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News Briefs

Franciscan friar to lead Lenten retreat

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has chosen a Franciscan professor of biblical theology to lead his annual Lenten retreat.

Franciscan Father Giulio Michelini, 53, will lead meditations on the Gospel of Matthew's description of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, according to the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano.

Pope Francis and top members of the Roman Curia will make their annual retreat March 5-10 at the Pauline Fathers' retreat center in Ariccia, 20 miles southeast of Rome.

Father Michelini, who was born in Milan, took his vows as a member of the Order of Friars Minor in 1992 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1994. He earned his doctorate in biblical theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He currently teaches at the Theological Institute of Assisi, which is connected to the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

Phase of visionary's cause completed

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Diocese of Coimbra concluded its phase of the sainthood cause of Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, one of the three children who saw Our Lady of Fatima in 1917.

Bishop Virgilio Antunes of Coimbra formally closed the local phase of investigation into her life and holiness Feb. 13 in the Carmelite convent of St. Teresa in Coimbra, where she resided until her death in 2005 at the age of 97. The ceremony included the sealing of 50 volumes – 15,000 pages – of evidence and witness testimonies detailing the life of Sister Lucia. The documents were to be shipped to the Congregation for Saints' Causes at the Vatican.

After a thorough review of the materials and a judgment that Sister Lucia heroically lived the Christian virtues, her cause still would require the recognition of two miracles – one for beatification and another for canonization – attributed to her intercession.

The Marian apparitions at Fatima began May 13, 1917, when 10-year-old Lucia, along with her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, reported seeing the Virgin Mary.



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, will stand in St. Ambrose Church, Little Hocking, beginning March 3 and continuing until March 10. (Photo by DeFrancis)



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton walks among diners at the Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign dinner Feb. 13 at the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361 hall, Mingo Junction. Instead of standing at a podium, as in the past, the bishop used this format to talk with major gift dinner attendees in Ironton, Athens, Marietta, St. Clairsville and Mingo Junction. (Photo by DeFrancis)

Bishop Monforton urges people to share the faith at 2017 Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign dinners

MINGO JUNCTION — Protecting the faith does not mean hiding it, but instead means sharing it, Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton told diners at Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign major gift dinners.

The dinners in the 30th year of the annual campaign – which supports diocesan offices and rebates money collected above their goals to parishes – were held first in Ironton, Feb. 6; then Athens, Feb. 7; Marietta, Feb. 8, St. Clairsville, Feb. 9, and, finally, Mingo Junction, Feb. 13.

As the nearly 300 people from parishes in the northern portion of the diocese sat around tables in the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361 hall, Bishop Monforton reminded them that hope finds expression in prayer. "Hope begins with Jesus Christ."

Earlier, under his call for "With Immense Hope," diocesan parishioners marked a survey that listed strengths and concerns surrounding their parishes and wrote comments. The number of responses to the survey, available online, in some pews and inserted in The Steubenville Register, was

unbelievable, Bishop Monforton said. More than 20 percent of registered Catholics in the diocese replied.

While he walked among parishioners seated at the major gift dinners, Bishop Monforton said four initiatives surfaced from the survey – youth, schools, clergy and parishes. At the diocesan level, efforts being made to attract and keep young people engaged include conferences and participation in World Youth Day, which will be held in Panama in 2019. There are three Catholic high schools, a junior high school and elementary schools in Jefferson, Belmont, Guernsey, Monroe, Washington and Lawrence counties in the diocese. "Our youth deserve to learn about their faith in schools. ... Our schools are critical," Bishop Monforton said. Despite recent ordinations of priests and permanent deacons, there are never enough, but there is a move in the right direction, he added. Parishes, he continued, need to be able to reach out and evangelize. A Catholic ministry for evangelization, "ChristLife," will be offered in the near future.

To Page 12



Lenten message 2017

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16).

As fellow pilgrims this season of Lent we can go deeper into the truth that lovingly God created us and with deepest of compassion is the author of our redemption.

May these 40 days be a spiritual journey replete with reminders of God's enduring care for each and every one of us.

God the Father has given us the greatest gift of all in his son, Jesus. We can respond by giving our all to Him.

• Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

'Ask the Bishop'

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

Q: Does every church have a relic buried under it? Where does the relic come from and where does it go if the church closes?

**Victoria Trouten
St. Clairsville**

A: Ever since the early days of the Catholic Church the faithful have revered and venerated relics of the saints. This is not to be equated with worshiping the saints, but instead to ask their intercession to assist us here on earth in living our lives to be faithful to God's Commandments and to request his blessings.

It is fitting to have a relic of a saint beneath the church altar, and this practice has been retained with the most recent General Instruction of the Roman Missal (Paragraph 302). In fact, it is the bishop's responsibility to place the relic under the altar when there is a dedication of the altar or a new church building. At present, we have a new church being built in Carrollton — Our Lady of Mercy — and I very much look forward to placing the relic or relics underneath the altar when I dedicate the church on Sept. 24 of this year.

What would happen to the relics beneath the table of the present altar if they are not to be used? Those relics that may not be placed in an altar should be honored in a reliquary, in which the relics are protected and venerated publicly.

Our Christian tradition to venerate relics of the saints is proof positive that the Catholic Church is not limited to an excess of 1 billion Catholics here on earth, but that we do not lose our Catholic identity, let alone our heavenly citizenship, when we die. How blessed we are to retain such a profound and holy tradition to honor our brothers and sisters who have gone

before us and who still intercede for us in the heavenly kingdom. Next time you have an opportunity to view a relic or perhaps to discover the name of the saint or saints beneath the table of the altar in your church, recall that they are already in heaven praying for us.

A while back, I was able to acquire a relic of Pope John Paul II, who was canonized in 2014, and I had the opportunity to concelebrate the Mass with Pope Francis at St. John Paul II's and St. Paul XXIII's canonizations. As we endeavor to acquire a new main altar for our cathedral, we will be honored with relics of saints from all three millennia, that is, the first millennium of the Catholic Church, the second millennium, and now, as we together journey the third millennium as pilgrims. These relics are a reminder that our citizenship in heaven is timeless.

Q: Why do we often hear music in church?

**Matthew Cunningham
Marietta**

A: We recognize that at Mass appropriate liturgical music enriches our prayer. In fact, not just any music is permitted at Mass or at worship, because we all know that not all music promotes holiness and our ability to embrace the Beatitudes.

The musical tradition of the Church has ancient roots that even predate the early Church. For example, our Jewish roots remind us that song was integral to the Jewish prayer, especially on the feast days in Jewish communities.

The music within our Church has great intrinsic value, for it unites us with Jesus in prayer in the midst of our liturgical worship.

The rich treasury of music spans the history of the Church from chants in the early Church to Gregorian chant, to more modern music crafted by some of the

contemporary composers of our day.

In a quote attributed to St. Augustine of Hippo, "He who sings prays twice."

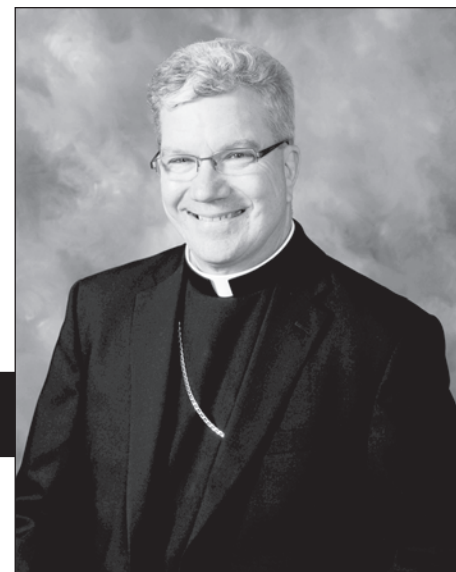
Q: Why is the rosary such a powerful weapon?

