass for Life Jan. 22 in Washington, hosted by the Archdiocese of Washington on the morning of the National March for Life, reservations to attend should be made with Michele A. Santin, director, diocesan Office of Family and Social Concerns (Catholic Charities). Tickets are free, but must be requested. Teens and college students should contact Santin by Oct. 1 via U.S. mail at 422 Washington St., Steubenville, OH 43952; email msantin@diosteub.org or telephone (740) 282-3631.

The rally and Mass are part of the annual pro-life rally that is held on the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion.

Meanwhile, “40 Days for Life Pittsburgh” continues until Nov. 1 at the Planned Parenthood in downtown Pittsburgh. To sign up, visit <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/pittsburgh/>, said Nikki Bruni, 40 Days for Life campaign director.

And, registration continues for the fourth annual Diocese of Steubenville Respect Life Conference. It will be held Oct. 10 at Holy Family Church, Steubenville, said Hawrot and Joseph A. Schmidt, diocesan Respect Life coordinator for southern deaneries.

Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood employee, turned pro-life speaker, will give the keynote address during the conference, held under the sponsorship of the diocesan Office of Family and Social Concerns (Catholic Charities).

At 8:30 a.m., after 8 a.m. check-in, Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton will celebrate Mass.

Additional check-in will occur at 9:15 a.m., prior to Johnson’s 9:30 a.m. keynote.

Also, at the conference, in late morning and then again after lunch, participants can attend seminars. Topics will center on Ohio Right to Life – Stephanie Ranade Krider, executive director; the Patients Rights Council – Rita Marker, executive director; and the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment – Katherine Beck, field program coordinator.

Seminars, also, will include ones by Jim Tobin, a representative of the Ohio Catholic Conference; Derek Doroski, a Franciscan University of Steubenville biology faculty member; and Lynette Hawrot, licensed professional clinical counselor.

Cost of registration is \$20. Checks are payable to the Diocese of Steubenville. Registration should be returned to Schmidt, 506 Fourth St., Marietta, OH 45750, fax (740) 376-2956 or email basilicadre@gmail.com.



St. John Central (Grade) School, Bellaire, students are selling memorial/prayer request luminaries during October to raise money for school operating costs, say Kyleena Campbell and Grace McAfee, in front; Gwen Kapolka, Kelsi Gillsepie, Cadence Watts and Kellan Dimmick, center; Nancy Ducci, Payton Marling, Jayden Lowe, Kristopher Tsoras, Gage Joseph and Theresa Young, interim principal, in back. The \$5 luminaries, which include a white bag, small flameless candle and sticker, “In Loving Memory Of” or “Special Prayer Intention For,” can be purchased in honor of deceased and/or living family or friends. Telephone the school office, (740) 676-2620. The fundraiser will culminate when Father Daniel Heusel hosts a prayer service at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 3, at St. John Church, Bellaire, where he is pastor. Front church steps, church aisles and the altar area will be lined with some of the luminaries. They will stay lighted until the candles die or Nov. 8 when luminaries can be taken by their buyers. (Photo provided)

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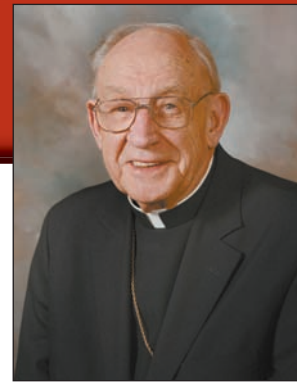
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St. John Paul II The Kingdom of God



Bishop Sheldon

By Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

“Repent and believe the good news, for the kingdom of God is at hand.” These are the opening words in the ministry of Jesus (see, Mk 1: 15). St. John Paul II adds that simply announcing the good news was not the whole of Jesus’ ministry; because he was, himself, the good news. Later, Jesus would say: “I came that they (i.e., all of us) may have life and have it to the full” (Jn 10: 10). So – it’s all about life! Our faith, our religious practice, our outlook on life; all of it is in response to this announcement of Jesus. Our most basic instinct is survival – to exist – to live. But we don’t live, at least not forever. Everyone we know dies or will die. Jesus is telling us that death is not the end. There’s a lot more life where this came from, and a lot better life, too (“to the full”). We have only to follow him faithfully. He came down on Earth as one of us in human flesh. He lived, suffered and died – a far worse death than most of us will ever face. But he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven – leading the way for the rest of his fellow humans to perfect fulfillment and happiness as we share in the life of God himself – forever! That’s why Jesus is, himself, the message.

Such is God’s plan for us. That plan, and its unfolding in time, is the “kingdom of God” that Jesus spoke of. It began with God from all eternity. It entered human history and encompasses each of us during our individual lifetime. It develops in time and reaches its completion at a time chosen by God and known now only to him. It then continues in that completed state – forever! At that point, in the words of St. Paul, “God will be all in all” (1 Cor 15: 28). It is for that outcome that we pray, “Thy kingdom come.” The “Good News” is about that kingdom.

Our personal membership in the kingdom of God does not come about automatically. It begins with faith and baptism, which are most often the result of the efforts of

others, notably parents. It is they who nurture their children in faith, “along with their mother’s milk” and provide for their baptism (about baptism, much more will be said later). We must strive for the kingdom in our daily lives, each according to the state and circumstances of his or her own life. That striving was illustrated by our Lord, especially in his “parables of the kingdom.” They are found in all the Gospels, but are conveniently grouped for us in the 13th chapter of Matthew. Each parable illustrates some facet of the kingdom and our part in achieving it. The parable of the sower shows how the good news of the kingdom, in whatever age, can fall on soil that is receptive or not and to what degree. It varies from the wholehearted (the good soil) to the indifferent (the rock-hard ground). The parables of the mustard seed and the leaven tell how the kingdom is a living organism that begins almost unnoticeably, but grows from small beginnings to a huge living shrub. It is so with the kingdom in general and it is so with the kingdom in each individual. The parable of the wheat and weeds shows that the life of the kingdom can be threatened by outside forces that are inimical to its interests, and that those who accept the kingdom and those who reject it exist side by side.

Our Lord made it clear that the kingdom of God is destined not for any single nation or race, but for all of mankind. The Israelites, as the Chosen People, were destined to be its first recipients, as well as its first apostles. As we know, except for a handful of disciples, Israel failed in its vocation and its place was taken by others. This, too, was illustrated by Jesus in parables, e.g., that of the wedding feast. The host invited first his friends and people who shared his own elite status. One by one they decline the invitation, citing one reason or another. In desperation not to have an empty banquet hall, the host invites all and everyone to come, including beggars and tramps. The lesson was clear to the Pharisees and Jewish leadership. They

were the ones who were spurning the invitation, delivered by none other than Jesus, himself. The invitation would then go to the non-Israelites, the nations of the world, the “Gentiles.”

What was true of the Israelite nation is true also of individuals: We are free to accept or to reject God and his kingdom. Many do, including those “cradle Catholics” who were born into the kingdom to faithful parents. Their numbers, unfortunately, are legion. It is estimated that the second largest religious group in the United States – next to Catholics – are *former* Catholics, i.e., those who were raised as Catholic, but have since left the church or no longer practice the faith of their baptism.

