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News Briefs

Religious need change, too, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While there is a need to evangelize a culture that tells young people money equals success and commitments aren't forever, stopping the "hemorrhage" of people leaving religious orders also requires changes from the orders themselves, Pope Francis said.

"Alongside much holiness — there is much holiness in consecrated life — there also are situations of counter-witness that make fidelity difficult," the pope said during a meeting last month with members of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and representatives of religious orders. The congregation was holding a plenary meeting focused on "fidelity and abandonment," examining the factors that contribute to a lifelong commitment to religious vows or to leaving consecrated life.

According to the Vatican's Central Statistics Office, from the end of 2004 to the end of 2014, the number of religious-order priests in the world declined by more than 2,500 to just under 135,000; the number of religious brothers dropped by 471 to just more than 54,500; and the number of women religious fell by almost 85,000 — 11 percent — to approximately 683,000 religious.

Colleges urged to bridge racial divides

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic college leaders were encouraged to take steps to heal racial divides on their campuses during an annual meeting in Washington.

Father Bryan Massingale, a theology professor at Fordham University in New York and author of "Racial Justice in the Catholic Church," acknowledged that Catholic colleges and universities likely have diversity plans and strategies in place, but he said such guidelines will simply sit on the shelves unless there are concrete actions behind them. "What's at stake is our integrity," he told the college presidents and leaders at a workshop during the January Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities meeting.

He urged them to pay particular attention to the urgency of what African-American students are experiencing today as highlighted by the Black Lives Matter movement.



Though the Diocese of Steubenville celebrates Catholic Schools Week later in the year, National Catholic Schools Week was observed Jan. 29-Feb. 4 in some dioceses around the country. Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton visits St. John Central Grade and High School, Bellaire, during National Catholic Schools Week and emphasizes the theme "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service" to students, from the left, Taylor Lowe and Hannah Boyer, seniors; Haleigh Boyer, freshman; Jenna Sawinski and Alyssa Busack, juniors; Lizzie Dierkes, freshman; Garrett Dierkes and Nate Schnegg, sophomores. Father Daniel Heusel, back left, pastor of St. John Parish, Bellaire, and Sacred Heart Parish, Neffs, and Kim Leonard, St. John principal, also greet Bishop Monforton, who will attend a Feb. 15 open house at the 3625 Guernsey St. school. The bishop will speak at 5 p.m. that day. The open house will continue until 7 p.m. and will enable people to tour the school, meet faculty and staff and experience classroom activities, the principal said. Scholarships are available for school students, who have an opportunity to take college-credit courses while at St. John Central, as well as participate in sports, sing in a choir and take part in other student activities, Leonard said. For more information on the open house or school, which houses preschool through 12th-grade, telephone (740) 676-4932. An estimated 1.9 million students are educated in 6,525 Catholic schools in cities, suburbs, small towns and rural communities around the country, statistics from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops reveal. Of those students, an estimated 99 percent graduate from high school and 86 percent of those graduates attend college. The observance of Catholic Schools Week began in 1974. (Photo by DeFrancis)

Ash Wednesday collection strengthens church in Europe

STEUBENVILLE — Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton knows firsthand the impact the annual Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe has on building churches, seminaries and parishes in post-communist countries.

As a member of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Bishop Monforton returned, recently, from a fourth consecutive yearly trip to see how donated dollars are used to strengthen the Catholic Church in Belarus and Poland.

When he met with Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Belarus, Bishop Monforton was told that without outside help, it would be difficult to talk about the revival of the Catholic Church in Eastern Europe.



In Warsaw, Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton greets Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, president of the Byelorussian Bishops Conference. (Photo provided)

In turn, during the meeting in Warsaw, Bishop Monforton said U.S. Catholics realize that monetary assistance is critical. "As American Catholics, we see our role to assist ... " (see/Column/Page 7).

The annual Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe is held in most parishes in the U.S. — including ones in the Diocese of Steubenville — Ash Wednesday. Theme for the March 1 collection is "Restore the Church, Build the Future."

"Remembering our brothers and sisters around the world who are struggling is a humbling way to begin the season of Lent," said Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago, chairman of the Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Some, he said, made great sacrifices to keep the faith alive in their communities, and share a legacy of faith through immigration.



The Immaculate Heart of Mary statue, in parishes in the Diocese of Steubenville during the Year of Reconsecration of the diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the initiation of diocesan Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, stands in St. Joseph Church, Toronto, Feb. 10-17 and St. Francis of Assisi Church, Toronto, Feb. 17-24. (Photo by DeFrancis)

April 3 deadline for college dollars

STEUBENVILLE — High school graduates, members of the Class of 2017, who plan to attend Franciscan University of Steubenville in the fall, are eligible to apply for a Bishop John King Mussio scholarship.

The Diocese of Steubenville's first bishop set up the scholarship in memory of his parents, John and Blanche Mussio, for Franciscan University freshmen.

Application for the nonrenewable scholarship must be made by 4 p.m., April 3, with the Diocese of Steubenville Office of Christian Formation and Schools, said Paul D. Ward, director, diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools.

The application and a letter of recommendation from the applicant's parish pastor must be filed with the Office of Christian Formation and Schools, 422 Washington St., Steubenville — mailing address — P.O. Box 969, Steubenville, OH 43952.

Applicants must reside in the diocese, as well as be a member of the 2017 graduating class at a Catholic or public high school in the Diocese of Steubenville and a participating member of a diocesan parish. Too, applicants must have a combined Scholastic Aptitude Test score of 1000 or a composite American College Test score of 21, as well as financial need, determined by the Franciscan University of Steubenville Office of Student Financial Services.

Parish pastors, guidance counselors at parochial and public high schools in the diocese and principals at St. John Central, Bellaire, St. Joseph Central, Ironton, and Catholic Central, Steubenville, high schools have applications for the scholarship.

A selection committee will determine the number of scholarships awarded and the amounts of each.

Recipients of the scholarships will be announced by April 28, Ward said.



Five Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, students are beneficiaries of the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361, Mingo Junction. Baci Carpico, left, past state deputy and current council trustee, and Shawn Zarych, second from left, Council 4361 grand Knight, present checks to, from the left, Sydney Bennington, Rhetta Potenzini, Jenna Fabian, Hayden Daley and Jordan Maul. Rich Wilinski, right, Catholic Central principal, expresses his appreciation to the Knights for the five \$250 scholarships. This is the third year in a row that the Knights provided tuition money to Catholic Central students, Carpico said. All the student scholarship recipients attend St. Agnes Parish, Mingo Junction, where Father James M. Dunfee is pastor. (Photo by DeFrancis)

State scholarship application windows open for 2017-18 school year

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Application windows for some of Ohio's scholarship programs are open for the 2017-28 school year.

The application deadline for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program is April 15. Students applying for EdChoice or Income-Based scholarships must apply before April 30. A second application window for the EdChoice and Income-Based scholarships will open July 1.

Families should work with the school and/or provider of their choice to complete the scholarship application. The school or provider will submit the application once it is completed.

Jon Peterson scholarships are worth up to \$27,000; EdChoice, \$4,650 per year for students in kindergarten through grade

students; and Income-Based, \$4,650 for kindergarten through grade four.

For more scholarship information, telephone (800) 673-5876 or online, www.schoio.org.

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Invite out for DCCW Lenten Day of Spirituality

HARRISVILLE/TORONTO — Lessons from the Catholic contemplative tradition will be explored at the sixth annual Lenten Day of Spirituality for Diocese of Steubenville women.

A Pennsylvania resident – Anne Kertz Kernion – will be the presenter at the April 1 day of spirituality at St. Mary Church, 218 W. Main St., St. Clairsville (Father Thomas A. Chillog is pastor of the parish).

The day is under the sponsorship of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women – Pamela Ambrose, president.

DeDe Kidder, DCCW past president and treasurer, announced that the Lenten Day of Spirituality will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. Registration continues until 9:45 a.m.

For Lenten retreatants who want to participate in Mass before or after the day of spirituality, Mass is celebrated at 9 a.m. and again at 4:30 p.m. at St. Mary Church, where the Lenten-day program will commence at 10 a.m. and conclude by 4 p.m.

“The Grateful Life: Living in Awareness of God’s Daily Gifts,” “Lessons from Our Catholic Tradition and Neuroscience” is Kernion’s topic.

The Wexford, Pennsylvania, resident holds a bachelor’s degree in environmental engineering from Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, and a master’s in theology from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, as well as a certificate in the “Science of Happiness” from the University of California, Berkeley.

She has taught theology at Carlow University, Pittsburgh, for 14 years and taught courses in chemistry, environmental science, ethics, world religions and nutrition at Community College of Allegheny, Pittsburgh, for seven years.

In 2016, a book Kernion authored – “A Year of Spiritual

Companionship” – was published.

Kernion, also, served St. Mary Parish, Pittsburgh, as a youth and music minister, is a yoga instructor and has been a speaker and retreat facilitator since 1990.

In 1985, Kernion launched a greeting card company – Cards by Anne – which specializes in spiritual, encouraging cards, hand-done in calligraphy and ink and printed on 100 percent recycled paper. Her cards are sold in stores all over the English-speaking world and online, www.cardsbyanne.com.

She is a member of St. John Neumann Parish, Franklin Park, Pennsylvania.

Long married, Kernion and her husband Jack have three grown children and four grandchildren.