**Emilee Reinacher
Mingo Junction**

A: Did you know that the word "rosary" actually has its name from flowers? In fact, the word "rosary" comes from the Latin for a garland of roses. You mention that the rosary can be a powerful weapon. This specific devotion to Mary is, of course, prayer, and prayer is definitely an extremely powerful weapon against evil.

In the rosary, we pray for the intercession of Our Lady in our everyday life and in the midst of her assistance, we also pray the prayers of the Profession of Faith, namely, the Creed, as well as the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, the O My Jesus and Hail Holy Queen, as well as the concluding prayer. The rosary is a rich prayer devotion in the vast treasury of prayers in our Church. How blessed we are to have the Mother of God intercede for us as we live our lives as fellow Christian pilgrims.

As we prepare to take a 90-day break



Bishop Monforton

from Ordinary Time, may we keep each other in prayer as we approach the base of the Easter Mountain in our 40-day climb beginning this Ash Wednesday.

A Lenten suggestion: While we all are called to a Lenten penance as well as a great many of us to practice the necessary days of fasting and abstinence, we also can embrace a spiritual penance this Lenten Season. This could happen in the form of spending more time in prayer each day, or to refer to the above question, to pray a rosary each day offering that rosary for another who may be of great need of our spiritual assistance.



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During lunch Feb. 16 at the Steubenville Country Club, Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton answers questions posed by members of the Serra Club of Steubenville. (Photo by DeFrancis)

Bishop talks vocations, cathedral to Serrans

STEUBENVILLE — There are seven men studying for ordination to the priesthood for the Diocese of Steubenville, Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton told the Serra Club of Steubenville — part of an international organization responsible for promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

While those seven men study at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, the Pontifical North American College, Rome, and in China, the bishop will be joined by Father Michael W. Gossett, vocations director for the diocese, in a tour throughout the diocese in March and April. Beginning at 6 p.m., March 6, in St. Mary Church, St. Clairsville; March 7, Blessed Sacrament, Wintersville; March 12, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta; March 13, Christ the King University Parish, Athens; March 14, St. Teresa of Avila, Cadiz; March 19, Our Lady of Mercy, Carrollton; April 2, St. Joseph, Ironton; and April 5, St. Sylvester, Woodsfield, people will be able to hear about discernment and how to pray in order to follow God's will.

Meanwhile, Bishop Monforton said, since becoming bishop of the Steubenville Diocese four years ago, he has ordained four men to the priesthood and 11 to the permanent diaconate.

The Serrans, also, were given an update at the Feb. 16 meeting at Steubenville Country Club on the renovation, restoration and renewal of Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville.

As a prelude to work on the church, streets around the cathedral were closed or realigned and utilities relocated. That work will enable a piazza to be created in front of the cathedral.

In addition, Bishop Monforton said that property across Slack Street from the cathedral has been purchased and buildings on the properties being torn down. The area will

Adult faith formation continues March 4

STEUBENVILLE — "Life in Christ: Morality and Human Sexuality" is the topic of the March 4 adult faith formation seminar at Holy Family Church, Steubenville.

Carolyn A. Crabtree, catechetical consultant, Diocese of Steubenville, Office of Christian Formation and Schools, can be emailed, ccrabtree@diosteub.org, for more information or to register.

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be used for parking.


A former Methodist church, also on Slack Street, was bought by the diocese and will be converted into use for social outreach, such as trauma counseling.

With the street work and property purchases a "Cathedral Square" can be laid out, Bishop Monforton said. "We have tripled the footprint of the cathedral."


Final renderings are expected soon on the cathedral, Bishop Monforton said. The first thing that will be done is that the roof will be pitched.

However, since the idea for the renovation was conceived, the costs of material and labor have skyrocketed, he said. There was money to do the groundwork, but not to pitch the roof. Therefore, the bishop added that the project has taken a lot longer than he anticipated.

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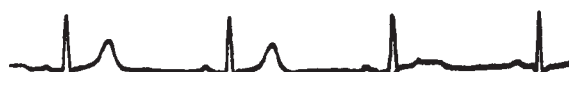
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Bishop Monforton's Schedule


- Feb. 25 Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Neffs, 6:30 p.m.
 26 Mass, St. John Church, Bellaire, 10:30 a.m.
 27 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 8:30 a.m.
 28 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m.
 Dinner with Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon and the Brothers of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Steubenville, 5 p.m.
- March 1 Ash Wednesday Mass, Catholic Central High School, Berkman Theater, Lanman Hall, Steubenville, 9:30 a.m.
 Ash Wednesday Mass, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 12:05 p.m.
 2 "Misa con Hermanas," Mass with Spanish sisters, Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, Steubenville, 9 a.m.
 Lunch, followed by Presbyteral Council meeting, St. Clairsville, noon
 3 Mass, Blessed Sacrament Church, Wintersville, 8 a.m.
 Staff retreat day, Wintersville, 9 a.m.
 4 Mass for natural family planning gathering, Corpus Christi Church, Belle Valley, 11 a.m.
 5 Mass, St. Adalbert Church, Dillonvale, 9 a.m.
 Rites of Election and Recognition of Candidates for Full Initiation in the Church, St. Agnes Church, Mingo Junction, 1 p.m.
 6 "Vocations Tour 2017," St. Mary Church, St. Clairsville, 6 p.m.
 7 "Vocations Tour 2017," Blessed Sacrament Church, Wintersville, 6 p.m.



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Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High students feeding the hungry

STEUBENVILLE — Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School students are moving the tabulations upward on their \$7,468.50 goal for Mary's Meals.

Since 2014, students at the junior high have gathered money to feed students who are among the poorest of the poor. Now, their quest to collect the dollars is coupled with a desire to continue to honor the memory of one of their own.

Mary's Meals was founded in 2002, as part of Scottish International Relief. The charity was organized by Magnus and Fergus MacFarlane-Barrow, who initially made a local appeal for blankets and food for people in Bosnia, impoverished by the Balkan conflict in 1992. As he continued his charitable efforts, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow expanded on the idea for Mary's Meals, which originated with Tony Smith, a United Kingdom businessman.

In the beginning, Mary's Meals fed 200 children in Malawi. There, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow encountered a child whose mother was dying, and the youth told him his dream was having enough food to eat and being able to go to school. Presently, in more than a dozen countries, more than 1.1 million children are in schools, where they receive a good meal, many times cooked by their mothers who have volunteered for the job.



Spearheading fundraising at Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School, Steubenville, for Mary's Meals are teacher Chrissy DiMichele, along with Student Council, in front, from left, Hannah McManus, Mari Mello and Ali Grimm; and, in back, from left, Patrick Mitch, Bobby Rice, George Harris and Ryan Anderson. Mitch is president of the Student Council, Rice vice president, McManus secretary, and Grimm treasurer. Primo Toriscelli, also, is a member of Student Council. (Photo by DeFrancis)

As they began their fundraising for Mary's Meals, Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School students collaborated with Franciscan University of Steubenville students, Theresa Danaher,

Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary and Junior High School principal, said. At that time, one of the junior high students who participated in the effort was Cynthia Phillipson. Now, a plaque hangs in

the school that honors Cynthia who died in November 2014 (students in the picture, at left, hold the plaque).

Last year, Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School sponsored "Cynthia's Kitchen," Danaher said. The aim continues this year to sponsor the school lunch program at St. Dominic School in Liberia in memory of Cynthia, labeled the "Angel of the 18s," because she would have graduated from Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, in 2018.