Many of these ideas are summarized for us in the Lord’s Prayer, the familiar “Our Father,” that many of us learned at our mother’s knee. As we pray that prayer, we are reminded of our own part in the kingdom, and the need for personal effort and our own freedom to choose it or lose it. That is where “conversion” comes in. God invites us – he does not compel us. Conversion means changing, adjusting our lives and our behavior, in accordance with the precepts that Jesus spelled out for us throughout the Gospels. They begin with the Sermon on the Mount (see, Matthew, Chapters 5-7) and are epitomized in the great commandment of love of God and neighbor (see, Mt 22: 34-40).

Pope John Paul says of this first and greatest of the commandments: “This is the law of love. It derives from divine grace on those who welcome and observe it by living Christ’s paschal mystery. It is a love realized in history, notwithstanding every refusal on the part of the invited, and notwithstanding their unworthiness. On the Christian smiles the hope that love will triumph in all the ‘invited’. ... If we yield to the call ... in Christ we have redemption and eternal life.”

Our Lord made it clear that the kingdom of God is destined not for any single nation or race, but for all of mankind.

Our Overstimulated Grandiosity and Our Impoverished Symbols

By Father Ron Rolheiser

There are now more than 7 billion people on this Earth, and each one of us feels that he or she is the center of the universe. That accounts for most of the problems we have in the world, in our neighborhoods and in our families.



Father Rolheiser

And no one’s to blame for this, save God perhaps, for making us this way. Each of us is created in the image and likeness of God, meaning that, each of us holds within a divine spark, a piece of infinity, and an ingrained knowledge of that unique dignity. We are infinite souls inside a finite world. To paraphrase St. Augustine, we are made for the divine and our hearts aren’t just dissatisfied until they rest there again, they’re also grandiose along the journey, enflamed by their own uniqueness and dignity. God has made everything beautiful in its own season, Ecclesiastes tells us, but God has put timelessness into the human heart, so that we are out of sync with the seasons from beginning to end. We’re overcharged for this planet, and we know it.

Moreover that sense of specialness lies at the center of

our awareness: *I think, therefore I am!* Descartes was right: The only thing we can be absolutely sure of is that we exist and that our own thoughts and feelings are real. We may be dreaming everything else. We awake to self-consciousness, aware of our specialness, frustrated by the fact that the world cannot give us what we crave, and insufficiently aware of the fact that everyone else on this Earth is also equally unique and special. That’s human nature and it’s always been this way.

Today, however, a number of things are conspiring together to exacerbate both our grandiosity and our restlessness. In brief, today we are mostly overstimulated in our grandiosity and are not generally given the tools to handle that inflammation of soul.

How are we overstimulated in our grandiosity today? Various factors play together here, but contemporary media and information technology need to be highlighted. Through them, in effect, the whole world is being made available to us during every waking minute of our lives. We are not easily equipped to handle that. While information alone is mostly neutral, and at times even morally inspiring, the downside is that contemporary media overstimulates our grandiosity and restlessness by inundating us with the intimate details of the lives of the rich, the famous, the beautiful, the talented, the powerful, the superintelligent, the mega-achievers and the perverted in a way that titillates, seduces, and, at times, assaults our interior balance so as to leave us cultivating private fantasies of grandiosity, of

standing out in a way that makes the world take notice. We see this in an extreme and perverted form in some of the mass shootings that occur in our society, where a lonely, deranged person randomly kills others out of sick vision of grandiosity. We see it, too, in the growing phenomenon of anorexia. These examples may be atypical, but we’re becoming a society within which most everyone is perilously overstimulated in his or her grandiosity.

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Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, publisher
Pat DeFrancis, editor
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Janice M. Ward, circulation/advertising
jward@diosteub.org

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Mark's Gospel Part 11

By Msgr. Thomas C. Petronek

The second half of Mark's Gospel takes place in three episodes.

The first episode (Chapters 8: 22 to 10: 52) has Jesus and the Twelve walking south to Jerusalem from Galilee where almost the entire first half of the Gospel took place. Three times in this episode Jesus foretells his arrest, trial, torture, crucifixion, death/burial and resurrection. These so-called "Passion predictions" hold the other stories of the first episode together thematically while casting an ominous shadow over the journey and Jesus' interaction with his disciples as they walk along. The first episode is framed by two stories of Jesus healing blindness.

The second episode (Chapters 11: 1 to 13: 37) takes place in Jerusalem and lasts a week. The Temple is the main focus of Jesus' activity. It begins with Jesus violently stopping the Temple sacrifices (often called the "Cleansing of the Temple") and ends with his prediction of the Temple's not-too-distant future destruction by the Romans. Jesus is portrayed as teacher and prophet in this second episode.

The third episode (Chapters 14: 1 to 16: 8) is often called "The Passion Narrative." It begins with our learning that the chief priests and scribes have no intention of ever letting Jesus leave Jerusalem alive. It ends with women disciples of Jesus fleeing from his empty tomb on Sunday morning, telling no one of their find. The events of episode three all take place within a three-day time frame against the background of the principal feast of Israel – the Passover. Mark's Gospel has often been designated as a "Passion Narrative" with an extended introduction (the first 13 chapters) because this third episode is one-sixth of the whole Gospel. This likely indicates that Mark valorizes Jesus' death and resurrection above and beyond his public life of exorcisms, "mighty deeds," teachings, formation of his followers and altercations with the religious establishment – or perhaps as the culmination of all that.

Let's return to episode one exploring its building blocks to get at Mark's intent. I have indicated with capital letters the chiasmic (ABCBA) structure of episode one.

Jesus Journeys from Bethsaida and Caesarea Philippi to Jerusalem

Mark 8: 22-10: 52 is built around three Passion predictions and the disciples misunderstanding three times plus amplifications on true discipleship.

A – 8: 22-26 – *two-stage* healing of a blind man at Bethsaida and 8: 27-33 – Peter confesses Jesus to be Christ, but is ordered not to tell anyone.

B – 8: 31 – first Passion prediction; 8: 32-33 – Peter *misunderstands* and "rebukes" Jesus who rebukes him; 8: 34-9:1 – *Jesus teaches*: "Followers must take up their crosses" and 9: 2-30 – Transfiguration, the coming of Elijah, an exorcism of a child.

C – 9: 31-32 – second Passion prediction; 9: 33-34 – *all the disciples misunderstand* and argue who is the greatest; 9: 35-50 – *Jesus teaches*: "The first must be last and servants" and 10: 1-31 – abrogation of divorce; blessing of children; the rich man.

B – 10: 32-34 – third Passion prediction; 10: 35-40 – *James and John misunderstand* and ask for first places and 10: 41-45 – *Jesus teaches*: be servants, slaves; Son of Man gives life, ransoms.

A – 10: 46-52 – *the immediate healing* of blind Bartimaeus near Jericho on the way to Jerusalem.

How to summarize Mark's intent in Chapters 8: 22-10: 52?

First, it is quite obvious that the sequence of events in these 116 verses is a literary construct and not a historical one in the sense of exactly what happened on the journey. The individual stories likely date back to Jesus' and the disciples' journey to Jerusalem. What Mark has done is carefully arrange them for his own purposes – to empha-

size the centrality of Jesus' death and resurrection for true discipleship and how easily disciples can be sidetracked from true discipleship.