During the Lenten Day of Spirituality, Kernion has said she expects to explore lessons from the Catholic contemplative tradition, as well as the latest in neuroscience research that confirms how healthy it is to be grateful and attentive in our lives. Included, she added, will be practices and easy tips on how to nurture this awareness of God’s presence each day.

Cost of the day of spirituality is \$25, which includes lunch that will be served in St. Mary Marian Hall.

Reservations for the day of spirituality should be made with Kidder, via telephone (740) 632-3018 or email kidder@gmail.com.

Checks for reservations are to be made payable to Steubenville DCCW and mailed to Kidder at P.O. Box 31, Toronto, OH 43964-0031.

For more information or questions on the Lenten Day of Spirituality, Ambrose, also, can be contacted at her P.O. Box 234, Harrisville, OH 43974 address, on the phone, (740) 546-3685, or through email, pambrose49@hotmail.com.



(Photo provided)

Anne Kertz Kernion

New chair elected to Priests’ Retirement Plan

STEUBENVILLE — Father James M. Dunfee has been elected chairman of the Diocese of Steubenville Priests’ Retirement Plan.

Pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Mingo Junction, Father Dunfee is beginning his third year as a trustee of the plan, which supports diocesan clergy who retire from active parish ministry at 70, or earlier, if incapacitated.

The new chairman assumes the role from Father John F. Mucha, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Joseph parishes, Bridgeport.

Father William D. Cross, diocesan judicial vicar and pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Tiltonsville, and St. Lucy Parish, Yorkville, was elected to fill Father Mucha’s expired term on the plan.

Other plan trustees are Father Thomas A. Chillog, diocesan episcopal vicar for pastoral planning and personnel and pastor of St. Mary Parish, St. Clairsville; Father Timothy J. Shannon, pastor of St. Henry Parish, Harrietsville, and Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Lowell; Father Thomas R. Nau, pastor of Triumph of the Cross Parish, Steubenville, and rector of Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville; Father

Thomas A. Magary, retired from active parish ministry; and David A. Franklin, Diocese of Steubenville comptroller.

DeDe Kidder is the plan’s executive secretary.

Members of the plan meet twice a year.

Begun in April 1972 by the diocese’s first bishop, John King Mussio, the plan, separate from any funds controlled by the diocese, is supported by parishes in behalf of their pastors. Individual donations can be mailed to the Diocese of Steubenville Priests’ Retirement Plan, P.O. Box 969, Steubenville, OH 43952.

Bishop Monforton’s Schedule

February

- 11 Anniversary Mass, death of founder of Communion and Liberation, Msgr. Luigi Giussani, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 8:30 a.m.
- 12 Mass, St. Peter Church, Steubenville, 10 a.m.
- 13 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 8:30 a.m. Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign, major gift dinner, Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361 hall, Mingo Junction, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 “Misa con Hermanas,” Mass with Spanish sisters, Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, Steubenville, 9 a.m.
- 16 WAOB radio segment, 7:40 a.m., 8:40 a.m. and 6:40 p.m. Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 8:30 a.m. Luncheon speaker, Serra Club of Steubenville, Steubenville Country Club, noon
- 18 Mass, St. John Fisher Church, Richmond, 6 p.m.
- 19 Mass, St. Joseph Church, Amsterdam, 11 a.m.
- 20 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 8:30 a.m. Evening prayer and dinner, Marians of the Immaculate Conception, Steubenville, 5:20 p.m.
- 25 Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Neffs, 6:30 p.m.

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Joe Billante



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, aided by his master of ceremonies Father Bradley W. Greer and Permanent Deacons Paul D. Ward, carrying the Gospels, and Thomas F. Maedke, celebrates the World Day for Consecrated Life Feb. 2 – the Presentation of the Lord – at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Oratory, Lovers Lane, Steubenville. To the consecrated men and women, Bishop Monforton said, he is amazed at the number of religious – “a blessing to us” – in the Diocese of Steubenville. How appropriate, Bishop Monforton said, that St. John Paul II established the day as the World Day for Consecrated Life. “You radiate joy, and we need to recognize that.” To the consecrated gathered at the invitation of the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, Bishop Monforton said, “Thank you for radiating Christ’s light. ...” (Photo by DeFrancis)

AIM banquet March 20 in Winterville

STEUBENVILLE — The AIM Women’s Center annual fundraising banquet will be held March 20 at St. Florian Hall, Winterville.

Victoria Fallon, AIM Women’s Center executive director, announced the event, which marks the organization’s 30th anniversary.

Kirk Walden will be the speaker for the “Light of Life” banquet.

A former pregnancy help center director and an advancement specialist for Heartbeat International, the world’s largest supporting organization for the pregnancy help community, Walden is an author, too. He has written “The Wall: Rebuilding a culture of LIFE in America – and ending abortion as we know it.” A one-time professional golfer, Walden is credited as being a humorist, also.

The doors will open at St. Florian Hall, 286 Luray Drive, Winterville, at 6 p.m. for the fundraiser. The program will begin at 7 p.m.

To host a table (each table at St. Florian Hall can seat eight) or to reserve a seat, contact Fallon or Shannon Wiley, development

and client services, the AIM Women’s Center, 248 N. Fifth St., Steubenville; telephone (740) 283-3636 or email development@aimwomenscenter.com.



(Photo provided)
Kirk Walden

“This is a significant time for AIM,” wrote Fallon. “It is an exciting time we want to share with you! I am eager to speak with you more about our move to Optimize AIM. We invite you to be part of this move to make AIM more effective than ever in reaching and serving abortion-minded and abortion-determined young women.”

Fallon continued, “Discouragement can slip through the cracks of our soul when we are frightened and alone. It can feed us lies that we have no value. Women facing unplanned pregnancies feel isolated, alone and scared. When we see a woman come in our door facing turmoil from all sides, we want to reach her wounded heart. We know that certain tools can help us, but our most powerful and effective tool is intense and dedicated love. Those who come in our door at AIM must find a love in us so strong and fierce that they will know for certain we will stand beside them”

More than 3,000 respond to survey

CAMBRIDGE — Three thousand, two hundred surveys have been returned to the Diocese of Steubenville by parishioners who ranked their parishes’ greatest strengths and concerns, as well as wrote self-reflection.

Sister Mary Brigid Callan, a Family of Jacopa Association, Steubenville, novice and stewardship and development director for the Steubenville Diocese, who collected the surveys that asked direct questions and provided space for written replies, gave the tally to the Mission Advancement Planning Advisory Task Force. During the meeting last month in St. Benedict Church, Cambridge, she said that the responses, some continuing to be submitted even after the deadline, came from people 9 to 97. As well, 40 diocesan deacons and priests responded to the survey.

Thomas J. Sonni, president of Greater Mission Development Services, Elkridge, Maryland, said the survey set out to listen to where hearts are. Inserted in The Steubenville Register, offered in some parish pews and presented online, the survey is part of Mission Advancement Planning, introduced in the fall of last year by Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton. At the time, he called for “With Immense Hope” – a renewal of the diocese.

“Sunday Mass: Worship Experience and Sacraments” was rated by survey respondents as their parishes’ greatest strength, while “Decline in active membership of young people” was listed as the parishes’ greatest concerns, Sonni said. To fulfill the mission as a church in the future, the most recorded response was “Evangelize those who are not active in any church or faith practice.”

Clergy offered a variety of comments from the looming shortage of priests to a lacking of connectivity within the diocese, especially concerning the chancery (diocesan offices, located at 422 Washington St.,

Steubenville), task force members were told.

“This matters,” Bishop Monforton said in response to the surveys. He added that he read each priest’s response, personally.

James G. Piazza, executive assistant to the bishop, said that many of the comments concerning the chancery were known, already. A strategic plan for operations has started at the chancery. Survey comments, he said, give an opportunity to look at the plan goals and objectives from a broader scope. “We are making improvements. We have to apply the ‘Joy of the Gospel’ (Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation, released in 2013) to ourselves, and we have to be examples.”

Survey results, which will be returned to individual parishes, are to be tallied and a synopsis of all of the responses printed.

It is expected that the advisory task force will use the survey results in conjunction with data from the diocese to prioritize the needs of parishes and the diocese, financially and pastorally.

When Bishop Monforton introduced “With Immense Hope,” the main components of the planning were listed as to create a mission advancement planning task force, which had its fifth meeting Jan. 30; develop a mission advancement process to focus on the most important pastoral and financial needs throughout the diocese; establish a Catholic Community Foundation of Southeastern Ohio to serve as the development engine for the Steubenville Diocese; and build a comprehensive development plan that creates funding needed for pastoral and financial challenges throughout the diocese.

Mission Advancement Planning is an outgrowth of proposals to renovate Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville. Costs of a renovated cathedral are being tabulated, Piazza said. If funds are available, work on the building could begin in the spring.

Adult faith formation seminar planned for Feb. 25

STEUBENVILLE — A “Seminar on Faith” will be held Feb. 25 at Christ Our Light Parish, St. Benedict Church, Cambridge, announced Carolyn A. Crabtree, catechetical consultant, Diocese of Steubenville Office of Christian Formation and Schools.