There are 383 students to feed at St. Dominic, Danaher said. It costs \$19.50 to feed a student for a year.

Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School students have sponsored a movie night, which raised \$267, and a paint and create, where another \$232 was taken in, Danaher said. March 1 students will hold a rice bowl lunch at school. Proceeds from the sale of the rice will be added to Mary's Meals.

To donate to Mary's Meals, send a check to Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School, 320 West View, Suite 2, Steubenville, OH 43952. Put Mary's Meals in the memo line of the check.

Sixth- to eighth-graders in northern counties of diocese invited to rally

STEUBENVILLE — Sixth- to eighth-graders are invited to a rally.

The Diocese of Steubenville Office of Christian Formation and Schools has issued the invite, via Alyson M. Radford, diocesan catechetical consultant and youth ministry coordinator.

The March 22 rally will begin at 5:30 p.m. and continue until 9 p.m. in the Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary School gymnasium, Steubenville.

Scott M. Anthony, who ministers at parishes in York, Pennsylvania, is the featured speaker. The 44-year-old is a native of Cleveland and has been involved in Catholic youth and family ministry for more than 23 years. He has



(Photo provided)

Scott M. Anthony

been on the speaker circuit for 10 years. A history major in college, Anthony is married and the father of eight.

Radford expects youth from Belmont, Carroll, Guernsey, Harrison and Jefferson counties to attend the rally, where games will be played and pizza served, also.


Registration for the event is free, Radford said. Anyone who registers by March 6 will be entered in a drawing to win an iTunes gift card. Registration closes March 14. Registrations after that date will cost \$5.

Groups should register at dosjrhighrallynorth.eventbrite.com, Radford said.


This is the second junior high youth rally in as many years. A first was held in St. Mary Central School, St. Clairsville. In

addition to being a time for catechesis and fellowship, the rallies boost youth ministry programs in parishes, Radford said. For

example, she said, this rally is a kickoff for a new Christ Our Light Parish, Cambridge, junior high group.



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Pope: Speechless before horror of Holocaust, pray it never happens again

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Anti-Semitism is absolutely contrary to Christianity, and the church has a duty to denounce and repel such hatred, Pope Francis said.

There are no words, however, that could ever adequately address “the horrors of cruelty and sin” of the Holocaust, he added. There is only prayer “that God may have mercy and that such tragedies may never happen again.”

The pope made his comments Feb. 9 at the Vatican during an audience with a delegation of the Anti-Defamation League, an organization that fights anti-Semitism.

“Sadly, anti-Semitism, which I again denounce in all its forms as completely contrary to Christian principles and every vision worthy of the human person, is still widespread today,” the pope said.

He reaffirmed that the Catholic Church “feels particularly obliged to do all that is possible with our Jewish friends to repel anti-Semitic tendencies.”

More than ever, the fight against anti-Semitism



Pope Francis accepts a gift from Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO and national director of the Anti-Defamation League, during a meeting with a delegation from the organization at the Vatican earlier this month. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano, handout)

needs effective tools of education and formation that teach respect for everyone and protection for the weakest.

“Caring for the sacred gift of all human life and safeguarding its dignity, from conception to death, is the best way of preventing every type of violence,” he said.

“Faced with too much violence spreading throughout the world, we are called to a greater nonviolence, which does not mean passivity, but active promotion of the good,” he said. “Indeed, if it is necessary to pull out the weeds of evil, it is even more vital to sow the seeds of goodness.”

That requires cultivating justice, promoting harmony and sustaining integration “without growing weary.”

Pope Francis encouraged the delegates to continue their work, knowing that “the best remedies against the rise of hatred consist in making available the means necessary for a dignified life, in promoting culture and favoring religious freedom everywhere, as well as in protecting believers and religions from every form of violence and exploitation.”

Pope Francis praises survivor of abuse in Switzerland for breaking silence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The sexual abuse of children by those who have vowed to serve Christ and the church is a horrendous monstrosity that represents “a diabolical sacrifice” of innocent, defenseless lives, Pope Francis said.

The church, which must protect the weakest, has a duty “to act with extreme severity with priests who betray their mission and with the hierarchy – bishops and cardinals – who protect them,” the pope wrote in the preface to a new book written by a man raped as a child by a Capuchin priest.

The book, “My Father, I Forgive You” (“Mon Pere, Je Vous Pardonne”), was written by Daniel Pittet, 57, in an effort to describe how he fell victim to a predator abuser when he was 8 years old growing up in Fribourg, Switzerland, and the challenges he faced when he came forward two decades later with the accusations. The book, currently published only in French, was to be released Feb. 16. News outlets released the text of the pope’s preface Feb. 13.

Pittet – who had been a monk, but later married and had six children – had met the pope at the Vatican during the Year of Consecrated Life in 2015.

In the course of their conversation, Pittet said he told the pope he had been raped as a child by a priest. Tears welled up in the pope’s eyes, and the two embraced, Pittet said in an interview with the Italian daily La Repubblica.

Pope Francis said in his preface that Pittet’s personal testimony about his abuse “is necessary, invaluable and courageous” because often it is very difficult for survivors to talk about what happened and the trauma that lingers for years.

“His suffering moved me. I saw once again the frightful damage caused by sexual abuse and the long and painful journey that awaits the victim,” the pope wrote.

The suffering and suicides of people who were abused by clergy and religious “weigh on my heart, on my conscience and on that of the whole church. To their families, I offer my feelings of love and pain, and humbly ask forgiveness,” Pope Francis wrote.

It is good for people to read Pittet’s testimony and see how “evil can enter the heart of a servant of the church,” the pope said. “How can a priest, at the service of Christ and his church, end up causing so much pain?”

Instead of leading children to God, the pope said, abusive priests “devour them” in “a diabolical sacrifice that destroys both the victim and the life of the church.”

The abuse of children at the hands of religious, Pope Francis said, is “an absolute monstrosity, a horrendous sin, radically contrary to everything Christ teaches us.”

The church must take care of and lovingly protect the weakest and most defenseless, he said, and to act with “extreme severity” toward abusers and toward bishops and cardinals who protect them, “as it has already happened in the past.”

The pope wrote that he was also moved by the fact that Pittet had forgiven his abuser, Capuchin Father Joel Allaz, even meeting with him face-to-face 44 years later.

“The wounded child is today a man standing on his feet, fragile, but standing,” the pope said.

“I thank Daniel because all testimony like his breaks down the wall of silence that hushes up scandals and suffering, sheds light on a terrible area of darkness in the church’s life. They open a path to a just reparation and the grace of reconciliation and also help pedophiles become

aware of the terrible consequences of their actions,” he wrote.

According to a press release by the Catholic bishops’ conference of Switzerland, accusations were made against Father Allaz by at least 24 victims.

The first two civil court cases in 1995 and 2002 were thrown out because the statute of limitations had run out. Only when Father Allaz admitted to abusing two minors between 1992 and 1995 was the court able to prosecute and hand down a suspended two-year sentence.

The Capuchins acknowledge that their way of handling accusations against Father Allaz over the years, including transferring him to ministry in France, only allowed for further abuse, according to the press release Feb. 13. The religious order, the conference said, recognizes that by trying to protect the church’s reputation, they worked alone to resolve the problem, did not inform receiving employers and did not take victims’ claims seriously enough.

The conference said the book shows “the sad mechanisms that gave free rein” to manipulative and malicious pedophiles – mechanisms that were built on individual behaviors and mentalities as well as structures.