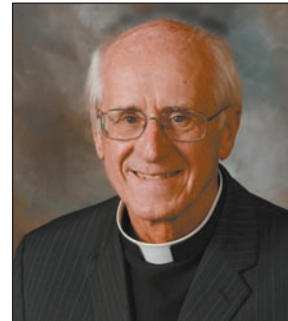
Second, the three-fold repetition of the Passion prediction is the focus of this first episode of the second half of the Gospel. It is the element of the story that holds all of the other elements together.

Third, the incomprehension of Jesus' disciples continues from the first half of the Gospel into episode one of the second half. But now that incomprehension is focused on the divine necessity (God's will) of Jesus dying and rising in Jerusalem at the Passover. The disciples fail to understand that Jesus' death and resurrection is meant to ground their own discipleship.

Fourth, remember how little of the content of Jesus' teaching we heard in the first half of the Gospel? Now, Mark rivets his readers with that content – all about how demanding true discipleship really is – 8: 34-9:1; 9: 35-50 and 10: 41-45.

Lastly, what about the other stories that have been subsumed into Mark's literary construct: transfiguration, the coming of Elijah, exorcism of a child (9: 2-30) abrogation of divorce, the blessing of children and the rich man's refusal (10: 1-31)? If I were to hazard a pretty well-formed guess, I would say that they are there just to make clear how tough following the Christ is going to be – intent as he is on dying brutally and rising.

Msgr. Petronek, a Diocese of Steubenville priest, retired from active parish ministry, resides in Wheeling, West Virginia. He is a former missionary priest, was a director of the diocesan Office of Worship, twice, and is a regular columnist for The Steubenville Register.



Msgr. Petronek

Your Life Does Not Belong to You

By Bishop Robert Barron

It was revealed this week that, for the first time in its history, Harvard University, which had been founded for religious purposes and named for a minister of the Gospel, has admitted a freshman class in which atheists and agnostics outnumber professed Christians and Jews. Also this week, the House and the Senate of California passed a provision that allows for physician assisted suicide in the Golden State. As I write these words, the governor of California is deliberating whether to sign the bill into law. Though it might seem strange to suggest as much, I believe that the makeup of the Harvard freshman class and the passing of the suicide law are really related.

I suppose we shouldn't be too surprised that nonbelievers have come to outnumber believers among the rising cohort of the American aristocracy. For the whole of their lives, these young people have been immersed in the corrosive acids of relativism, scientism and materialism. Though they have benefited from every advantage that money can afford, they have been largely denied what the human heart most longs for: contact with the transcendent, with the good, true and beautiful in their properly unconditioned form. But as Paul Tillich, echoing the Hebrew prophets, reminded us, we are built for worship, and therefore in the absence of God, we will make some other value our ultimate concern.



Bishop Barron

Wealth, power, pleasure and honor have all played the role of false gods over the course of the human drama, but today especially, freedom itself has emerged as the ultimate good, as the object of worship. And what this looks like on the ground is that our lives come to belong utterly to us, that we become great projects of self-creation and self-determination.

As the Bible tells it, the human project went off the rails precisely at the moment when Adam arrogated to himself the prerogative of determining the meaning of his life, when he, in the agelessly beautiful poetry of the book of Genesis, ate of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. Read the chapters that immediately follow the account of the Fall, and you will discover the consequences of this deified freedom: jealousy, hatred, fratricide, imperialism and the war of all against all. The rest of

the biblical narrative can be interpreted as God's attempt to convince human beings that their lives, in point of fact, do not belong to them. He did this precisely by choosing a people whom he would form after his own mind and heart, teaching them how to think, how to behave, and above all, how to worship. This holy people Israel – a word that means, marvelously, "the one who wrestles with God" – would then, by the splendor of their way of life, attract the rest of the world. On the Christian reading, this

project reached its climax in the person of Jesus Christ, a first-century Israelite from the town of Nazareth, who was also the incarnation of the living God. The coming together of divinity and humanity, the meeting of infinite and finite freedom, Jesus embodies what God intended for us from the beginning.

And this is precisely why Paul, one of Jesus' first missionaries, announced him as Kyrios (Lord) to all the nations, and why he characterized himself as *doulos Christou Iesou* (a slave of Christ Jesus). Paul exulted in the fact that his life did not belong to him, but rather to Christ. In his letter to the Ephesians, he wrote: "There is a power already at work in you that can do infinitely more than you can ask or imagine." He was referencing the Holy Spirit, which orders our freedom and which opens up possibilities utterly beyond our capacities. To follow the promptings of this Spirit is, for Paul and for all the biblical authors, the source of life, joy and true creativity.

All of which brings me back to Harvard and legalized suicide. The denial of God – or the blithe bracketing of the question of God – is not a harmless parlor game. Rather, it carries with it the gravest implications. If there is no God, then our lives do indeed belong to us, and we can do with them what we want. If there is no God, our lives have no ultimate meaning or transcendent purpose, and they become simply artifacts of our own designing. Accordingly, when they become too painful or too shallow or just too boring, we ought to have the prerogative to end them.

To Page 8

Pope to Cubans: Look to future with hope, but care for each other

By Cindy Wooden

SANTIAGO, Cuba (CNS) — A key task of a traveling pope is to confirm his brothers and sisters in the faith. For Pope Francis in Cuba, that ministry took on added importance as Cuba and its people stand on the threshold of potentially epochal change.

Many people inside and outside Cuba hope that normalized U.S.-Cuban relations will lead to greater communication, trade and exchanges between the two countries. They also hope those experiences will lead to more freedom and democracy on the Caribbean island.

The immediate experience of some of the former Soviet-bloc countries in their move toward democracy 25 years ago showed that openness leads to change and not all of it good with a rise in consumerism, corruption and a loss of a sense of struggling together for the common good.

During his first-ever visit to Cuba Sept. 19-22, Pope Francis called for greater freedom and respect for human dignity in the country. But he also continually added his hope that the Cuban people would love their country, hold on to their tradition of caring for society's weakest members and would not lose a sense of pride in being Cuban.

Leonardo Fernandez, a Catholic and a member of the government-affiliated federation of university students, asked Pope Francis Sept. 20 in Havana for words that would "renew in us the hope that we can grow, study, work, walk and be happy in this complex reality in which we are living."

"Help us, Holy Father, to be young people who know how to welcome and accept those who think differently" and to avoid the "great evils" of individualism and indifference. Young Cubans, he said, need to "interpret the signs of our times and take hands to build a Cuba, as our national hero

Jose Marti said, 'with all and for the good of all.'"

Pope Francis responded by explaining that "what gives hope to a people" is not simple optimism, but is people working together, even when things get tough, to make change and build something good.

Ideological and even religious "cliques" not only can slow progress, they can sow enmity, he said.

"Social friendship" and "social enmity" are themes Pope Francis has been pondering publicly for weeks and he returned to the notion when he met the youths. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the papal spokesman, explained to reporters in Holguin Sept. 21 that "social friendship is solidarity with a heart" and a commitment to dialogue and to caring "for the smallest" members of society.