Petroc Willey, a professor of theology and catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville, and Crabtree will be the featured speakers. Talks, centered on the

Catholic faith – Divine Revelation, the Trinity and Christ, are an hour in length. They will begin at 9:45 a.m., after 8:35 a.m. Mass and breakfast. After a noon lunch break, talks will continue from 12:30-1:30 p.m. that day.

Talks count toward catechists’ initial or ongoing certification and teachers’ Catholic identity contact hours.

For more information or to register, email Crabtree, ccrabtree@diosteub.org.

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Buses and cars carried Diocese of Steubenville parishioners to the annual March for Life Jan. 27 in Washington, D.C. Youth from the diocese, ready to board buses, right, are among the marchers, left. The youth are students from two parochial high schools in the diocese, St. John Central, Bellaire, and Catholic Central, Steubenville, and Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School, Steubenville. (Photos provided)

Jubilant crowd, including diocesan parishioners, gather for annual march

STEUBENVILLE (The Steubenville Register) and WASHINGTON (CNS) — Tens of thousands of pro-lifers filled the grounds near the Washington Monument and marched up Constitution Avenue to the U.S. Supreme Court Jan. 27 as both a protest of legalized abortion and a celebration of successful pro-life efforts across the country.

Buses and cars full of March for Life participants from the Diocese of Steubenville were among the throng.

Parishioners and clergy from the southern portion of the diocese, joined with those from the northern sector and students — especially ones from St. John Central Grade and High School, Bellaire, Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, and Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School, Steubenville.

On two buses that picked up approximately 100 passengers in many of the dioceses central and southern counties were Father H. Christopher Foxhoven, pastor of St. Mary of the Hills Parish, Buchtel, and Holy Cross Parish, Glouster; Father Paul E. Hrezo, pastor of Christ Our Light Parish, Cambridge; Father Thomas F. Hamm, pastor of St. Louis Parish, Gallipolis; and Father Chester J. Pabin, parochial vicar to Father Wayne E. Morris, pastor of the Noble County parishes of Corpus Christi, Belle Valley; St. Stephen, Caldwell; St. Michael, Carlisle; and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Fulda.

As well, hundreds of Franciscan University of Steubenville students were among the marchers.

For students, particularly two high school seniors, Stephanie Cuervo and Anthony DeFallo, the march was amazing. They expressed that sentiment to fellow marcher Father Michael W. Gossett, Catholic Central chaplain, director of vocations for the Steubenville Diocese and parochial vicar to Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general and pastor of Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes, Wintersville.

High school chaplain, Father Edward A. Maxfield Jr., also parochial vicar to Father Thomas A. Chillo, episcopal vicar for pastoral planning and personnel, pastor of St. Mary Parish, St. Clairsville, and parochial administrator of St. Mary Central School, St. Clairsville, also marched with the youth.

Father Daniel Heusel, pastor of St. John Parish, Bellaire,

and Sacred Heart, Neffs, also was on the march.

“Going on the March for Life was a truly amazing experience. Through this experience, I have hope that my generation will change the culture of death in the world,” said Cuervo.

“It was truly amazing to see all of the support to end such a horrible thing, present in our current day and age,” said DeFallo.

In years past, the March for Life — which takes place

cry for the uphill and constant fight faced by those in the pro-life movement hoping for more abortion restrictions and ultimately an end to abortion.

This year’s March for Life, under mostly sunny skies and 40-degree temperatures, was decidedly more upbeat, in part because one of the first speakers was Vice President Mike Pence: the first time a vice president attended the rally.

Pence, who has marched at the event before as a participant and addressed it as a congressman, repeatedly told the crowd — huddled together in winter coats and hats in front of the stage — that “life is winning” and assured them the Trump administration was behind them.

Kellyanne Conway, special adviser to Trump, and the first on the speakers’ list to address the group — holding aloft placards but none of the usual giant banners, which were banned for security reasons — similarly got plenty of cheers when she said: “This is a new day, a new dawn for life.”

The scheduled presence of the vice president, only announced the day before, required the rally perimeter to be fenced in and the crowd to enter through long lines that had formed at security checks. Participants seemed unfazed by the required wait, taking it in stride with the day. Some pulled out their prepacked lunches and started eating, others prayed the rosary. These marchers are used to plenty of hardships from weather conditions alone at the annual march.

Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, noted that the group has been marching in all types of bad weather over the years. She also pointed out that amid recent discussion about crowd size at events in Washington, it was hard to measure the number of people that day or for the total who have come out for the annual march over the past four decades.



Father H. Christopher Foxhoven leads marchers at his 15th March for Life. (Photo provided)

on or near Jan. 22 to mark the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 decisions in Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton that legalized abortion virtually on demand — has been almost a battle

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St. John Paul II Peter at Pentecost

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

Continuing his discussion on Pentecost, St. John Paul II says: "... (T)he church's birth on the day of Pentecost coincides with the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, also, our reflections on the mystery of the church in relationship to the Holy Spirit are concentrated around Pentecost." Mankind was introduced, one might say, to the Holy Spirit and to the church at the same time, on that same day. The mysterious "Spirit" that Jesus promised the apostles manifested itself by a dramatic entry into their lives and, at the same time, launched their careers as agents of that church, its "sales force," in inviting the world into its embrace. This was the "Great Commission" that Jesus entrusted to them just before leaving this world at his ascension. The church was born as a *missionary* church and remains such

to this day. John Paul points out that the church's missionary character is closely connected with *universality* and, at the same time, *unity*: two of her defining characteristics. People, though scattered throughout the world, come together as one in their beliefs and worship. That makes the church, also, a *communion* of persons. The Second Vatican Council referred to this when it spoke of communion as a "gift of the Holy Spirit" ("Dogmatic Constitution on the Church," "Lumen Gentium," Paragraph 13).

The church came into being, not as a local organization confined to the city of Jerusalem or to the province of Judea, but as an *international, worldwide* entity, as suggested by the gift of tongues that the apostles exercised. Jerusalem itself was the original "Mother Church," so to speak, but the apostles fanned out from there to establish Christian communities elsewhere in the Roman Empire (throughout which travel was relatively safe and easy as compared to elsewhere in the ancient world). Their efforts were at first directed to the Jewish communities that had grown up throughout the Empire (the "Diaspora"), but soon began to incorporate non-Jews ("gentiles"). Peter himself approved it after his own experience with a group of gentiles in the town of Joppa who received the Holy Spirit while he spoke to them (see, Acts, Chapter 11). It was St. Paul, of course,

who led the movement to convert the gentiles (hence his appellation, "Apostle of the Gentiles"). He pleaded the case at a council in Jerusalem presided over by the Apostle James, who succeeded Peter as leader of the Christian community there. James referred to Peter's testimony in support of Paul. The Christian church from its beginning was to be universal, "Catholic" (Greek: "kataholos": "throughout the whole"). It would be universal, not only in terms of nationalities, but also of social and economic status, as we see in reading the Acts of the Apostles.

Universality does not require *uniformity* in all things, but it does call for *unity* in the essential message of Christ. John Paul explains: "The demands of universality and variety are expressed also in the essential, internal unity of the church

by means of the multiplicity and diversity of the gifts or charisms, and also of ministries and initiatives." One of St. Paul's most famous passages is on this subject (see, I Corinthians, Chapter 12, Verses 4-7). Vatican II

speaks of the continuing guidance of the Holy Spirit in both the "hierarchical and charismatic gifts" ("Lumen Gentium," Paragraph 4).

Pope John Paul comments on the discourse of Peter to the crowds after the receiving of the Holy Spirit by the apostles and disciples. It was occasioned, as we read, by the scoffers in the crowd who accused the apostles of being drunk (see, Acts, Chapter 2, Verse 13). The pope explains: "It was a fitting occasion for Peter's first discourse. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he spoke also in the name of, and in communion with, the other apostles. Peter exercised for the first time his function as herald of the Gospel, preacher of divine truth and witness to the Word." The role of Peter and his fellow apostles in the Christian church can be observed here as something exercised from the very beginning of the church's existence. In John Paul's words, "In this discourse of Peter one observes the church's apostolic structure, such as it was from the beginning. The 11 shared with Peter the same mission, the vocation to bear the same authoritative witness. Peter spoke as first among them by virtue of the mandate received directly from Christ." The rock on which Jesus founded his church was in place and functioning at the church's birth.

We think again of the "Great Commission" to the apostles

to go out to the world and proclaim God's eternal plan for mankind. Under the continuing guidance of the Holy Spirit, the church brings this plan, this "good news," to all mankind: the work of *evangelization*. The church was constituted by Christ as an evangelizing, a *missionary* church. Its efforts are spearheaded by the successors of Peter and the apostles, the bishops, assisted by their priests, religious and lay workers. At the beginning, the work of the church was assisted by the "gift of tongues," a miraculous phenomenon

to draw the attention of the crowds to the apostles and their message. In addition to "guiding the apostles to all truth" (Jn 16:13), the Holy Spirit adds miraculous touches, so to speak, from time-to-time to facilitate the missionary effort. Throughout the history of the church, we encounter miraculous events, usually in the lives of special persons who play a vital part in that effort. We call them "saints."