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St. John Paul II Pentecost: Peter's Discourse

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

As we saw, it was Peter who addressed the crowd after the descent of the Holy Spirit on what Christians now call the "First" Pentecost. He was fulfilling what Jesus had predicted and commanded at the Last Supper: "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The "power" included the knowledge of what to say, how to say it, the ability to speak boldly and courageously, and without any trace of the stage fright that might otherwise come upon unlettered, simple men who never before spoke before an audience. St. John Paul explains what Peter was to say: It was to be

"the first witness given publicly and one might say solemnly to the risen Christ, to Christ

victorious. It was also the beginning of the apostolic preaching." It was also to be the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, particularly that of Joel: "And in the last days it shall be that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams" (Jl 3:1). This was necessary to explain to the listeners how it was that an uneducated man (whom the crowd recognized as a Galilean) could be speaking like a trained orator. The crowd's first reaction was that these men were drunk (see, Acts, Chapter 2, Verse 15). Peter pointed out that it was not "spirits" but *The Spirit* that was at work here!

Peter's address (see, Acts, Chapter 2, Verses 14-41) is often referred to as an example of what catechists call the original "kerygma." It means the heart or essence of Christian doctrine. Peter tells the people that Jesus who was crucified and died is alive again; he has risen, and we, his disciples, are witnesses of the fact because we have seen him and talked with him after his death. This means that there is life after death and it is possible for us, too, if

... what Peter was to say ... was to be "the first witness given publicly and one might say solemnly to the risen Christ, to Christ victorious. It was also the beginning of the apostolic preaching."

we follow the teachings of Jesus with which we are also familiar. Jesus was the Messiah whom they awaited. He performed "mighty deeds," the supernatural signs in the name of God, his miracles. He accepted death as part of God's plan. Peter does not shy away from accusing his hearers of responsibility for the death of Jesus. He speaks of it as "this Jesus that you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men." The "lawless men," of course, were Pontius Pilate, the governor and his cadre of soldiers. They did the dirty work, but it was Jesus' fellowmen who put the Romans up to it. We might note that, following the lead of the Second Vatican Council, we maintain that the real cause of the death of Jesus was the sins of mankind in general, not any individual nation or people. That is absolutely true, of course, when we look at it in terms of salvation

history. In terms of human history, which knows only concrete facts, it was the Jewish leadership of the Sanhedrin and at least a portion of the Jewish people whom they influenced to call for his crucifixion.

We read in Acts that when Peter's listeners heard this, "They were cut to the heart, and asked Peter and the other Apostles, 'What are we to do, my brothers?'" Peter responded: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and your children and to all those, afar off, whomever the Lord our God will call." Then we are told: "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about 3,000 persons were added that day."

If we recall the beginning of Jesus' public life, we note that *repentance* was his initial call, e.g., in Matthew's Gospel: "From this time on, Jesus began to preach and say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" John Paul tells us: "Repentance ... is the crucial step in the process of conversion which the Holy Spirit works within us. ..." The Spirit entering our heart, convinces us of the evil of our ways and prompts us to seek change – to be converted. "Conversion of the human heart is an indis-

pensable condition for the forgiveness of sins." The pope goes on to say that conversion implies faith in Christ as our redeemer. Christ's resurrection as a human being shows the acceptance by the Father of the death of Jesus as his crowning act for the redemption of all his fellow human beings and their ability to be forgiven, also, and, like Jesus, to

be received into heavenly life. In the account of the meeting of the two disciples on their way to Emmaus after the resurrection, Jesus says to them: "Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures" (Lk 24:26-27). Again, at the seashore where he met the apostles after the resurrection, he said: "Thus it is written that the Christ should suffer and rise from the dead and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Lk 24:45-47). Peter, in his first official sermon, was doing exactly that! Baptism, already a symbol of repentance among the Jews, was now administered as a sacrament, thereby not simply signifying the desire for a return to God's grace, but actually *effecting* that return! The pope notes, however, that God can accomplish his purposes by either means if he chooses, i.e., he can act "out of the box," as we have seen before.

The killing of Jesus, the Son of God, was the greatest sin that the human race could commit. At the same time, that sin was turned into the very act of redemption for sin – for that sin and for all the other sins that mankind has and ever will commit! Peter was told by Jesus that he would henceforth be a fisher of men. Peter began doing so on that day of Pentecost. The 3,000 that were added (to those who received the Holy Spirit in the upper room) was a pretty good start!



Bishop Sheldon

February is Catholic Press Month

By Pat DeFrancis

February is Catholic Press Month. It is a time for those of us in the parochial media to give ourselves a pat on the back.

Editor Notes

Though how people receive their news has changed in gigantic ways since Gutenberg first gave us moveable type in 1439, the need for newspapers today is not less than it was when those first editions rolled off the presses.

The Steubenville Register was initiated by the diocese's first bishop, John King Mussio, and has continued to be promoted by each bishop after as a way to reach parishioners in the 13 counties of the diocese.

When Bishop Mussio inaugurated the Register Sept. 7, 1945, he did so under the patronage of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (interestingly, our current bishop, Jeffrey M. Monforton, has declared 2016-17 as the year to reconsecrate the diocese to Mary). In that first edition – which I have thanks to Msgr. Thomas C. Petronek finding a bound volume of Registers as he prepared to move from St. Anthony of Padua, Bridgeport, rectory on his retirement – Bishop Mussio said that the newspaper was being introduced as a vital force for good in the diocese.

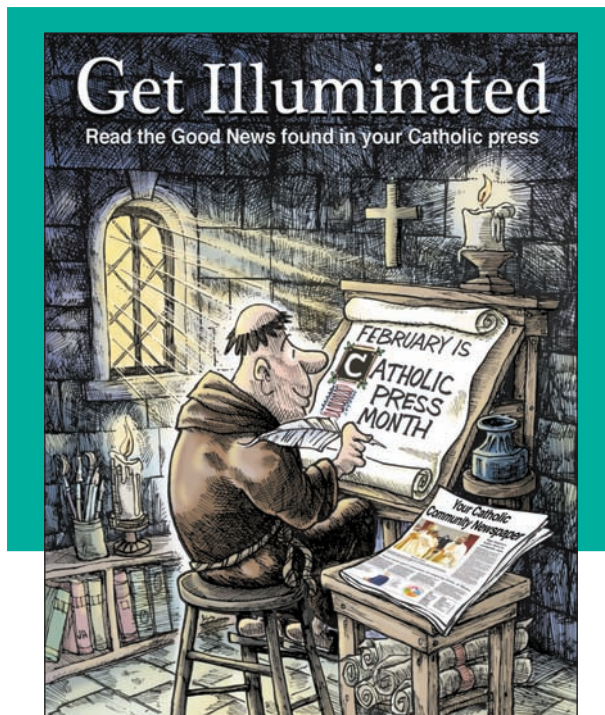
Costs of staffing, printing and mailing publications have forced some dioceses to cease publication of their printed papers. Despite the Register having been trimmed in size

and number of times it is published yearly, it continues as declared by Bishop Mussio as the only official publication of the Diocese of Steubenville, dedicated to the furtherance

of the mission of the church.

A quick perusal of that first edition shows that the first editor, Father Joseph P. Kiefer, who was pastor of St. Anthony of Padua at the time, offered news to his readers that we continue to provide today. Following Bishop Mussio's directive that the Register has a positive purpose of arousing and maintaining the Catholic spirit of our people, he reported on schools, parishes and their priests.