Pope Francis told the young people to beware of thinking they need to "throw stones at those who are different."

"Why not extend a hand and look for what we have in common," he said.

In Buenos Aires, he said, he watched a new parish building an oratory for the young people. All sorts of people turned out to help. "I went at the invitation of the pastor and I saw that one of them, who studied architecture, was a communist. Another was a practicing Catholic, but they were all working together."

"Social friendship builds," he said, "enmity destroys and the world is destroying itself with war because we do not understand that we have something in common."

Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, who traveled to Cuba with a group of pilgrims, told Catholic News Service in Holguin, "Cubans want to have hope and they want to have hope for a future here in Cuba."

At Mass in Holguin, Pope Francis insisted that even someone who seems to be an enemy — or even "a traitor" like the tax collector St. Matthew was — can change,



Pope Francis shakes hands with Cuban President Raul Castro as the pope departs Cuba from Antonio Maceo International Airport in Santiago Sept. 22. (CNS photo/Orlando Barria, EPA)

sharing his conviction that each person has the potential to become a better person and, in fact, a friend.

Throughout his pontificate, the pope has emphasized his belief that goodness exists in every person, including the communists he knew in Argentina. Although he said their ideology was flat-out wrong, it did not prevent him from identifying and admiring what was good in them.

The merciful gaze of Jesus, a motif common in Pope Francis' homilies, is a filter that recognizes each person as a brother or sister, created by God. It is the same filter that Cubans must use to see each other — whether they stayed in Cuba or emigrated — and one that Cubans and U.S. citizens must use as well. But while those relationships need to develop further, Pope Francis asked Cubans to take care of each other.

On plane

From Page 1

the nunciature — not even with other heads of state," the pope said, apparently referring to Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, who had traveled to Havana for the papal visit.

Officials at the Vatican Embassy in Havana did, however, make a telephone call to a representative of a dissident group

and invited several members of the group to be among those greeted by the pope at Havana's cathedral, he said.

"I greeted many people there, but no one identified himself as a dissident," Pope Francis said.

Pope Francis was also asked about his private meeting with former Cuban President Fidel Castro and specifically if

he thought Castro had "repented" of having treated the Catholic Church so harshly.

"Repentance" is something intimate, having to do with the conscience," he said.

"In my meeting with Fidel, we spoke about the Jesuits he had known" as a student of a Jesuit school, the pope said, and about how hard Jesuits used to make their students work.

"And we spoke a lot about the encyclical, 'Laudato Si,' because he is very interested in the theme of ecology.

"It was not a very formal meeting, but spontaneous, with his family there," the pope said.

"We did not talk about the past," he said, except for "his experience with the Jesuits."

Our Overstimulated

From Page 6

And today we are generally without sufficient personal tools to handle this. Human beings have always been restless and grandiose, but in previous generations they had more tools — religious and societal — to handle restlessness, grandiosity and frustration. For example, in previous generations the cultural ethos gave people much less permission to cultivate ego than it does today. Previous to our own generation, one had to be more apologetic about self-promotion, self-canonization, overt greed and crass self-centeredness. Humility was espoused as a virtue, and no one was supposed to get too big for his or her britches. That threw a lot of cold water on ego, crass self-assertion and greed, in effect

dampening grandiosity. The message back then was clear: You're not the center of the universe!

By and large, that's no longer the case today. Society, more and more, gives us license to be grandiose, to set ourselves up as the center and proudly announce that publicly. Not only are we allowed today to get too big for our britches, we aren't culturally admired unless we do assert ourselves in that way. And that's a formula for jealousy, bitterness and violence. Grandiosity and restlessness need healthy guidance both from the culture and from religion. Today, we generally do not see that guidance.

We are dangerously weak in inculcating into the consciousness of society, especially into the consciousness of the young,

a number of vital human and religious truths: *To God alone belongs the glory! In this life ultimately all symphonies remain unfinished. You are not the center of the Earth. There is real sin! Selfishness is not a virtue! Humility is a virtue! You will only find life by giving it away! Other lives are as real as your own!*

We have failed our youth by giving them unrealistic expectations, even as we are depriving them of the tools with which to handle those expectations.

Father Rolheiser, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, is president of the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, a lecturer, writer, retreat master and widely circulated newspaper columnist.

Your Life

From Page 7

We can argue the legalities and even the morality of assisted suicide until the cows come home, but the real issue that has to be engaged is that of God's existence.

The incoming freshman class at Harvard is a disturbing omen indeed, for the more our society drifts into atheism, the more human life is under threat. The less we are willing even to wrestle with God, the more dehumanized we become.

Bishop Barron is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

Register for youth conference

STEUBENVILLE — Registration continues for “Rise Up!” “Let Your Light Shine” – the annual Diocese of Steubenville youth conference Oct. 11 at St. Ambrose Church, Little Hocking.

Joseph M. Taylor, catechetical consultant/coordinator of youth ministry in the diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools, reminded youth to register for the 12:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. conference, which features a selection of workshops. They will be presented by John Paul Von Arx, a musician, who will discuss “Catholic in a Non-Catholic World”; School Sister of Notre Dame Joan Marie VanBeek and Wayne Fontaine, St. Ambrose parishioner, “Serve Like Pope Francis”; John Beaulieu, director of engagement and partnerships, Franciscan University of Steubenville, “From Selfie to Selfless”; and Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother, Toronto, “Heaven Can’t Wait.”

Contact Taylor (740) 282-3631 or jtaylor@diosteub.org or visit the diocesan website www.diosteub.org/Youth for more information.

To encourage youth to attend the conference, Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton has paid for buses to transport the seventh through 12th graders.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Many of you sent words of condolence to me on the occasion of my mother, Carla's, death.

She was called from this life on Aug. 17, after a relatively short experience with cancer.

One could not have asked for a better mother, and I mourn her passing greatly.

Nevertheless, it is consoling to know that, even though I have been gone from the Diocese of Steubenville for several years now, people still cared enough to express their compassion for me.

Bishop Dan Conlon

Adena native dies at 93

CORAOPOLIS, Pa. — Sister Mary Louise Kowalewski – a Felician Sister who was an Adena native and a member of St. Casimir Parish there – died Sept. 10 at the age of 93.



Sister Mary Louise

Sister Mary Louise, who celebrated her 75th anniversary of religious life last year, was born Jan. 13, 1922, one of seven children of Frank and Sophie (Sophia) Wisniewski Kowalewski (Kovaleski).

For 40 years, Sister Mary Louise ministered in the dietary service department of McGuire Memorial in New Brighton, Pennsylvania, a co-sponsored ministry of the Felician Sisters of North America and the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

She, also, served for 14 years in food service at the former Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Province in Coraopolis.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 14 in the Felician convent chapel for Sister Mary Louise.

She is survived by her brother, Walter Kovaleski of Steubenville, two sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, as well as an estimated 1,500 Felician Sisters worldwide.