A word about Peter himself is in order here. Looking back at the Gospel story we see that, after Jesus had given his Discourse on the Bread of Life and witnessed the defection of many of his erstwhile disciples, he asked the apostles if they, too, would walk out on him. It was Peter who responded: "To whom shall we go, Lord? You have the words of eternal life" (Jn 6:67-68)! Again, when Jesus asked the apostles who people were saying that he was, and asked who they thought he was, it was Peter who spoke up: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt 16:15-16). Jesus responded by declaring Peter to be the *rock* on which he would build his church, against which even the gates of hell would not prevail (see, Matthew, Chapter 16, Verses 13-20). We read, too, how people were impressed by Jesus' words in that "he spoke as one with authority" (Mt 7:29). When Peter rose to speak on the day of Pentecost, the people listened and were impressed. He, too, "spoke with authority": the authority of Christ himself!



Bishop Sheldon

The rock on which Jesus founded his church was in place and functioning at the church's birth. The church was constituted by Christ as an evangelizing, a missionary church.

'Call Me Francis' examines the pre-papal life of Jorge Bergoglio

By Chris Byrd

NEW YORK (CNS) — "What am I doing in Rome? People retire at my age," a pensive, melancholy Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio (Sergio Hernandez) says early on in "Call Me Francis."

Netflix's miniseries renders a textured, honest, yet sympathetic portrait of our current pontiff before he was pope.

Having recently arrived for the conclave that would eventually see him succeed Pope Benedict XVI, the Argentine cardinal stands on his balcony outside St. Peter's Square as a reverie transports the 76-year-old back to his youth.

Italian director Daniele Luchetti and his co-writer, Martin Salinas, use this scene to frame Bergoglio's story from his entrance into the Jesuits to the conclave of 2013.

Originally produced as an Italian feature film, "Call Me Francis" has been recast as a series of four 50-minute episodes, in which Hernandez plays the older Bergoglio, and Rodrigo de la Serna plays him in youth.

The series contains some gratuitous profanity; it also depicts the Argentine military dictatorship's brutality and

use of torture during their "dirty war" of the 1970s and '80s. The scenes of abuse are difficult to watch, but essential to the story and not lurid in their presentation.

In this context, "Call Me Francis" makes appropriate viewing for discerning adults. In Spanish with English subtitles, the dramatization became available for streaming Dec. 16.

As a Jesuit novice, Bergoglio displays his arrogance and naivete to his superiors when he expresses his desire to become a missionary to Japan, confident of his untested ability to win souls. First, his more seasoned confreres advise Bergoglio, he needs "to learn how to do simple stuff."

His theology instructor, Father Franz Jalics (Alex Brendemuhl), introduces Bergoglio to Ignatian spirituality, which encourages believers to use their imagination to place themselves amid the scenes of the Lord's earthly life.

Bergoglio's devotion to this form of meditation brings him to the attention of Father Pedro Arrupe (Bernardo Baras), the order's superior general. Father Arrupe made Bergoglio provincial superior of the Argentine community in 1973, when he was only 36.

Bergoglio was provincial during a period when strongman Gen. Jorge Videla's regime killed more than 7,000 people and more than 30,000 persons suspected of sympathizing with the guerillas fighting

To Page 8

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Bishop Encourages 'Young,' Aid to the Church in the Old World

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

Our Young People

As many of us are aware, Pope Francis frequently provides instruction to and encourages our young people to take ownership of their call to discipleship in the Catholic Church. You and I are instructed to do the same, that is, to enable our young people to fully exercise their missionary discipleship.

Pope Francis has taken the next step in calling the **XV Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops** that will convene in October 2018 with the theme: Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment. However, this is not a "top down" approach to address critical needs that will determine the missionary health of the Church. Appropriately so, substance and direction will be provided at the grass-roots level, namely, from you and our young people.

A pre-synodal questionnaire has been provided all of the dioceses in the Church to be shared with all of the faithful.

The Diocese of Steubenville Office of Christian Formation and Schools has already posted the questionnaire on our diocesan website. You may access the questionnaire simply by entering the address: www.diosteub.org/synod-on-young-people.

I recall that throughout my priesthood the status of our young people and their role in the Church has been of principal concern by our parishioners. This questionnaire provides you and me a voice to assist our Holy Father in the assembly of bishops who will participate in the synod. Our young people are no less missionary disciples than you or me. In fact,

they will play a direct role in the crafting of the Catholic Church and the manner in which she will evangelize the world. Please take time to not just complete the questionnaire yourself, but to share the questionnaire with our fellow young people.

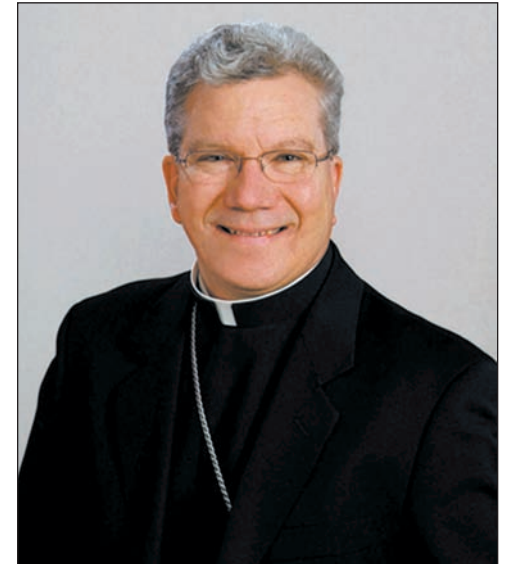
My Recent Visit to Poland (not Ohio but the one in Europe)

The last Steubenville Register shared a photo of me with my brother Belarusian bishops as well as a bishop from the Polish Catholic Conference of Bishops. I was encouraged by the depth of discussion we had in two separate conferences regarding aid to the Church in Belarus.

A number of aid organizations had the opportunity to visit the Belarusian bishops in order to discuss where the greatest needs exist within the Catholic Church in Belarus. I had the privilege to represent the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on the Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. There is collaboration among a number of bishops conferences as well as public and private institutions to effectively assist the Church in Belarus. The Church continues its extensive rebuilding initiative following nearly 70 years of persecution and the loss of all of its church buildings.

Our diocese is a small diocese, but most certainly that does not excuse us from assisting our brothers and sisters who are in even greater need. My visit to Belarus last year was a profoundly edifying experience as I experienced firsthand the joy of the families and their members, both young and old, participating in a Church arising from the proverbial ashes. The truth is that the fire of the Gospel in Belarus was never extinguished, even in the darkest of times.

So much more needs to be done and I ask for your prayers that our Belarusian Catholic brothers and sisters embrace



Bishop Monforton

the Apostolic resolve and endurance as they continue to restore the sacred gift of the Catholic Church in Belarus.

Each Ash Wednesday we, as fellow Catholics in the United States, take up a collection for our assistance to the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Thank you for your generosity in empowering our brothers and sisters to stand for Jesus Christ and to share his merciful presence with others.

Together we can keep each other in prayer as we quickly approach the doorstep of Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Season. May we encourage one another to appreciate our common spiritual pilgrimage, recognizing that we walk with Jesus each and every day. *God bless you and your family.*

Acedia and Sabbath

By Father Ron Rolheiser

Early Christian monks believed in something they called *acedia*. More colloquially, they called it the *noonday devil*, a name that essentially describes the concept. Acedia, for them, was different from ordinary depression in that it didn't draw you into the dark, chaotic areas of your mind and heart, to have you diseased before your own complex and infinite depth; it was more of a flattening out, a dearth of energy, that put you into a semi-vegetative state that simply deadened all deep feeling and thoughts.

The early church considered it one of the seven capital sins. Later it was renamed as *sloth*. There's an abundance of good spiritual literature on the concept of acedia, not least Kathleen Norris' rather definitive work on how acedia was understood by the early church.

But until recently, acedia hadn't been studied in-depth as a psychological concept. Happily that's changing, with important implications for spirituality. To offer just one example: I recently attended a lecture on acedia given by a Jungian specialist, Lauren Morgan Wuest. I cannot do justice to her full thesis here, but let me risk an oversimplified synopsis.



Father Rolheiser

Having read the literature of the Desert Fathers and the various commentaries on the idea of acedia, she attempted to interface that spiritual literature with the insights of contemporary psychology, particularly those from the Jungian school of thought. What were her conclusions? In brief, her view is that

acedia is not a clinical diagnosis, meaning that it isn't a pathology requiring treatment, nor is it an ordinary depression. Rather the symptoms of acedia are the result of a healthy instinctual reflex of our bodies and minds which, when they are not given something they need, sometimes forcefully shut us down, much like an ordinary depression shuts someone down; except that in the case of acedia, the shutdown of energy is for the purpose of health. Simplistically put, because we won't sit down on our own and give our bodies and minds the rest, nourishment and space they need, our bodies and minds conspire together to sit us down, forcibly. In essence, that's acedia, and, in essence, it's for our own health.

As a psychologist, she didn't go on to draw out the potential ramifications of this for spirituality, particularly how this might relate to the practice of Sabbath in our lives, but all the implications are there.