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(CNS/Joe Heller)

The Steubenville Register

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Rend Your Hearts Ash Wednesday (March 1)

By Father Paul J. Walker

“Rend your hearts, not your garments,” says the prophet Joel. Rending one’s garments was a gesture of sorrow and despair. Rending one’s heart is not so easily self-explanatory. For Hebrews, “heart” had layered meanings: it could include consciousness, mindset, attitudes, goals, convictions, self-identity. “Rending your heart” in this sense means opening new horizons, shedding prejudices, recognizing unwanted truths about your own positions and claims, becoming aware of the truths and claims of others.

It means breaking through the often obstinate insistence that nothing can be done about situations of human suffering and oppression in our family, our work, our neighborhood, our school, our country, our world. So it means new life and hope – turning back to the Lord in confidence that things can really change for the better – especially us, we can change.

Lent brings into sharper focus the three basic disciplines of a Christian life: *prayer* (broadly speaking, a life of faith and communion with God); *fasting* (broadly speaking, a renunciation and self-denial that frees people for a clearer and truer focus in their lives); *almsgiving* (broadly speaking, outreach to others’ need of whatever kind.)



Father Walker

The Gospel is concerned about the authenticity of these things – not done for show, to attraction, to “get ahead” spiritually or because it is Lent. Jesus urges secrecy. But even that has its own temptation to personal self-satisfaction; to smugness in the knowledge the I am doing well.

Yet, Jesus elsewhere commands that our light shine “in the sight of others so that seeing our good works they might give praise to God. So, he urges us to consider only one audience, one witness to our actions – our heavenly Father who sees all. The more we direct our attention to him, the less will we take notice of our own or others’ reactions to what we do.

Our judgment on how we are observing Lent, then, is to be based not on how little we have eaten, or how much we have given away or given up (even the computer screen), but on the deepening of our awareness of God’s presence to us and his action in our lives. Our question should not be, “What can I do for Lent?” But, “What can God do in me, with me and for me?”

So Lent can lead us to true Christian identity: a Christian as a changed person, a “convert.” The liturgies of Lent will say (and sing) to you: “You have turned away from yourself, so as to adhere to Jesus of Nazareth who for your sake died and was raised to new life.”

Finally, let me be reflective for a moment on the dust and ashes of Lent – two quotes, one dark, the other light:

*For the fate of animals and the fate of humans
is the same;
as one dies so dies the other. ...
All go to one place; all are from the dust,
and all turn to dust again*
(Ecc 3:18-20).

*Lord of the winds, I cry to thee.
I that am dust,
And blown about by every gust
I fly to thee.*

*Lord of the waters, unto thee I call.
I am weed upon the waters borne,
And by the waters torn,
Tossed by the waters, at thy feet I fall.*
(Mary Coleridge, 19th century)

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

Embittered Moralizing

By Father Ron Rolheiser

One of the dangers inherent in trying to live out a life of Christian fidelity is that we are prone to become embittered moralizers, older brothers of the prodigal son, angry and jealous at God’s over-generous mercy, bitter because persons who wander and stray can so easily access the heavenly banquet table.

But this isn’t unique to faithful churchgoers. It’s part of the universal struggle to age without bitterness and anger. We spend the first half of our lives wrestling with the Sixth Commandment and spend the last half of our lives wrestling with the Fifth Commandment: Thou shalt not kill! Long before anyone is shot by a gun, he is shot by a word, and before he is shot by a word, he is shot by a thought. We all think murderous thoughts: Who does he think he is! And it becomes harder and harder not to think them as we age.

Aging without bitterness and anger is in fact our final struggle, psychologically and spiritually. The great Swiss psychologist Alice Miller suggests that the primary task of the second half of life is that of mourning, mourning our wounds, so as not to become bitter and angry. We have to mourn, she says, until our very foundations shake, otherwise our un-grieved wounds will forever leave us prone to bitterness, anger and cold judgments.

At the end of the day there is only one remaining spiritual imperative: We are not meant to die in anger and bitterness. And so, as we age, we can progressively slim our spiritual vocabulary down to one word: Forgive, forgive, forgive. Only forgiveness can save us from bitterness and anger.

Indeed, there are few Gospel texts as sobering as the Gospel story of the prodigal son. As good commentaries

on this text are quick to point out, the central character of this story is not the prodigal son, but the father, and the central message of the text is his over-generous mercy. He is a father who is trying to get his two sons into his house (his house being an image for heaven). But the younger son is, for a long time, out of the house through weakness, while the older son is just as effectively outside the house through a bitterness and an anger that have soured his fidelity. Unlike the father who is grateful and joyous because his wayward son has come home, the older brother is angry and bitter that the father has not withheld his mercy and that his errant brother was not first punished and made to meet certain conditions before he was welcomed back home.

Now there’s an older brother of this sort in all of us. We see it, for instance, in the fierce resistance many, wonderfully faithful, church-going Christians express apposite certain people receiving Communion at the Eucharist. Granted, there are legitimate ecclesial issues here, to do with public forum and scandal, which need to be sorted out, as the recent synod on family life tried to do. But that synod also highlighted the resistance that many feel toward persons that they deem unworthy to receive Communion at the Eucharist.

Independent of the ecclesial issues coloring this, those of us who struggle with certain others going to Communion should still ask ourselves: Why is this bothering me? Why am I angry about someone else going to Communion? What’s really the basis for my resistance? What might this be saying about me? Is my heart wide and mellow enough right now to go to heaven, to sit down at the banquet table with everyone?

Do I have the courage and humility to ask myself this question: Am I not akin to the older brother standing out-

side the house, bitter that someone who seems undeserving is receiving the Father’s love and blessing?

But we need to ask ourselves that with sympathy. We aren’t bad persons; it’s just that a certain bitter moralizing is an occupational hazard for us. Still we need to ask ourselves these hard questions, for our own sake, lest, blind to ourselves, we become the older brother of the prodigal son.

Paradoxical, ironic, strange, but we can be faithful, upright-morally, duty-bound, church-going Christians, preaching the Gospel to others and, at the same time, carry inside of ourselves an anger, a bitterness, and an unconscious envy of the amoral which has us standing outside the house of celebration, blocked from entry because we are angry at how wide and indiscriminating is our own God’s embrace.

But that weakness and bipolarity have already been taken into account. The story of the prodigal son ends, not with the father’s joy at the return of his sinful son, but with the father at the door of the house, gently pleading with his older son to give up his bitterness and enter the dance. We don’t know how that story ends, but, given God’s jealous love and infinite patience, there’s little reason to doubt that eventually the older brother entered the house and sat down at table with his prodigal brother.

Father Rolheiser, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate priest, is president of the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio. He is an author, a retreat master and a widely circulated newspaper columnist. For additional information on Father Rolheiser and his writings, log on his website: www.ronrolheiser.com.

*Aging without bitterness and anger
is in fact our final struggle ...*



Father Rolheiser

Vatican canon law official explains provisions of ‘Amoris Laetitia’

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The provisions of “Amoris Laetitia” allow people in irregular marriage situations access to the sacraments only if they recognize their situation is sinful and desire to change it, according to the cardinal who heads the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts.

The fact that such a couple also believes changing the situation immediately by splitting up would cause more harm and forgoing sexual relations would threaten their current relationship does not rule out the possibility of receiving sacramental absolution and Communion, said Cardinal Francesco Coccopalmerio, president of the pontifical council that is charged with interpreting canon law.

The intention to change, even if the couple cannot do so immediately, “is exactly the theological element that allows absolution and access to the Eucharist as long as — I repeat — there is the impossibility of immediately changing the situation of sin,” the cardinal wrote.

Cardinal Coccopalmerio’s short booklet, “The Eighth Chapter of the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia,” was published in Italian by the Vatican publishing house and presented to journalists Feb. 14. It includes material compiled from articles and speeches the cardinal has given about the pope’s document on marriage and family life.