St. Mary Church, St. Clairsville, daily Mass attendees typically stay after the celebration and pray the rosary. The men and women – seated from left, Diana Mazgaj, Mary D'Ambrosia and Eileen Fasola; standing in front, Luigi Passa and Robin Kinney; and standing in back from left, Charles Godaway, Jim Kinney, John Jeskey, Mark D'Ambrosia, Maggie Anderle, Jean Anne O'Malley and John Budinscak – prepare for the annual rosary crusade, part of the nationwide Public Square Rosary Crusade. The crusade will be held at noon, Oct. 10, on the Belmont Courthouse Plaza, St. Clairsville. The crusade is among thousands expected to be held nationwide under the auspices of the America Needs Fatima campaign. (Photo by DeFrancis)

Two papal honorees – Kuhn, McDonough – die

STEUBENVILLE/TORONTO — Two women – Vivian Kuhn and Dorothy McDonough – who were 2001 recipients of the papal award “Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice,” founded by Pope Leo XIII July 17, 1888, and bestowed on Catholics who have given meritorious service to the church – have died.

The women received the award on recommendation of Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Gilbert I. Sheldon, the diocese's third bishop and now the diocese's bishop emeritus.

Kuhn of Toronto – where she was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish – died Sept. 16.

The 82-year-old Kuhn was born May 18, 1933, in New Bedford, Pennsylvania, one of 12 children of Frank O. and Lillian H. Streb Redmond. She attended Toronto schools. During the years, Kuhn was involved in the community, including serving numerous charitable organizations, and her parish. For St. Francis of Assisi, among other things, she was a religious education teacher and member of the school parent/teacher organization, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults team and evangelization committee.

Kuhn served her parish Catholic Woman's Club and was the 11th president of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, National Council of Catholic Women province director for the Province of Cincinnati from 1992-94 and a member of the NCCW board of directors. In addition, she is credited with starting a diocesanwide newsletter for the DCCW, “The Spirit.”

A funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 21 at St. Francis

Church. Burial in Toronto Union Cemetery.

Kuhn is survived by her husband Richard; children Karen Shell, Dan, Susan, Ginny, Joanne Rutsky and Patti Davis; grandchildren, including Father Jonas A. Shell, a Diocese of Steubenville priest; a great-grandchild, sisters and a brother.

The 89-year-old McDonough died Sept. 7.

Born Aug. 22, 1926, in Steubenville, she was the daughter of Raymond and Phyllis Clancey Nelson. McDonough attended Steubenville grade and high schools. She served as cook, housekeeper and secretary at Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville, where she was a member, prior to becoming a member of Triumph of the Cross Parish, Steubenville.



Dorothy McDonough

McDonough, also, served as president and treasurer of the cathedral's Catholic Woman's Club and as a president of Annunciation Deanery Council of Catholic Women.

She is credited with overseeing numerous activities throughout the years at the cathedral, both on a parish and diocesan level.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 11 at Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville. Burial followed in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Steubenville.

McDonough was married to Richard “Pat” McDonough, who preceded her in death. She is survived by six daughters, Susan, Patricia Hiller, Constance Cunningham, Carla Milosevich, Colleen Witkowski and Mary Frances Gore, 11 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.



Vivian Kuhn

Obituaries

Virginia Baker Blaschak, 86, Wellsville, Ohio, St. Joseph, Toronto, Sept. 4.

Rose Chuckery, 89, Maynard, St. Mary, St. Clairsville, Sept. 11.

Floyd L. Conaway, 84, McConnelsville, St. James, Sept. 4.

Norma Donohue, 81, St. Peter, Steubenville, Aug. 31.

Margaret Tague Dunlap, 88, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, Sept. 7.

Barbara Gavarkavich, 86, St. Joseph, Tiltonsville,

Sept. 15.

Ted Hart, 65, Beverly, St. Bernard, Aug. 30.

William S. Henderson, 96, Christ the King University Parish, Athens, Sept. 14.

Steve Juriga, 91, Flushing, St. Mary, St. Clairsville, Sept. 10.

Marcella Klejko, 89, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Sept. 2.

Jennie Menoski, 90, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Sept. 4.

Frances “Pat” Moore, 81, Racine, Ohio, Sacred

Heart, Pomeroy, Sept. 15.

James M. Murray, 69, Toledo, Ohio, St. Francis of Assisi, Toronto, Sept. 5.

William Phalen Sr., 91, St. Lucy, Yorkville, Sept. 7.

Mary Lynn Murray Russell, 74, Goose Creek, South Carolina, St. Francis of Assisi, Toronto, Aug. 17.

Vickie L. Swan, 54, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Sept. 9.

Joseph V. Talarico, 82, St. Lucy, Yorkville, Aug. 22.

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Athens — A discussion on Pope Francis' environmental encyclical "Laudato Si'" will take place from 7-9 p.m., Sept. 29, in Holy Family Center, located at Christ the King University Parish. The conversation will be facilitated by members of the Athens Catholic community peace and justice committee.

Belle Valley — A hog roast will be held Oct. 4, at Corpus Christi Church. On that day, Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. There will also be a bake sale, raffle and craft tent at the event.

Until May, Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m., Sundays, at Corpus Christi Church.

Bridgeport — St. Anthony of Padua Parish will sponsor an annual turkey dinner from noon-3 p.m., Oct. 11, at St. Anthony School hall, 630 Main St. Dinners cost \$10 for adults and \$4 for children under the age of 12. Takeout orders will be available at St. Anthony Center, under the church rectory.

Cadiz — St. Teresa of Avila Parish will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Teresa of Avila beginning with the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass, Oct. 18. A procession will follow. Participants will then gather in the church activity center for a covered-dish meal, which will be followed by several presentations and skits.

Caldwell — A catechist meeting, pertaining to the updated "Decree on Child Protection," will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 4, at St. Stephen Church hall.

Colerain — There will be a pet blessing at 11 a.m., rain or shine, Oct. 3, behind St. Frances Cabrini Church.

Adult continuing education classes titled "Mary: A Biblical Walk With the Blessed Mother" will be held at 9:30 a.m. and again at 6:30 p.m., beginning Oct. 6, for five sessions, at the St. Frances Cabrini gathering center.

Gallipolis — On Wednesdays, Mass will now be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. instead of 8 a.m., at St. Louis Church.

St. Louis Parish will have a study titled "The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy" following the celebration of the 5:30 p.m. Mass, Wednesdays, in the church C-J conference room. For additional information or to register, telephone the parish office at (740) 446-0669.

Glouster — Following the celebration of the 6:30 p.m. Oct. 3 Mass and the 9 a.m. Oct. 4 Mass, Holy Cross CWC will hold a bake sale in the church basement.

Ironton — The Ironton Catholic community "Feed Your Faith" committee will have a series of presentations Oct. 21 and Nov. 18. The Oct. 21 talk will be given by Father Chuck McGinnis, St. Peter Claver and Sacred Heart pastor, Huntington, West Virginia, titled "Rediscovering My Faith - A Vocation Story." The Nov. 18 presentation will be given by Father Bill Petro, West Virginia Institute of Spirituality, titled "The Spirituality of Mercy." The evenings will begin at 6 p.m. with a free meal, prepared by Knights of Columbus Council 1405, at their council home, 2103 S. Third St.

Marietta — Scripture study will be held from 8:30-9:30 a.m., Mondays, in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption social hall.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith can attend Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption social hall. Sessions are held from 7-9 p.m., on Mondays. For additional information, call the basilica office at (740) 373-3643.