When you read the Jewish and Christian Scriptures, particularly the early sections in Genesis which chronicle the creation of the world and how God "rested" on the Sabbath, you see that there's a divinely ordered rhythm to how work and rest are supposed to unfold in our lives. Briefly stated, there's to be a pattern, a rhythm, to our lives which works this way: *You work for six days, and then have a one-day sabbatical; you work for seven years, and then have a one-year sabbatical; you work for seven times seven years, and then have a jubilee year, a sabbatical for the whole planet; and then you work for a lifetime, and go on an eternity of sabbatical.*

In essence, our lives of work, our everyday agenda and our normal anxieties are to be regularly punctuated by a time in which we lay down the hammer, lay down our agenda, lay down our work-a-day worries and simply sit, rest, vegetate, enjoy, soak-in, luxuriate, contemplate, pray, and let things take care of themselves for a while. That's

the biblical formula for health, spiritual, human, psychic and bodily. And whenever we don't do this voluntarily, in effect, whenever we neglect to do Sabbath in our lives, our bodies and minds are likely to do it for us by shutting down our energies. Acedia is our friend here: We will do Sabbath, one way or the other.

It's no secret that today the practice of Sabbath is more and more disappearing within our culture. Indeed, our culture constitutes a virtual conspiracy against the practice of Sabbath. Among the many culprits responsible for this, I highlight our addiction to information technology, our current inability to go for any stretch of time without being connected to others and the world through a phone, a commuter pad or a computer screen. We are finding ourselves less and less able to step away from all that we are connected to through information technology, and consequently we are finding ourselves less and less able to simply rest, to let go of things, to be in Sabbath mode. Perhaps the most important ascetical practice for us today would be the practice of Cyber Sabbaths.

Already 700 hundred years ago, the Sufi poet Rumi, lamented: *I have lived too long where I can be reached!* That's a cry for Sabbath time that went up long before today's information technology placed us where we can always be reached, and that cry is going up everywhere today as our addiction to information technology increases. One worries that we will not find the asceticism needed to curb our addiction, but then acedia may well do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

Father Rolheiser, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate priest, is president of the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, an author, a retreat master and a newspaper columnist. Log on www.ronrolheiser.com, for additional information on him.

Growth of US Hispanic population a blessing for church, says speaker

By Andrea Acosta

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Hispanics in the Catholic Church are not a problem to be solved, but a blessing and an opportunity, said Hosffman Ospino in a Jan. 31 talk at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

The growing number of U.S. Hispanic parishioners puts a new face on the church, forces it to renew itself, pushes it to redefine its commitment and presents dioceses with a challenge, he said.

Ospino is a professor of theology and religious education at Boston College and director of graduate programs in Hispanic ministry there. He is well-known as a leading voice in Hispanic ministry and theology.

More than 20 million immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean are transforming the U.S. Catholic experience, according to Ospino. He calls this phenomenon a “tsunami.”

Hispanics are the fastest-growing community in the U.S. They make up the largest minority group in the country and, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, they will surpass the 132 million mark by 2050. By then, Hispanics will represent 30 percent of the nation’s total population, according to data from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

But the church has not reacted at the same speed to welcome them, according to Ospino. “Dioceses, schools and parishes have been on ‘cruise control’ for more than 70 years and a renewal, a new dynamic, is needed,” he said. “We have to read the signs of the times in light of our faith.”

Immigrants bring along families, friends, talent and treasure, he said. They form groups that adapt to faith communities, thus nurturing the church.

“They look for places to live, opportunities for advancement, and (they) did not

cross the border, for the border crossed them,” Ospino said.

Explaining the immigrant experience, he stressed how common it is to find those who are part of such a long and difficult integration process say: “I’m an American, and I am Hispanic.”

Ospino also mentioned the Fifth National Encuentro on Hispanic/Latino Ministry to be held in September 2018 in Fort Worth, Texas. It will be the culmination of parish, diocesan and regional encuentros, in which the U.S. Catholic bishops anticipate more than 1 million Catholics participating over the next two years.

“We become the church we serve, that’s why the U.S. church has become a Hispanic church,” said Ospino, who is a new columnist for Catholic News Service. His monthly column, written in English and Spanish, titled “Journeying Together/Caminando juntos,” explores topics of interest to both Hispanic and non-Hispanic Catholics.

Latino Catholics represent 71 percent of the country’s Catholic growth. During the 1960s, 10 percent of Catholics identified themselves as Hispanic; today approximately 30.4 million people in the United States self-identify their religion as Catholic and their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

Ospino explained that growth comes from the nation’s Southern and Western region. He said 38 percent of parishes with Hispanic ministry are located in the South, and 23 percent are in the West. Catholic Hispanics are throughout the nation, but these numbers are growing in places such as Hawaii and Alaska, he said, adding that Canada, too, is seeing growth in its Hispanic population.

Catholic education is key to passing on the values of the Catholic faith values to succeeding generations and strengthening those values. Ospino urged school

construction where Hispanics live. “It’s a unique opportunity to build and rebuild the church,” he said.

He also cautioned that because Hispanic Catholics have switched to other religions, the church cannot take it “for granted that Hispanics are to continue in Catholicism.” “The church’s present and future depend on them, so it’s important to redefine pastoral plans and commitments” to serve Hispanics, he said.

The National Catholic Educational Association reports that 15.3 percent (296,903) of students registered for the 2014-15 school year were Hispanic. That means that from the total school-age Hispanic population (12.4 million nationally), just 2.3 percent attend a parochial school. So 97 percent of school-age Hispanics grow up in a Catholic home, but do not benefit from a Catholic education.

“Only 10 percent of those registered in Catholic universities are Hispanic,” Ospino added.

In the face of the booming Hispanic population, the church is called to offer Catholic education to that population, he said. Acknowledging the cost of Catholic education and the closure of numerous Catholic schools because of a lack of resources, Ospino said one solution is more lobbying for tuition tax credits to help families meet those costs.

Saying the Hispanic church is the pres-

ent and future, Ospino said church leaders should pay attention to where Catholicism is growing. Statistics show that more than most other groups in the church,

Hispanics as a group baptize their children and see that their children receive first Communion, but at the same time church ministry shows resistance to that reality, he said.

“There’s a lot of energy and possibilities among immigrants,”

said Ospino, referring to Hispanic youths. Hispanic immigrants’ average age is 28 years. About 60 percent of Catholics under 18 are Hispanics. Ninety-three percent of them were born in the U.S. and are not committed to the church life.

The U.S. Catholic Church is one of the most culturally diverse institutions in the country, and it will become even more diverse, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, based at Georgetown University. A USCCB-commissioned study released in late 2016 said, “Parishes, schools and colleges, hospitals, charities and other ministries need to adapt and prepare for this growing diversity.”

“We have to change the concept from a church that serves Hispanics to a church that is Hispanic, because Hispanics ‘are’ the church,” remarked Ospino.

• Acosta is a reporter at *El Pregonero*, the Spanish-language newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.



Hosffman Ospino, assistant professor of theology and religious education at Boston College’s School of Theology and Ministry, delivers the fifth annual Hispanic Innovators of the Faith Lecture. (CNS photo/Jaclyn Lippelmann, Catholic Standard)

Vatican’s UN nuncio urges action on poverty that moves beyond economics

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Saying poverty is the greatest challenge facing humanity, the Vatican’s permanent observer to the United Nations called on nations to seek solutions to poverty not only based on economics but to also address personal, social and environmental factors that contribute to it.

Archbishop Bernardito Auza said that

the world must also end conflicts and violence, which are major contributors to poverty. He made the comments during a presentation Feb. 6 to a meeting of the U.N. Commission for Social Development.

“As we know far too well, millions of people currently find themselves living amid conflicts, fueled by senseless violence, hatred and fear,” Archbishop

Auza said. “Even in places that we once considered secure, lack of opportunity and the economic and social strains caused by global insecurity and forced migrations have left the world less stable and in desperate need of concrete signs of hope.”

He called on the U.N. and its member states to move beyond addressing economic poverty and to develop policies

and investments “that people can see and touch” to tackle social and spiritual poverty as well.

“We must work to provide young people with education, jobs and opportunities that encourage their personal growth and provide them a place in society to make meaningful contributions,” the archbishop said.

‘Call Me Francis’

From Page 6

the government were “disappeared.”

When Father Jalics and a brother Jesuit named Yorio (Agustin Rittano), who have been living among Argentina’s poor people, fall under suspicion, Bergoglio tells the priests he can’t protect them — and the military kidnaps them.

Although the film depicts Bergoglio appealing directly to Videla for the duo’s freedom, it doesn’t reveal that Yorio, who was finally released after a five-month ordeal, didn’t forgive the provincial. The series depicts Bergoglio and Father Jalics reuniting, but doesn’t tell us what happened when they met, missing an opportunity to explore more fully this reconciliation’s

impact on Bergoglio.

“When the pain is great, Ignatian discernment is useless,” Bergoglio says to a Venezuelan woman he meets in a German church in the late 1980s.

Though ostensibly in Germany to study theology, Bergoglio was really sent there for a very different reason that the series doesn’t mention: Father Arrupe’s successor, Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, is said not to have approved of Bergoglio’s style as a seminary rector because of his emphasis on pastoral work and religious piety. These concepts were out of fashion among the Jesuits, who now focused primarily on social justice instead.

“Call Me Francis” doesn’t dive deeply

into Bergoglio’s total estrangement from his own religious order, however, missing an opportunity to craft as full and complex a portrait of this future pope as it could have.

Looking at a painting on the church’s wall, the woman explains that it represents Mary under her title, Untier of Knots. This powerful image moves Bergoglio to tears, begins to liberate him from his pain and informs his work as an auxiliary bishop in Buenos Aires in the 1990s.