The cardinal was unable to attend the presentation because of a meeting at the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, said Salesian Father Giuseppe Costa, director of the Vatican publishing house.

“To whom can the church absolutely not concede penance and the Eucharist (because) it would be a glaring contradiction?” the cardinal asked in the book. “To one who, knowing he or she is in a state of serious sin and having the ability to change, has no sincere intention of carrying it out.”

Cardinal Coccopalmerio quoted “Amoris Laetitia” to make his point: “Naturally, if someone flaunts an objective sin as if it were part of the Christian ideal, or wants to impose something other than what the church teaches ... such a person needs to listen once more to the Gospel message and its call to conversion.”

Father Maurizio Gronchi, a theologian and consultant to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, told reporters Feb. 14 that Cardinal Coccopalmerio’s reading of “Amoris Laetitia” is the same as the bishops of Malta, Germany and the church region of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Those bishops have issued guidelines that include the possibility of eventually allowing divorced and civilly remarried Catholics access to the sacraments without first requiring an annulment of their sacramental marriage or a firm commitment to abstaining from sexual relations.

Dozens of other bishops around the world, including Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, head of the U.S. bishops’ ad hoc committee for implementing “Amoris Laetitia,” have insisted church teaching prohibits persons in an objective state of mortal sin from receiving the Eucharist and those who, in the eyes of the church, are not married to a person they are having sex with are in such a state of sin.

Father Costa told reporters the cardinal’s book is not “the Vatican response” to the challenges posed by U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke and three retired cardinals to the supposed lack of clarity and potential misunderstanding of “Amoris Laetitia.” Rather, he said, it is an “authoritative” reading of the papal document and a contribution to the ongoing discussion.

In his document, Pope Francis affirms the constant teaching of the Catholic Church on the indissolubility of marriage and the sinful state of those who cohabit and those who form a second union while one or both of them are still bound sacramentally in marriage to another person, Cardinal Coccopalmerio wrote.

The only time such persons would not be in a state of mortal sin, he wrote, is if they were ignorant of church teaching, were unable to understand church teaching or “knew the norm and its goodness, but were unable to act as the norm indicates without incurring another fault.”

Cardinal Coccopalmerio cited the case of a woman who enters into a relationship with a man who, along with his small children, was abandoned by his wife. The woman knows the relationship is not in accordance with church teaching, but leaving the man and his small children would devastate him and leave the children without a maternal figure.

In writing that the church could admit such a couple to the sacraments with the



Cardinal Francesco Coccopalmerio, president of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, has written a book on Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation “Amoris Laetitia.” (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

“verification of two essential conditions — that they desire to change that situation, but they cannot act on their desire,” the cardinal said the verification must be done with “attentive and authoritative discernment” under the guidance of a priest.

Does “welcoming the sinner justify the person’s behavior and renounce doctrine?” the cardinal asked. “Certainly not.”

Father Gronchi told reporters “Amoris Laetitia” is not reaching out to couples who are “peaceful and tranquil” while living in situations that are not in harmony with the Gospel, rather it is offering guidance, hope and the possibility of sacramental grace to couples who know they are in sinful situations and want to change.

The papal document and the cardinal’s book are “not saying, ‘amnesty for all,’” Father Gronchi said. “It’s about indicating possible paths to conversion, not to amnesty.”

Pope Francis names envoy to study pastoral care of faithful in Medjugorje

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Without commenting on the authenticity of alleged Marian apparitions in Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Pope Francis has appointed a Polish archbishop to study the pastoral needs of the townspeople and the thousands of pilgrims who flock to the town each year.

The pope chose Archbishop Henryk Hoser of Warsaw-Praga as his special envoy to Medjugorje, the Vatican announced Feb. 11.

“The mission has the aim of acquiring a deeper knowledge of the pastoral situation there and, above all, of the needs of the faithful who go there in pilgrimage, and on the basis of this, to suggest possible pastoral initiatives for the future,” the Vatican announcement said.

Archbishop Hoser’s assignment has “an exclusively pastoral character,” the Vatican said, making it clear his task is separate from the work of a commission set up in 2010 by now-retired Pope Benedict XVI to investigate the claims of six young people who said Mary had appeared to them daily beginning in 1981. Some of the six say

Mary still appears to them and gives them messages each day, while others say they see her only once a year now.

Pope Benedict had named retired Italian Cardinal Camillo Ruini to chair the group studying the apparitions. In June 2015, Pope Francis told reporters that Cardinal



Archbishop Henryk Hoser of Warsaw-Praga, Poland, has been appointed by Pope Francis as special envoy to Medjugorje. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Ruini had given him the group’s report and that it would be studied by the cardinals and bishops who are members of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. At the time, Pope Francis said, “We’re close to making decisions,” although nothing was announced until the appointment of Archbishop

Hoser about 20 months later.

Thousands of pilgrims travel to the small town each month to meet the alleged seers and to pray. Because the apparitions have not been approved, the Vatican has said dioceses should not organize official pilgrimages to Medjugorje. However, it also has said Catholics are free to visit the town and pray there, and that the Diocese of Mostar-Duvno and the Franciscans who minister in the town should organize

pastoral care for them.

Archbishop Hoser “is expected to finish

his mandate as special envoy by summer of this year,” the Vatican announcement read.

February

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It was written in one story that classes had begun for 4,500 children in Catholic grade and high schools in the diocese. The Register continues to highlight students and staff in parochial elementary, junior high and high schools in the diocese.

It was announced in that first edition that the oldest priest in the diocese, Msgr. James H. Cotter, pastor of St. Lawrence O’Toole Parish, Ironton, would serve as a columnist. Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon, who mandated when he was bishop that the Register would be mailed to every Catholic household in the diocese, continues to write a column for each edition of the Register. In fact, Bishop Sheldon has viewed the Register as a teaching tool throughout his episcopacy. He has written millions of words to inform readers, especially about the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the writings of St. John Paul II.

Bishop Monforton, too, uses the Register to keep parishioners current on what is happening in the diocese and to educate readers, including the youth, in his innovative “Ask the Bishop.”

Our diocesan priests and nationally known priests and bishops write columns,

regularly.

That first edition, also, told of a golden jubilee of a parish in Vincent, the purchase of a home by the Martins Ferry Knights of Columbus for its council — still going strong — the diocese’s first priest ordination, a new pastor for Gallipolis — Father Vincent Schiele — and a farewell dinner for Father Joseph J. Kloss of St. Joseph Parish, Bridgeport.

Today, in addition to the Register, to keep up with the times, the diocese has a presence on social media. But the attention span of viewers of tweets and Facebook posts and readers of blogs, means a less in-depth look than the printed page that comes into the reader’s home can provide.

One of our regular columnists, Father Paul J. Walker, recently shared an article that validated the need for Catholic newspapers to be maintained, which even provided data that millennials read the hard copy (however, the Register is available online). The writer of that nationally circulated article could have been talking to Bishop Mussio, who wrote in that first Register that the newspaper would be a powerful force for the preservation of faith in our diocese.

Council of Cardinals publicly expresses 'full support' of Pope Francis

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—After a handful of public challenges to Pope Francis' teaching and authority, the members of the pope's international Council of Cardinals began their February meeting expressing their "full support" for his work.

Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, coordinator of the council, began the meeting Feb. 13 assuring the pope of the cardinals' "full support for his person and his magisterium," according to a statement published by the Vatican press office.

The statement said the cardinals' support was offered "in relation to recent events."