Marietta — The St. Mary Parish School Festival 2015 Oktoberfest will begin Oct. 10, with super bingo, door prizes, free food and soft drinks, at 4 p.m. at St. Mary Parish Center. Doors for the Texas hold'em poker tournament will open at 6 p.m.; the tournament will begin at 7:30 p.m.; the cost is \$50 per person for \$1,000 worth of chips. The evening will conclude at 11 p.m. The Oct. 11 festivities will include a chicken dinner, with all the trimmings, from noon-6 p.m. Adults eat for \$9; children, 12



Father John J. (Jack) McCoy, pastor of St. John Fisher Parish, Richmond, shows Suzanne Maloney and her children baskets that will be raffled during the parish Oktoberfest. The event will be held from noon until 4 p.m., Oct. 11, at the church, 7457 Ohio 152. Eight baskets, valued from \$50 to \$150, will be raffled by the parish Catholic Woman's Club. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. They can be purchased at the church, prior to the Oktoberfest or the day of the event. Winners need not be present for the 4 p.m., Oct. 11, drawings of the baskets that range from one loaded with car maintenance products to another that will enable the recipient to host a pasta dinner. The menu for the annual Oktoberfest includes roast turkey and pork loin, haluski, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green beans, applesauce, tossed salad, bread or rolls, home-baked pies and cakes and beverages. Cost of the meal is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 4 to 11. Children under 3 are able to eat for free. Food can be picked up and taken out to eat, also. Telephone (740) 765-4142. Home-baked cakes and other items will be on sale at a "Country Kitchen." Father McCoy, too, is pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Amsterdam. The children of Cory and Suzanne Maloney, St. John Fisher parishioners, include Zachariah, Maria, Matthew, Joshua and Luke. (Photo provided)

years of age and under, eat for \$6; children, 2 years of age and under, eat for free. A live auction will begin at 6 p.m. A raffle will be held. There will be games for children and a craft store that day, also. For additional information, telephone the school at (740) 374-8181.

Martins Ferry — St. Mary Central School will sponsor an annual "Tiger Trot Walk-A-Thon" Oct. 11. The event will begin with the celebration of Mass at 11:30 a.m. at Mazerowski Park, Rayland. Three hours of music, walking and food will follow.

"Enjoy Coupon Books" will be sold at St. Mary Central School, 24 N. Fourth St., beginning the week of Oct. 5. To purchase a book or for additional information, telephone the school office at (740) 633-5424.

McConnelsville — An annual priest appreciation day/pancake breakfast will be held following the celebration of the 9 a.m. Mass, Sept. 27, at St. James Church.

Pomeroy — Mass will be celebrated in Spanish at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 11, at Sacred Heart Church. A meal will follow in the church undercroft.

The Sacred Heart Parish Bible Study Group will meet following the celebration of the 9 a.m. Mass, Mondays. The Gospel of Matthew will be studied, using the book by Stephen J. Binz.

The Sacred Heart Parish Catechism Study Group will meet at 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays, at the church.

St. Clairsville — Beginning Oct. 4, St. Mary Parish adult church history classes will be held from 10:10 a.m. to 11:20 a.m., Sundays, in the parish offices. Cost is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Refreshments will be served. For additional information, telephone Rena Duff at (740) 695-9278.

Steubenville — Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary School is sponsoring a new fundraising program - Schwan's Cares. Ordering and payments can be done online by visiting Schwans-Cares.com, clicking on "find a campaign," entering campaign code 21886, and clicking the "support now" button. For phone orders, telephone (855) 870-7208 and provide campaign number 21886. Delivery will be made straight to the home. Schwans-Cares delivers to many areas, so out-of-town orders can also be placed.

Steubenville — Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School will sponsor a first "Crusader 5K Run/Walk" and a 400 meter "Saints Sprint for Children" Oct. 24, rain or shine. The 5K start time will be 9 a.m., at the Catholic Central High School Athletic Complex, at the track. Entry fees for the 5K are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. The saints sprint begins at 10:30 a.m. and costs \$5 per child; there is a \$10 flat fee for two or more children. Preregister at the junior high school, 320 West View Ave. or online

Up and Down the Diocese

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at www.runtheday.com/race/crusader5K. Proceeds will benefit the Catholic schools in Steubenville. For more information, call (740) 264-2550 or email rrook@egcc.edu.

Steubenville — Masses will now be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Sundays, at St. Peter Church. Celebration of the Saturday vigil Mass remains at 4 p.m.

St. Peter CWC is taking orders for chicken dumpling, stuffed pepper and vegetable beef soup. Cost is \$6 per quart. To order, telephone (740) 282-9564 or (740) 283-1503; deadline is Oct. 16. Pickup is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 5, at St. Peter Church hall. There will also be a bake sale and a 50/50 raffle on the day of pickup.

Steubenville — A workshop on the updated “Decree on Child Protection” will be held at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 29, in Holy Rosary Church auditorium. Preregister by Sept. 28, by emailing barbara@catholicfaithformation.org.

A Holy Hour for vocations will begin following the celebration of the 8:30 a.m. Mass, Oct. 1, at Holy Rosary Church.

A farewell reception for Father Bartholomew Ogumelu, a priest from Nigeria, who has been residing in the rectory of Triumph of the Cross Parish at Holy Name Cathedral, while attending Franciscan University of Steubenville, will be held Oct. 4, in the Marian Room at Holy Rosary Church, following the celebration of the 10

a.m. Mass. Father Bartholomew assisted in celebrating liturgies for Triumph of the Cross Parish since 2011, and has now completed his studies at the university.

Toronto — Mother of Hope Deanery Council of Catholic Women will sponsor a day with Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton Oct. 14. The day will begin with the recitation of the rosary at 10:30 a.m., at St. Francis of Assisi Church, corner of Findley Street and Euclid Avenue. Bishop Monforton will celebrate Mass at 11 a.m. There will also be an afternoon discussion with Bishop Monforton that day. Lunch will be provided by the Toronto Catholic Woman’s Club. The event will conclude at approximately 3 p.m. Reservations are required prior to Oct.

7, and can be made by calling Diana Vargo, deanery president, at (740) 937-2941, or DeDe Kidder, Toronto CWC president, (740) 632-3018 or by emailing [Kidder at dkidder@brdband.com](mailto:dkidder@brdband.com).

Wintersville — The Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes St. Vincent de Paul Society will have general registration for food assistance for Thanksgiving, Christmas and the year 2016, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Oct. 16, at the food pantry, which is located at Blessed Sacrament Church. Applicants must be from the Bloomingdale/Wintersville area. For more information, call (740) 264-9547. The society is also in need of brown paper grocery bags, which can be taken to the St. Joseph side of the building.

Around and About

Athens — A fall rummage sale, sponsored by the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build Coalition, will be held from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sept. 26, at Holy Family Center, located at Christ the King University Parish.

Caldwell — A rosary for peace in our world will be prayed at noon, Oct. 10, on the Noble County Courthouse steps.

Caldwell — The Noble County Health Department will have a drive-through flu shot clinic from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sept. 27, at Noble County Fairgrounds, County Road 56. For those not covered by Medicare, Medicaid or other insurance, the cost is \$25, payable by cash or check.