The series’ most moving scene occurs during this period in Bergoglio’s life. When developers threaten to uproot poor people to make way for a large commercial development, Bergoglio helps them save

their homes. The people lift their bishop up and bounce him like a football coach celebrating a championship.

De la Serna ably shifts from rigid, yet conflicted Jesuit, to liberated and compassionate bishop. And Hernandez may not match the pope’s physicality, but well communicates the older man’s warmth and wisdom.

Enhanced by Ivan Casalgrandi and Claudio Collepicollo’s super-saturated color cinematography, “Call Me Francis” is largely true to the difficulty, pain, controversies and misgivings which shaped the man who today challenges Catholics and non-Catholics alike to reclaim the joy of the Gospel.

Summer gathering of Catholic leaders meant to revitalize church in US

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When a diverse group of more than 3,000 Catholic leaders convene in Orlando, Florida, they will be coming up with ways to best reflect the church's missionary call in today's world.

The invitation-only convocation will gather bishops, heads of national Catholic organizations and lay movements, leaders of religious orders and diocesan ministries and outreach programs (the Diocese of Steubenville is expected to be represented in Orlando; see/Column/Page 7). It also will feature a number of nationally known Catholic speakers.

But the participants will be the experts, is how Jonathan Reyes, one of the organizers, sees it.

In a mid-January presentation to U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' employees about the convocation, Reyes, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, said the event was about: "How do we carry on our mission in this trying time?"

He also said the event — "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America" July 1-4 in Orlando — will be a sign of unity for the church because it will bring diverse groups together to discuss and share not only their challenges but more importantly, their ideas, resources and tools for moving forward.

This gathering did not come together spontaneously but has been in the works since 2009 through the work of numerous bishops' committees: pro-life activities; evangelization and catechesis; religious liberty (ad hoc); domestic justice and human development; international justice and peace; and laity, marriage, family life and youth.

The plan, from the outset, has been to bring Catholic leaders from across the country to closely examine and figure out how to best live out Pope Francis' call for all Catholics to be missionary disciples in today's world as expressed in his 2013 apostolic exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the Gospel").

Dioceses will be sending delegations chosen by their bishops, and other attendees will be key leaders of Catholic organizations, apostolates, missions, congregations, institutions and agencies identified by the USCCB.

In a video explaining the event on the U.S. bishops' website — www.usccb.org/convocation — Reyes said the four-day event will be divided into three sections. There will be a number of short talks looking at the challenges facing Catholics in society. The bishops will lead sessions in explaining the role of missionary disciples and asking participants to rededicate themselves to this work. The other key aspect of the meeting will be the breakout ses-

sions where diocesan teams and other group leaders can meet and figure out ways forward.

At the bishops' meeting last fall, Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, said the convocation will be an opportunity for church leaders to cross "church silos" as a sign of unity.

He cited in particular the differences within the church between pro-life and social justice advocates and said he sees the event as a way to bridge the divide.

In the video and his remarks to USCCB staff, Reyes echoed that there are clear divisions among Catholics today that in some ways mirror society at large — particularly with regard to areas such as social justice, evangelical and pro-life.

He said the convocation aims to be a "powerful moment of Catholic unity," bringing Catholics together "who would otherwise never have the occasion to be in the same room together" under the leadership of the bishops to focus on the way forward in the faith.

He and the other organizers also don't see the event as a self-contained gathering but as a launch for the church at large, once participants return to their organizations and dioceses with newfound fervor and tools.

Cardinal hopes January dates for WYD in Panama won't keep students away

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With the next global celebration of World Youth Day scheduled for Jan. 22-27, 2019, Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell knows many young Catholics in North America and Europe may find it a challenge to attend.

"It is a period of intense academic activity" for students in high school and university, but the Panama gathering will not be the first held in January, he noted.

World Youth Day 1995 in Manila, Philippines, was held in January, and "it has remained in history as the one with

the largest number of participants."

The choice of January for Panama, he said, was motivated by the weather, "seeing that January is the month with the least rain."

Cardinal Farrell, former bishop of Dallas, is prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life and will assist the bishops of Panama in planning the event.

In an interview last month with *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, Cardinal Farrell noted that the 2019 celebration of World Youth Day will be the first with an explicitly Marian theme — Mary's words to the Angel

Gabriel: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

In preparation for the international gathering, Pope Francis chose other Marian themes: For 2017 it is "The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name." And for 2018, the theme is: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

Cardinal Farrell said the Marian themes "underline the presence of the Mother of God in the life of young people and, especially, in the faith and devotion of the peoples of Central America."

Grass-roots leaders to gather in California at invitation of Pope Francis

By Dennis Sadowski

WASHINGTON (CNS) — For 27 years, Pat Campbell-Williams has worked on Detroit's West Side, organizing her neighbors to tackle tough economic justice issues. It's good work, she acknowledged, but she didn't know if anyone cared beyond the city limits.

Pope Francis changed her outlook.

Campbell-Williams, 60, co-founder of MOSES — Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength, rooted in the city's churches — had the chance to hear the pope in November at the Vatican when he addressed the most recent gathering of the World Meeting of Popular Movements.

Pope Francis applauded the work of several hundred people from more than 60 countries working in grass-roots organizations of the poor, the underemployed, indigenous communities and farmworkers. His words energized the longtime activist.

"It's what I've been working for in all of my life, grass-roots organizing," Campbell-Williams told Catholic News Service, "and to have the pope to be in the forefront of what we're doing is just amazing. We've got a man of God that's pushing things. The fact that he's doing this got me excited."

Campbell-Williams will be one of 600 people — whom the pope calls protagonists, meaning people facing everyday struggles — from throughout the United States attending a regional World Meeting of Popular Movements Feb. 16-19 in Modesto, California. The meeting is co-sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development; the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program; and PICO National Network, which engages in religious congregation-based community organizing.

The U.S. meeting is being planned at the request of Pope Francis. Cardinal Peter Turkson, dicastery prefect, will attend the meeting and address the delegates.

More than 20 U.S. bishops also are expected to attend and participate in plenary and small-group sessions over the four days, said Ralph McCloud, CCHD executive director.

Campbell-Williams said hearing from people of different faith traditions from around the world in November was inspiring and expects the same in California. "I learned that we all are going through basically the same things around the world," Campbell-Williams said. "We didn't understand that until we told our stories and came together in solidarity to talk about it. That was amazing to just hear everybody tell their story in their language. It connected all of us to the same stories. We're all basically dealing with the same issues."

Dominican Sister Cheryl Liske, executive director of Gamaliel of Michigan, one of the organizations that will be represented at the meeting, said it is folks like Campbell-Williams whom the pope has in mind when he calls the church to move beyond charitable acts to accompany people on society's margins. "Church people in general, we get charity. We don't get the Gospel message about justice. Our bishops, like the rest of us, are in that same mix. The important thing is that the bishops in Modesto, California, interact with the folks. They (grass-roots people) get the Gospel message right there on the ground, that this is about the widow and the orphan and the alien among us," Sister Cheryl said.

Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, California, is hosting the four-day gathering at Modesto's Central Catholic High School. Co-hosts are California Bishops Jaime Soto of Sacramento and Armando X. Ochoa of Fresno.

Modesto, located in the fertile San Joaquin Valley, was chosen because of the economic and social challenges facing the region's diverse population, meeting organizers said. Bishop Blaire told CNS he wanted to learn from community representatives so the diocese could work more closely with similar local organizations. "When you haven't worked with community organizers, you have to

do a little rethinking. A lot of people said movements in the church are supposed to be spiritual movements. I said to them, 'There are many spiritual movements, like the folks living the real experience.' We have to hear them and listen to them and accompany them," the bishop said.

"I think it will be very important as the church that we listen because if we want to evangelize and bring the Gospel into the community, we have to hear what the community is saying," he added. "We have to hear from the people themselves who are suffering. We can't sit in our positions and think we can analyze all the poverty and suffering out there."

Belinda Snead of Lexington, Kentucky, also is to be one of the grass-roots people attending the meeting. A leader in Building a United Interfaith Lexington Through Direct-Action, or BUILD, Snead told CNS there is no better way to learn about organizing successes and failures than by discussing her experiences with others.

"We all come from different parts of the country so everybody has a different dynamic that prevents them from getting something accomplished, from moving forward," Snead said. "My goal is to go out and learn from others how they develop strategies on combating injustices."

That's exactly why the Vatican wants a U.S. meeting, McCloud said.

"First and foremost (the meeting) is to acknowledge the economic inequality that exists among the haves and have-nots" while examining the reasons people struggle because of unequal access to work, land and housing, he explained.

"(The meeting) acknowledges all of these things exist and to help bring people together who have been working on these, to understand there's a connection between all of them and look at ways they might be able to work together," McCloud told CNS.

Immigration and racism also are to be among topics explored, organizers said.

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Athens — Parishioners from Christ the King University Parish and St. Paul Parish are participating in a shoe drive, sponsored by the Catholic Ladies of Columbia. New, slightly used and worn-out shoes are being collected at each church. Worn-out shoes will be shredded and used to build playgrounds. For additional information, telephone (740) 664-3632.