No specific events were mentioned, but the statement came just a few days after a fake version of the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, was emailed to Vatican officials and a week after posters were put up around Rome ques-

tioning the pope's mercy in dealing with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and other groups over which the pope had placed special delegates. It also came several months after U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke and three retired cardinals

publicly questioned Pope Francis on the teaching in his document on the family, "Amoris Laetitia."

Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga, speaking on behalf of the Council of Cardinals, also thanked Pope Francis for the way he

explained the council's work on the reform of the Roman Curia to Vatican officials.

Meeting with members of the Curia just before Christmas, Pope Francis said the reform was motivated by a desire to ensure the central offices of the church are focused on sharing the Gospel, better meet people's needs and assist the pope in his ministry of service to the church and the world.

"We cannot be content simply with changing personnel; we need to encourage spiritual, human and professional renewal among the members of the Curia, the pope had said.

"The reform of the Curia is in no way implemented with a change of personnel – something that certainly is happening and will continue to happen – but with a conversion in persons. Continuing formation is not enough; what we need also and above all is continuing conversion and purification. Without a change of mentality, efforts at practical improvement will be in vain."

In addition to Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga, the council members are: Cardinals Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state; Sean P. O'Malley of Boston; Francisco Javier Errazuriz Ossa, retired archbishop of Santiago, Chile; Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, India; Reinhard Marx of Munich and Freising, Germany; Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya of Kinshasa, Congo; George Pell, head of the Secretariat of the Economy; and Giuseppe Bertello, president of the commission governing Vatican City State.



Pope Francis leads the 18th meeting of his Council of Cardinals at the Vatican Feb. 13. Seated to the left of the pope are: Bishop Marcello Semeraro of Albano, Italy, secretary of the council; Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, coordinator of the council; Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, India; Cardinal Francisco Javier Errazuriz Ossa, retired archbishop of Santiago, Chile; Cardinal George Pell, head of the Secretariat for the Economy. Seated at right are: Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state; Cardinal Reinhard Marx of Munich and Freising, Germany; Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston; Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya of Kinshasa, Congo; and Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello, president of the commission governing Vatican City State. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano, handout)

Catholics, Protestants release Bible translations in joint service in Germany

By Zita Fletcher

STUTTGART, Germany (CNS)—Five centuries after the start of the Protestant Reformation, leaders of the Catholic and Lutheran churches came together in a demonstration of unity to release new Bible translations.

At an ecumenical service at St. Eberhard's Catholic Cathedral, clergy from both churches gathered to release revised German translations of the Catholic and Lutheran Bibles.

The release came as the 500th anniversary of the Reformation neared. It began in 1517 when theologian Martin Luther developed his 95 Theses challenging long-held Catholic practices.

Cardinal Reinhard Marx of Munich and Freising, president of the German bishops' conference, emphasized the sacred Scriptures as a strong bond shared by Catholics

and Protestants.

"It is an effervescent fountain," Cardinal Marx said of the Bible. "The water drawn from it does not decrease, but increases. The more we debate the holy Scriptures, the more we experience the mystery of Christ."

During the last year, the Catholic and Lutheran translations of the Bible were subjected to thorough review and revision. A group of 200 people from both churches participated in the revision process.

"With the new translations, we remember our shared foundation – the sacred Scriptures – and together express our appreciation for each other's translation," said Lutheran Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany.

The Reformation, which sparked a religious war, left deep divides between Protestant and Catholics for centuries.

In recent years both churches have come closer together. The release of the Bible translation is one of several ecumenical services being promoted by both churches throughout the year.

"I am very pleased that we are placing God's word in our midst in such an ecumenically meaningful year as 2017, in which we together recall the events of the Reformation 500 years ago and celebrate them today as a celebration of Christ, to place God's word in our midst," Cardinal Marx said.

Bishop Bedford-Strohm also stressed the importance of the Bible as a shared foundation of Christian life, saying it is full of human stories of faith. "Christian faith today means engaging in these stories, writing these stories into one's own biography and letting one's own life be reversed in unity with the great history of God with men and interpreting one's life in the light of this history," he said.

Leaders of both churches announced they will use the new Bible translations in future ecumenical services.

Bishop Monforton to attend theological convocation

STEUBENVILLE — Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton has accepted an invitation to attend the Southern Ohio Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Annual Bishop's Theological Convocation.

The convocation – "Together in Hope" – will be held March 13 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio. The theme mirrors the one for a 2016 gathering in Lund, Sweden.

Father John W. Crossin, a member of the Oblates of St. Francis De Sales and former executive director of the Secretariat for

Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Rev. Donald J. McCoid, formerly executive for ecumenical and interreligious relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, are the presenters. Considered experts in the area of ecumenical relations, the men have worked and presented together extensively on the topic, especially in the area of Roman Catholic and Lutheran relations.

A joint worship service will conclude the morning presentations and afternoon discussion.

Position Available for Director of Music Ministries

The community of **St. Joseph Church in Dover, Ohio**, seeks an experienced pastoral musician to serve as Director of Music Ministries. This is a full-time, professional, ministerial position, with benefits. The Director of Music will oversee, direct and coordinate the music ministries for all liturgy and parish worship, including our Hispanic and elementary school liturgies. The successful candidate will recruit, train and oversee all musicians, choirs (both English- and Spanish-speaking choirs), cantors, song leaders and other music volunteers. He or she will also serve as a resource to parish ministries and develop a plan for introducing new repertoire.

This person must work collaboratively with the pastor, parish clergy and all parish staff, as well as serve on the parish's Spiritual Life and Liturgy Committee and Leadership Team. Qualified applicants must be highly organized, possess a friendly demeanor, and dedicated to St. Joseph's mission of becoming a parish of authentic, missionary disciples. The ideal candidate will have previous experience as a pastoral musician and be proficient in both the piano and organ. An excellent working knowledge of Catholic worship is required and the ability to converse in Spanish will be a plus.

Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening, completion of the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" program and reference checks. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Contact Father Hatfield at the parish office (330) 364-6661 or email to stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com.

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Adena — Ash Wednesday Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m., at St. Casimir Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed March 3, March 17 and March 31, at 7 p.m. On Good Friday, April 14, Stations will be prayed at 2 p.m., at the church.

Amsterdam — Stations of the Cross will be prayed Fridays in Lent, March 3 through April 7, at 3 p.m., at St. Joseph Church. On Good Friday, April 14, Stations of the Cross will be prayed at noon.

Belle Valley — Beginning March 2, Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7 p.m., Thursdays throughout Lent, and at 2:30 p.m., Good Friday, at Corpus Christi Church.

Corpus Christi parishioners will host a soup and sandwich luncheon from noon until 1:30 p.m., March 12, at the church hall. Chili, hot dogs, Sloppy Joes and vegetable, chicken noodle and potato soups will be available; donations only.

Belle Valley/Caldwell/Carlisle/Fulda — A parish mission will be held at the Noble County parishes. The first presentation titled "God's Love Poured Out" will be held March 5 at St. Michael Church, Carlisle. A potluck dinner will take place at 5:30 p.m. The March 6 talk titled "The Breath of God" will be held at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, Fulda. Corpus Christi Church, Belle Valley, will be the location for "Baptism in the Spirit and Fire" March 7. The series will conclude March 8 at St. Stephen Church, Caldwell. DVD presenter will be Benedictine Abbot Clement Zeleznik, chaplain-in-residence of Loyola Retreat House, Clinton, Ohio. All sessions will include adoration at 7 p.m.; confessions will be heard each evening.

Bridgeport — A bunco party, sponsored by St. Joseph CWC, will be held March 26 in St. Anthony hall. Doors open at 1 p.m.; lunch served from 1-1:45 p.m.; games begin at 2 p.m.; admission, \$6. For reservations, telephone (740) 635-2836 or (740) 635-2102.