Cambridge — A rosary will be prayed for peace in our world at noon, Oct. 10, on the steps of the Guernsey County Courthouse, 801 Wheeling Ave.

Ironton — The rosary will be prayed for the conversion of America at noon, Oct. 10, at the Fatima Shrine, 675 County Road 1A. For more information, email ANFRosaryRalley@aol.com or telephone (866) 584-6012.

Martins Ferry — Volunteer training sessions for Faith in Action Caregivers Inc. will be held at 9 a.m., Oct. 3, and at 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m., Oct. 15, at 38 N. Fourth St.; reservations are requested. For additional information, telephone (304) 243-5420 or log on www.faihinactionwheeling.org.

North Canton, Ohio — The Walsh University Our Lady of Perpetual Help Society and Queen of Heaven Parish will present “A Lecture Series: Bioethics and End of Life Issues.” The first presentation will take place at 7 p.m., Oct. 13, at Queen of Heaven Church in Green, 1800 Steese Road, Uniontown, Ohio. The second presentation will be at 7 p.m., Oct. 14, at Walsh University’s Barrette Business and Community Center, 2020 E. Maple St. To register or for more information, telephone Molly Romano, (330) 490-7581 or email mromano@walsh.edu.

Through the support of the Our Sunday Visitor Institute, the Walsh University Office of Campus Ministry is offering a series of workshops and retreat programs for high school students, which will focus on developing leaders in faith. The Oct.

31 workshop topic will be “Made for the Other.” Justin Huyck, pastoral associate for adult faith formation at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Canton, will discuss the importance of developing a vision from the mission of making Christ known in one’s community. “Made With Purpose” will be the featured workshop topic of discussion Nov. 21, where John Johnson, president of Petros Media LLC, a Catholic tech company dedicated to the new evangelization, Sacramento, California, will discuss how technology can be used by young leaders in faith to evangelize. Workshops will be held from 8 a.m. to noon at Walsh University, 2020 E. Maple St. Retreats will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 8 and Nov. 12, at the university. Events are free and open to high school students, parish youth groups or youth leaders. Registration at walsh.edu/elpis is required. For additional information, telephone (330) 490-7341.

St. Clairsville — Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Council 4243 will sponsor a diaper drive Sept. 26 and Sept. 27, to benefit Miracle of Life. Donations can be taken to St. Mary Church, 212 W. Main St.

Steubenville — Franciscan University of Steubenville will have an annual homecoming weekend Oct. 2-4.

Following the celebration of the 4:45 p.m. Mass in Finnegan Field House, Oct. 2, events will commence with an alumni reception, banquet and awards ceremony in the Tony and Nina Gentile Gallery, J.C. Williams Center, beginning at 6 p.m. At 8:30 p.m., students will provide entertainment during a student talent show in the field house.

The eighth annual Kelly Roggensack Memorial races will be held Oct. 3, beginning at 8 a.m. with a 1K “Kids Fun Run” and the 5K run or 3K walk at 8:30 a.m. Registration for these events can be found at franciscanathletics.com/RoggensackRaces.

On Oct. 3, Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Shawn Roberson will lead a blessing of animals at 2:45 p.m., near the Portiuncula Chapel. The day will conclude with a festival of praise at 7:30 p.m. followed at 9:15 p.m. by a free concert by the Celtic rock band Scythian.

Mass celebrating the solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., Oct. 4, in Finnegan Field House.

For additional information or to see the full schedule of events for the weekend, visit www.franciscan.edu/homecoming/.

Steubenville — An annual religious vocations awareness day will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 9, in the Finnegan Field House at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Anyone considering a call to the priesthood or religious life can meet with vocations directors from around the country. For additional information, contact vocationsday@franciscan.edu.

Steubenville — Robert Spencer, founder of Jihad Watch, a program that according to its website is dedicated to the defense of free societies whose moral, cultural and economic foundations are under attack by enemies both secular and religious, at home and abroad, will speak at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 14, at Franciscan University of Steubenville, in the International Lounge of the J.C. Williams Center.

Steubenville — Knights of Columbus St. John Neumann Council 11828 will host a dinner and dance for the adoption fund Sept. 26, at Holy Family Church Malara Hall. The dinner will include chicken, pasta, salad and beverages and will be served at 5 p.m. The dance will begin at 7:30 p.m., with some ballroom instruction. Beginning with ballroom/oldies music, entertainment will progress to contemporary music throughout the evening. Donation is \$6; children 5 years of age and under can attend for free. Dinner tickets include the dance; the dance ticket is a donation of \$2. For questions, telephone (740) 275-6871.

Steubenville — An annual pet blessing will be held at 5 p.m., Oct. 5, at Trinity Medical Center West. The blessing will take place near the statue of St. Francis of Assisi, in the main drive at the medical center.

Steubenville — A public square rosary rally to pray for peace in our world will take place at noon, Oct. 10, at Third and Market streets.

Steubenville — Knights of Columbus St. John Neumann Council 11828 will host Natural Family Planning International for a 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Oct. 11, monthly breakfast buffet, in St. Peter Church hall. Cost for adults to eat is \$7; \$4 for children under the age of 12; \$35 family maximum charge.

Wintersville — The Children’s Bereavement Foundation will sponsor a paddle auction Sept. 27, at Blessed Sacrament Church Upper Sargus Hall, 852 Main St. Doors open at 2 p.m.; the first auction will take place at 2:30 p.m. Presale admission tickets cost \$5 each; tickets sold at the door will cost \$8 each. Seating is limited. To purchase a ticket or for additional information, call (740) 264-4604. There will also be Chinese auctions and a 50/50 raffle the day of the event. According to a bulletin insert, the Children’s Bereavement Foundation helps with the final expenses for 20-week preterm to 24-month-old infants. Proceeds do not go directly to the family, but to the funeral home, cemetery, etc.

Wintersville — An eighth annual Jefferson County caregiver luncheon will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Oct. 22, at St. Florian Hall, 286 Luray Drive. There will be a complimentary luncheon, entertainment and door prizes for unpaid caregivers. The person being cared for can live anywhere; the caregiver must reside in Jefferson County. Attendance is by reservation only. Those wishing to attend can call (800) 945-4250, extension 4719, by Oct. 15.

Wintersville — A spaghetti dinner, to benefit the Tony Teramana Cancer Center Cancer Dietary Initiative, will be held from 4-7 p.m., Sept. 26, at the Wintersville United Methodist Church, 702 Main St. Cost to eat is \$8 per person; children 5 years of age and under eat for free.

Woodsfield — A pancake breakfast will be held by Knights of Columbus St. Joseph of Monroe County Council 5009 from 9-11 a.m., Oct. 4, at St. Sylvester Church.

Knights of Columbus St. Joseph of Monroe County Council 5009 will sponsor a bus to Washington, D.C., for the annual Right to Life March. The cost for the trip is slightly more than \$100. If you register prior to Oct. 31, you pay \$50; by Nov. 30, \$75.

Zanesville, Ohio — The fourth annual “Beauty of the Feminine” Catholic women’s conference will be held Oct. 3, at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 144 N. Fifth St. The event will feature keynote speakers, Adoration and a panel of women sharing their journeys of faith. Preregistration will be accepted until Sept. 30, by calling the parish office at (740) 453-3301.