A St. Patrick's Day celebration will be held at 6:30 p.m., March 18, at Holy Family Center, Christ the King University Parish, 75 Stewart St. Cost to attend is \$25 per person. An Irish dinner, dessert and beverages will be served. Entertainment will be provided by the Ohio Valley School of Celtic Dance. There will also be live music by John Healey; a silent auction will be held. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Athens County Catholic High School Student Scholarship Fund and funding for activities for Ohio University Catholic Students. For additional information or to purchase a ticket, telephone Kate Kahler, (440) 781-7410 or Wanda Sheridan, (740) 591-5607.

Beverly — A "Thirty-One" bags and gifts bingo will be held Feb. 26 at St. Bernard Church social hall. Doors open at 1 p.m.; games begin at 2 p.m. Cost for 20 games is \$20, in advance; \$25 at the door the day of the event. A 50/50 drawing, concession stand and raffle will be part of the event. Advance ticket buyers will be entered into a drawing for a door prize. For additional information, telephone Annette Schaad at (740) 517-1292. Proceeds will benefit Mary's House.

Cambridge — Kathy McClure was elected chairwoman of Christ Our Light Pastoral Council. Other officers elected were Mike Abbott, vice chairman, and Liz Brislen, executive secretary.

Christ our Light parishioners will participate in sponsoring a soup luncheon from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., Feb. 10, at the First Presbyterian Church hall, 725 Steubenville Ave. Homemade soups, breads, desserts and beverages will be available to purchase. To place an order, telephone (740) 995-0605. Donations support the Samaritan Center for Transitional Housing.

Cambridge — The St. Benedict School annual auction and raffle will be held March 4 at the school, located at 220 N. Seventh St. A silent auction will be held from 8-10 a.m.; live auction, 11 a.m.; and a raffle drawing will take place at 3 p.m. For additional information, telephone the school office at (740) 432-6751.

Churchtown — A St. John Central School designer purse bingo will be held March 4 at the Knights of Columbus Council 4617 hall, 17784 Ohio Route 676. Doors will open at 5 p.m.; bingo will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 for 20 games. Proceeds from the event will benefit St. John Central School. To purchase a ticket, telephone the school office at (740) 896-2697.

Colerain — The sacrament of anointing of the sick will be administered by Father Timothy P. McGuire, pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Feb. 11, following the celebration of the 5 p.m. Mass. Those who are facing surgery, whose medical conditions have worsened or the aged can attend. For additional information, telephone the church office at (740) 635-9933.

Fulda — A Lenten Bible study will begin at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 22, at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church rectory. For additional information, telephone Carol Schell at (740) 783-3565.

Marietta — A chili cook-off and pie auction will be held Feb. 18, following the celebration of the 5:30 p.m. Mass, in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption social hall. There will be all-you-can-eat chili, with corn bread, dessert and a beverage, for \$5. Chili and pie winners will be announced at 8 p.m.

Martins Ferry — The Ladies of St. Mary's will sponsor a "Grandma's Homemade Gnocchi" sale. Cost is \$5 per pound. To place an order, telephone Kathy Kimble at (740) 633-3877, prior to March 25;



In Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph parishes' Catholic Woman's Club is making "pirohi." Anita Montgomery, Judy Sabol, Dee Fouts, Mel Svec, Mary Ann Volsky, Terri Samstag, Marlene Mehalko, Bonnie Trudics, Irene Miller, DeDe Kidder, Rita Batcho, Nancy Taggart, Betty Waggoner, Beth DiGarmo, Barbara Handzus, Sam Samstag, Monte Pettengill and Mary Ann Parker come together Mondays to make the tiny pies stuffed with potato-cheese, cabbage or prune, said Kidder. The pirohi will be on sale, beginning Feb. 18, after Masses at St. Francis – 5 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. Sundays and St. Joseph – 9 a.m. Sundays for \$5 a dozen. The cooks expect to make 300 dozen pirohi before the sale ends Easter 2017. Father Thomas A. Vennitti is pastor of the Toronto parishes. If unable to purchase pirohi after a Mass, telephone Kidder at (740) 632-3018 or email dede.kidder@gmail.com. (Photo by DeFrancis)

orders must be paid by April 1. Pickup will be April 8, from 10 a.m.-noon, in St. Mary Central School auditorium 24 N. Fourth St.

McConnelville — Throughout the month of February, St. James CWC will collect nonperishable food items, which will be donated to Morgan County United Ministries, the organization that operates the local food pantry. Donations can be taken to the church, prior to the celebration of Mass.

St. Clairsville — There will be a blood drive for Garrett Holubeck Feb. 25, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., in St. Mary Church Marian Hall. He is a graduate of St. Mary Central School, St. Clairsville, and a 2014 graduate of St. John Central High School, Bellaire, and was recently diagnosed with non-Hodgkin

lymphoma. To schedule an appointment to donate blood, telephone Joyce Apicella at (740) 695-5799; walk-ins are welcome. There will also be a bake sale and basket raffle at the event.

Steubenville — A "Blessing of the Child in the Womb" will take place a 1 p.m., Feb. 19, April 16 and June 18, at Holy Rosary Church. All can attend; no registration is necessary to receive the blessing.

Steubenville — The Catholic Central High School Home & School Association will hold a fish fry beginning Ash Wednesday, March 1, and on each consecutive Friday during Lent, with the exception of Good Friday. The event will be held from 4-6:30 p.m., in the high school cafeteria, 320 Westview Ave.; pierogi will also be sold.

Around and About

Caldwell — The American Red Cross will sponsor a blood drive from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 16, at the Noble County Community Center, Fairgrounds Road. For additional information, telephone Janet Nau, (740) 732-2667 or (800) RED CROSS.

Carrollton — St. John Villa will sponsor "An Evening in Paris" auction/dinner March 25 at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist Parish Center, 627 McKinley Ave., Canton, Ohio. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Items are being collected for the auction and can be picked up, within a 75-mile radius of the Villa, by telephoning (330) 627-9789. There will be a special drawing the evening of the event.

Raffle tickets cost \$25 each or \$100 for five. A registration fee of \$60 per ticket entitles the guest to a sit-down dinner and submission of bids on items. Reservations, which are required, can be made by telephoning Susan DeChiara or Danielle Snider at (330) 627-9789.

Churchtown — Knights of Columbus Council 4617 will sponsor a dinner, dance and drawing Feb. 11 at the K of C hall, 17784 Ohio Route 676. Cocktails will be served from 5-6 p.m.; dinner will follow. For additional information or tickets, telephone Tom Minton at (740) 984-8818.

To Page 11

Around and About

From Page 10

Marietta — There will be cornhole at the Knights of Columbus Council 478 hall, 312 Franklin St., Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. A cornhole tournament will be held at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 26, at the hall. Open to the public, sign-up will begin at 1 p.m.

Mobile, Ala. — A discernment retreat titled "Listening With Our Lady" will be offered March 24, beginning at 6 p.m., by the Little Sisters of the Poor. It will conclude March 26, at 1 p.m. The retreat is open to single, Catholic women between the ages of 17-35, and will be held at Sacred Heart Residence, 1655 McGill Ave. For additional information or registration, email vocmobile@littlesistersofthepoor.org or telephone (251) 591-3700, prior to March 21.

Scio, Ohio — Applications for a Keith Knowles Memorial Scholarship will be accepted until March 15. The \$1,000 scholarship is renewable for four years and awarded to a graduating senior or any high school graduate who wants to pursue a higher education. He or she must reside in Carroll or Harrison County, and be active in a parish of any denomination of faith in those counties. The recipient will be chosen by scholastic achievements, extracurricular activities, financial need, Christian service and overall character. For additional information, telephone (740) 945-1341.

Steubenville — Knights of Columbus St. John Neumann Council 11828 will host

a breakfast at St. Peter Church hall, 425 N. Fourth St., from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Feb. 12. The breakfast, which costs \$7 for adults; \$5 for children; and \$30, family maximum, will consist of pancakes, eggs, ham, potatoes, fruit and beverages. Proceeds will benefit Post 1970 of the Catholic War Veterans.

Steubenville — Knights of Columbus St. John Neumann Council 11828, World Wide Marriage Encounter and Catholic Engaged Encounter will sponsor a dance to celebrate World Marriage Day from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Feb. 12, at Holy Family Church Malara Hall. There will be prizes for the newest and longest married couple. Admission is a hot/cold appetizer, a snack or dessert for eight, or \$10 per couple. For additional information or reservations, telephone Marshall Meyers, (740) 282-8222 or Charles Menk, (740) 219-1242.

Steubenville — A "40 Days for Life" campaign will begin Ash Wednesday, March 1, at Holy Family Church. On that day, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., attendees will pray and stand up for life at the Planned Parenthood facility in Pittsburgh. For additional information, telephone Dan or Lynette Hawrot at (740) 424-4100.

Steubenville — The meaning of the messages of Our Lady at Lourdes will be the subject of a talk given at Franciscan University of Steubenville by Barbara Davies, coordinator for the New Evangelization and the Formation of Catechists in the Diocese

of Shrewsbury, in the United Kingdom. Her presentation will take place Feb. 16, at 8 p.m., in Christ the King Chapel.

Beginning Feb. 13, Franciscan University of Steubenville accounting students will offer free e-filing to Ohio Valley residents at the Fort Steuben Mall, Mall Drive, near center court. Hours of operation will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 1-3 p.m.; Tuesdays, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The site will be closed March 11 through March 19; service ends April 12. Students can prepare Form 1040; schedules A, B, and D; and forms for calculating education, child care and earned-income credits. They will assist taxpayers with incomes below \$56,000. Participating students have completed an individual income tax course and have passed a series of IRS training courses and exams. For additional information, telephone the Fort Steuben Mall customer service desk at (740) 264-7781.

Toronto — A Lenten retreat themed "Overshadowed by the Holy Spirit" will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., March 25, at the Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother Our Lady of Sorrows Monastery, Little Church Road. Suggested donation is \$25; registration is required by March 13. To register online, visit www.franciscansisterstor.org/lenten-retreat-2017, or telephone (740) 544-5542, extension 112. The retreat will

include the celebration of Mass, adoration, lunch, talks and testimonies.

Wheeling, W.Va. — A meatloaf dinner, sponsored by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Ukrainian Apostleship of Prayer, will be held from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., Feb. 12, at the church, located at 4136 Jacob St. Adults eat for \$7; children, ages 6-12 years of age, eat for \$3.50. Dinner for children under 6 years of age is free. Carry outs will be available by telephoning (304) 232-1777.

Wheeling, W.Va. — The Bishop Whelan Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is offering three \$750 scholarships. Applicants must be seniors and attend high school in Ohio or Marshall County in West Virginia, or Belmont County in Ohio. Scholarships are to be used for tuition or school expenses and to pursue a post-secondary school education. Applicants must have a GPA of at least 3.0 on 4.0 scale. Deadline for submission of an application is March 17. Applications and details can be found at <https://aohwheeling.shutterfly.com/scholarship>.

Zanesville, Ohio — Applications for enrollment and tuition information will be available at a parent and student information night at Bishop Rosecrans High School. The event will be held from 6-7 p.m., Feb. 15, at the high school, located at 1040 E. Main St. For additional information, telephone (740) 452-7504.



Madelyn Melet, seated left – the oldest member of the St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Colerain, Catholic Woman's Club – was honored, recently, by some CWC members. Melet, who turned 100 in July, resides in St. Clairsville. Her daughter, Donna Pettit, kneeling right, said her mother grew up in St. Clairsville and in the 1940s was a founding member of St. Mary Parish, St. Clairsville, Catholic Woman's Club. Later in her life she became a member of St. Frances Cabrini Parish, near where Pettit lives. Since Melet is no longer able to attend Mass each Sunday, St. Mary, St. Clairsville, parishioners take Communion, regularly, to the centenarian. Others who singled Melet out with an Angel of Peace are, standing from left, Nancy Fillipovich, Ann McFarland and Rose Timko. (It is said that the Angel of Peace first appeared to the three shepherd children at Fatima in 1916, prior to the appearances of Mary. The angel was described as: "A light whiter than snow in the form of a young man, transparent and brighter than crystal, pierced by the rays of the sun." The angel is to have said, "Do not be afraid. I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me." He is said to have taught the children to pray and kept vigil with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.) Timko is Melet's youngest sibling. Melet has two other daughters – Nancy Blake of Glen Dale, West Virginia, and Pamela Schambach of Follansbee, West Virginia. Father Timothy P. McGuire is pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Parish. Father Thomas A. Chillog is pastor of St. Mary Parish, St. Clairsville. (Photo provided)

Obituaries

Theresa Berberick, 79, St. Paul, Athens, Jan. 18.

Audre A. VanEtta Conroe, 94, Belpre, St. Ambrose, Little Hocking, Feb. 1.

Luella Crum, 100, St. Michael, Carlisle, Jan. 13.

Magdaline Mudron DeJulio, 84, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, Jan. 31.

Alfred J. "Freddie" DeRosa, 87, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Jan. 27.

James J. Dylewski, 65, Steubenville, St. Joseph, Toronto, Jan. 18.

Cleo M. Feldner, 95, St. Stephen, Caldwell, Jan. 22.

Helen Harubin Francisco, 84, Piney Fork, St. Adalbert, Dillonvale, Jan. 31.

Esther A. Hesson, 83, Corpus Christi, Belle Valley, Jan. 30.

Stephen A. Konicki, 85, Steubenville, Holy Family, Jan. 22.

Amalia S. Leone, 88, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Jan. 23.

Elizabeth F. Looman, 76, Mingo Junction, St. Agnes, Jan. 24.

Delores M. Michael, 59, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Jan. 28.

Joyce Milewsky, 57, Steubenville, Holy Family, Jan. 24.

Sylvia M. Montelone, 87, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Jan. 16.

Margret Mysona, 79, 52750 Lakeview Drive, Dillonvale, St. Frances Cabrini, Colerain, Jan. 2.

Mallory Y. Nelms, 22, 54637 Cove Road, Powhatan Point, St. John Vianney, Jan. 23.

Sophie Spears Pilney, 91, Dillonvale, St. Adalbert, Jan. 22.

Helen M. Pinter, 90, Barton, St. Mary, St. Clairsville, Jan. 18.

Flora J. Serafini, 91, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Jan. 26.

Michael N. Simone, 77, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, Jan. 31.

Augusta R. Zorbini, 88, Mingo Junction, St. Agnes, Jan. 24.

Richard G. Zumpano, 74, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Jan. 19.

Vatican releases updated guidelines to clarify bioethical questions

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To offer clearly and accurately the Catholic Church's positions on abortion, contraception, genetic engineering, fertility treatments, vaccines, frozen embryos and other life issues, the Vatican released an expanded and updated guide of the church's bioethical teachings.

The "New Charter for Health Care Workers" is meant to provide a thorough summary of the church's position on affirming the primary, absolute value of life in the health field and address questions arising from the many medical and scientific advancements made since the first charter was published in 1994, said Msgr. Jean-Marie Mupendawatu.

The monsignor, who is the secretary delegate for health care in the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, said the charter "is a valid compendium of doctrine and praxis" not only for those directly involved in providing medical care, but also for researchers, pharmacists, administrators and policymakers in the field of health care.

The charter "reaffirms the sanctity of life" as a gift from God and calls on those working in health care to be "servants" and "ministers of life" who will love and accompany all human beings from conception to their natural death, he said during a news conference at the Vatican Feb. 6. The Vatican released the charter in Italian.

While the charter does not offer a completely "exhaustive" response to all problems and questions facing the medical and health fields, it does add many papal, Vatican and bishops' pronouncements made since 1994 in an effort to "offer the clearest possible guidelines" to many ethical problems facing the

world of health care today, said the charter's preface, written by the late-Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry. The council and three others were merged together to create the new dicastery for human development.

One issue partially dealt with in the new charter is vaccines produced with "biological material of illicit origin," that is, made from cells from aborted fetuses.

Citing the 2008 instruction "Dignitas Personae" from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and a 2005 paper from the Pontifical Academy for Life, the charter said everyone has a duty to voice their disapproval of this kind of "biological material" being in use and to ask that alternatives be made available.

Researchers must "distance" themselves by refusing to use such material, even if there is no close connection between the researcher and those doing the illicit procedure, and "affirm with clarity the value of human life," it said.

However, the charter doesn't specifically address the situation of parents who are often obligated to consent to vaccines for their children that use human cell lines from tissue derived from aborted fetuses.

When asked for clarification of the church's position, one of the experts who helped revise the new charter — Antonio Spagnolo, a medical doctor and bioethics professor at Rome's Sacred Heart University — said, "there is an acceptable distance" from cooperating with the original evil of the abortions when people use the vaccines to prevent the "great danger" of spreading disease. He said the Vatican academy's "Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared From Cells Derived From Aborted Human Fetuses" made the church's position clear.

Many of the issues added to the updated charter were dealt with in the doctrinal congregation's 2008 instruction on "certain bioethical questions," such as the immorality of: human cloning; artificial reproduction and contracep-

tion; freezing of human embryos or of human eggs; use of human embryos and embryonic stem cells for research or medical use; pre-implantation diagnosis leading to the destruction of embryos suspected of defects; and therapy that makes genetic modifications aimed at transmitting the effects to the subject's offspring because it may potentially harm the offspring.

Other guidelines mentioned in the new charter include:

- Ovarian tissue banking for cancer patients with the aim of restoring fertility with the woman's own tissue "does not seem to pose moral problems" and is, "in principle, acceptable."
- Ectopic pregnancy can lead to "serious danger" to the life of the woman and the embryo usually does not survive. "Directly suppressive measures" against the embryo are prohibited while procedures exclusively aimed at saving the life and health of the woman are justified.
- Organ transplantation must be at the service of life and involve free consent by the living donors or their legitimate representatives. Ascertaining the death of the donor must be diagnosed with certainty, especially when dealing with a child's death.
- Research in transplanting animal tissues into humans is licit as long as it does not affect "the identity and integrity" of the person, it does not carry "excessive risks" to the person, the animals involved are not subjected to unnecessary suffering and no damage is done to biodiversity.
- Not all human organs can be transplanted, such as the human brain, testicles and ovaries, which are organs inseparably tied to a person's unique and procreative identity.

Building a Legacy of Faith & Excellence!



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OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATION

Sunday, February 26
CCHS & BJKM JH 12-2pm
BJKM Elem. 1:30-3:30pm

CCHS
320 Westview Ave.
740.264.5538

BJKM Junior High
320 Westview Ave. Suite 2
740.346.0028 (Parent Mtg 12:30pm Lanman Hall)

BJKM Elementary
100 Etta Ave.
740.264.2550