Presbyteral Council hears details on cathedral renovation, restoration, renewal

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Efforts continue for the renovation, restoration and renewal of Holy Name Cathedral.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton provided Presbyteral Council – priests who aid the bishop in the governance of the diocese – with an update on progress of the multimillion dollar project, when it met Sept. 17 at St. Mary Church, Marian Hall, St. Clairsville.

As behind the scenes work continues to ready the South Fifth Street site for the cathedral's renovation, restoration and renewal, one piece of property has been cleared. A deteriorating house, which later burned, that had been bought by the diocese, was razed. The Fifth and Slack streets property will be used for parking for cathedral-goers and people who utilize a soup kitchen, expected to be relocated from the basement of the cathedral to an updated adjacent structure, known as the "Union Hall."

Meanwhile, Attorney Thomas S. Wilson, diocesan Office of Civil Law, continues to work with city of Steubenville officials to enable the reconfiguration of streets that will allow a pedestrian walkway to be created in front of the cathedral, Bishop Monforton said.

Since the celebration of Masses ceased at the cathedral, its stained-glass windows have been removed and stored by a Virginia firm, other items have been dismantled and taken from the church and a Pennsylvania company has conducted soil density test borings.

Meanwhile, Bishop Monforton said that he continues to visit diocesan parish councils and parish finance councils

to enlist members as ambassadors to raise funds for the renovation, restoration and renewal.

Unfortunately, he said, construction costs have soared, which means that initially the cathedral's roof will be pitched and a bell tower built.

In addition, a development director will be hired to assist

In other business, at the Presbyteral Council meeting – chaired by Father Thomas A. Chillog, episcopal vicar for pastoral planning and personnel – Bishop Monforton asked the priests for input on the age of confirmation in the diocese. Presently, youth, most usually, are confirmed between fifth and 12th grades. Additional discussion on the confirmation age will be held at the May 2016 Presbyteral Council meeting.

The Diocese of Steubenville will be represented at World Youth Day in July 2016 in Poland, Bishop Monforton told those present – in addition to Father Chillog, Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general, Father David L. Gaydosik, Father Bradley W. Greer, Father Thomas A. Nelson, Father Mark A. Moore and James G. Piazza, executive assistant to the bishop. Eight youth and two adults will travel with an entourage from Detroit, Bishop Monforton said, and he will join the group of nearly 50 in Poland.

Grants are being sought to cover costs of some of the expected and ongoing ministries in the diocese, the bishop said, prior to presentation of a five-year strategic plan for the chancery. Bishop Monforton asked the priests to share the

document, which he initiated, with their brother priests for input. The plan, which will be updated yearly, provides accountability, the bishop said.

Presbyteral Council will meet next in 2016 – Feb. 11.



A dilapidated house, purchased by the Diocese of Steubenville, is razed. The South Fifth and Slack streets site will provide additional parking for Holy Name Cathedral. (Photo by DeFrancis)

the bishop with raising funds for the cathedral, as well as with parishes' projects.

"We have a mother church. We need a cathedral," Bishop Monforton said.

Agnes Parish, Mingo Junction, was to be among the approximate 38 passengers on the bus traveling from Jefferson County to witness Pope Francis on part of his three-city American tour. An estimated 39 passengers were expected to board the bus in Noble County.

More than 220 Franciscan University of Steubenville students and Franciscan Third Order Regular priests and sisters were to travel to Philadelphia for the Sept. 27 open-air Mass celebrated by Pope Francis, a university spokesman said.

Franciscan University graduates and/or professors also were to be among the speakers at the World Meeting of Families.

Steubenville Diocese represented at papal gatherings in D.C., Philadelphia

STEUBENVILLE — Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton was among bishops gathered in Washington, D.C., to greet Pope Francis.

Bishop Monforton, too, planned to travel by train from D.C. to Philadelphia, where he was to attend the World Meeting of Families.

While in Washington, Bishop Monforton was to blog about his experiences. The blog was to appear on the diocesan website, www.diosteub.org.

Joseph A. Schmidt and his wife Christine and their children Felicity, Gianna, Therese and Jonathan were to be at the Sept. 21-28 World Meeting of Families, as representatives of the Steubenville Diocese. The

Schmidts are members of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta. Joseph Schmidt is the diocesan Respect Life coordinator for southern deaneries, marriage ministry coordinator for the Diocese of Steubenville and pastoral associate/director of religious education at the basilica.

Also, Michele A. Santin, director, diocesan Office of Family and Social Concerns (Catholic Charities) was to be in the nation's capital during Pope Francis' first visit to the United States. Santin was expected to be among those gathered in the White House to greet the pope.

Buses, also, were on the road from Jefferson County, and Noble County. Father James M. Dunfee, pastor of St.

Strikers invoke Pope Francis as they seek higher wages and a union

By Mark Pattison

WASHINGTON (CNS) — About 750 strikers were among a crowd estimated at 1,000 in urging the federal government to force contractors to pay them \$15 an hour for the work they do.

The strikers, who have no union but want the opportunity to form one, planned to strike only one day, Sept. 22, the day Pope Francis was arriving in the United States from Cuba.

Their morning rally, organized by the Change to Win coalition of labor unions, was dubbed a "Procession & Prayer Action."

Their rally, at the Capitol, came two days before Pope Francis' scheduled address to a joint meeting of Congress.

"The pope has talked about economic inequality and the need to treat workers with dignity, and the dignity of work. That is clear," said Paco Fabian, a spokesman for the Good Jobs Nation campaign of Change to Win. "The

pope's words touched their hearts."

The workers sent a letter to the pope the week before their strike, asking for an audience. In the letter, they said, "We sleep on the streets because we cannot pay the rent. We go to bed hungry because we can't put food on the table. We endure sickness because we cannot afford health care. We earn so little that we sacrifice our dignity to support our kids. We work such long hours that our unborn babies have died."

When he addresses Congress, "the pope's likely to talk about inequality. There's no better example than what's going on in the Senate," Fabian said.

The average net worth of a senator is \$2.3 million, Fabian said, compared to the \$10.10 hourly wage all federal contractors are now supposed to pay their workers under the terms of an executive order issued by President Barack Obama. Some workers, according to Fabian, now make more than \$10.10, but none makes at least \$15 – and some still toil for hourly wages as low as \$8.40 an hour.

Workers at the House cafeteria have a union contract and higher wages, Fabian said; Senate cafeteria workers have no union and work for less pay.

Obama also has signed an executive order designed to prevent lawbreaking companies from getting federal contracts, and a separate order mandating paid sick days for the employees of federal contractors.

"Some workers are lagging behind still," Fabian told Catholic News Service the day before the strike. "The workers who are serving them (senators) are homeless or on food stamps, or one or two paychecks away from losing it all."

Strikers taking part in the rally work at the Capitol Visitor Center, the Pentagon, the Smithsonian, Air and Space Museum, the National Zoo, the Union Station train depot and the Ronald Reagan Building, where Fabian said 12 different federal contractors employ workers.

He added the Sept. 22 strike was the 14th such strike by federal contract workers in the past two years.