Buchtel — Mass will be celebrated, and ashes will be distributed, Ash Wednesday, at noon, at St. Mary of the Hills Church.

Caldwell — Beginning March 3, and continuing on the Fridays of Lent through April 7, Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7 p.m., at St. Stephen Church.

CPR training will be offered from 5-9 p.m., March 22, at St. Stephen Church hall. For reservations, prior to March 17, telephone (740) 732-4129.

"Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come" DVD Bible study with Jeff Cavins, will begin Feb. 27, from 10-11:30 a.m., in St. Stephen Church annex.

St. Stephen CWC will hold a raffle May 21. For tickets, telephone (740) 732-5383, (740) 581-0502, or (740) 732-5205. Proceeds will benefit the Noble County Catholic Youth group, vacation Bible school and the CWC.

Carlisle — Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7 p.m., Thursdays throughout Lent, beginning March 2, at St. Michael Church.

Chesapeake — St. Ann CWC will sponsor an annual pancake breakfast from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., March 5, in the church hall. Proceeds will benefit the scholarship program.

Churchtown — St. John the Baptist CWC will sponsor an all-you-can-eat breakfast from 8-11:30 a.m., Feb. 26, at St. John Central School. Adults eat for \$6; children, \$3; a family, for \$20.

Ashes will be distributed March 1, at St. John the Baptist Church, at the 8 a.m. Mass, at the 11 a.m. school Mass, and at the 6 p.m. Mass. Stations of the Cross will be prayed, and Mass will be celebrated every Friday throughout Lent, at 6:30 p.m., beginning March 10.

Colerain — Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday in Lent, at 6:30 p.m., at St. Frances Cabrini Church.

The Gospel of St. Matthew will be discussed at a Bible study, which will be held at St. Frances Cabrini Church, in the gathering center. "Matthew: The King and His Kingdom" will be the topic of discussion, Tuesdays, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. For additional information, telephone



For kindergarten students at Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary School, Steubenville, there have been 100 days of school. The two classes gather to celebrate the milestone. Some students came to class that day, Feb. 9, dressed as 100-year-olds. The boys and girls made headbands to mark the occasion. Erin Moffat and Angela Younce are kindergarten teachers at the school; Carol Jones is the teachers' aide. Theresa Danaher serves as principal of Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary and Junior High School. (Photo by DeFrancis)

the church rectory office at (740) 635-9933.

St. Francis Cabrini Parish and the CWC will sponsor a free presentation and discussion concerning drug abuse and gambling addiction March 12, from 3-5 p.m., in the church gathering center. Guest speakers for the presentation will be Stacey Frohnappfel-Hasson, chief of problem gambling services, and Scott Anderson, problem gambling treatment coordinator, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Joining them will be Lee Alban, counselor at Crossroads Counseling, St. Clairsville. The talks will be followed by a question and answer period; refreshments will be served.

Dillonvale — Ash Wednesday Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m., at St. Adalbert Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed March 10, March 24 and April 7, at 7 p.m.

Fulda — Stations of the Cross will be prayed Fridays throughout Lent, at 7:30 p.m., March 3 through March 31, and at 7 p.m., April 7, at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church.

Gallipolis — Fish fries will be held at St. Louis Church hall, beginning at 4:30 p.m., Fridays during Lent.

Glouster — Mass will be celebrated and ashes distributed at 6:30 p.m., March 1, at Holy Cross Church.

Harriettsville — Ashes will be distributed at the celebration of the 7:30 p.m. Mass, March 1, at St. Henry Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 10:15 a.m., Sundays during Lent.

Little Hocking — Lenten devotions will be held on Fridays throughout Lent, at 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m., at St. Ambrose Church. On the first three Wednesdays of Lent, with the exception of March 9, a DVD program, presented by Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate Father Ron Rolheiser, author and retreat master, titled "Aging Gracefully, Living Faithfully" will be presented for adult discussion. The final two weeks will feature a DVD presentation by Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, on the "Eucharist."

Lenten fish fries will be held at St. Ambrose Parish hall Fridays, from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$8 for fish, fries, coleslaw, dessert and beverage. Proceeds will be distributed to local and national charities.

Lowell — Ashes will be distributed at the celebration of the 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mass, March 1, at Our

Lady of Mercy Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7 p.m., Fridays during Lent, except for Good Friday, when they will be prayed at noon.

An ecumenical Lenten supper will be served at 7 p.m., March 7, at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Malvern — Fish fry dinners will begin being served March 3, from 5-7 p.m., in St. Francis Xavier Church social hall.

Marietta — Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7 p.m., Fridays during Lent, at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption. There will also be Benediction; confessions will be heard. Mass will also be celebrated Wednesdays throughout Lent at 6 p.m.; a presentation on the Mass and Eucharist will follow.

Cawley & Peoples Funeral Home will host a free luncheon March 6, at 11:30 a.m., in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption social hall. A short, informal topic of discussion concerning the advantages of advance funeral planning will take place, also. For reservations or additional information, telephone Brian Scharff, (740) 373-1111.

Marietta — St. Mary School will have an open house from 5-7 p.m., Feb. 27, in the Msgr. Kakascik Parish Center, for Montessori preschool through eighth grade. For additional information, telephone the school office at (740) 374-8181.

There will be a St. Mary all-school Mass celebrated Ash Wednesday, at noon, at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption.

St. Mary School will sponsor Lenten all-you-can-eat fish fries, baked or fried, from 5-7 p.m., March 3 through April 7, at the school.

Miltonsburg — During the Lenten season, Mass will be celebrated on Thursdays, at 6:30 p.m., at St. John the Baptist Church. Praying of Stations of the Cross will follow.

Minerva — Beginning Feb. 24, fish fry dinners will be served from 4:30-7 p.m., at St. Gabriel Church hall.

Richmond — Stations of the Cross will be prayed on the Fridays of Lent, March 3 through April 7, at 6 p.m., at St. Joseph Fisher Church.

St. Clairsville — At 6:30 p.m., on the Fridays of Lent, March 3 through April 7, Stations of the Cross will be prayed at St. Mary Church.

Father Thomas A. Chillog, pastor of St. Mary Parish, will present an adult education series on Catholic practices including Lent, Ash Wednesday,

Up and Down the Diocese

From Page 10

why we fast from meat, why we don't sing "Alleluia" during Lent, and more, Feb. 27, March 13 and March 27. Discussions will take place from 6:30-8 p.m., in Marian Hall.

St. Clairsville — St. Mary Central School is participating in the EdChoice scholarship program. The Ohio Department of Education offers scholarships to parents who would like to send their children to a Catholic school, but have difficulty meeting tuition requirements. Scholarships are income-based and available to students in grades kindergarten through fourth grade, for the 2017-18 school year. For additional information telephone the school office, (740) 695-3189.

Steubenville — Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., March 1, at Holy Family Church; ashes will be distributed. Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday of Lent, at 12:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Stations will be prayed on Good Friday at 7 p.m.

Steubenville — An annual open house and registration will be held from noon until 2 p.m., Feb. 26, at Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School and Catholic Central High School, 320 West View, and from 1:30-3:30 p.m., at Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary School, 100 Etta Ave. A junior high parent meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m., in Berkman Theater, Lanman Hall, at the high school. Faculty and administration will be available to answer questions; students will offer tours of the schools.

Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary and Junior High School students are selling Sarris candy, for Easter. Order online, www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com using order number 10-0706, or telephone the school office at (740) 346-0028 or (740) 264-2550, prior to March 10.

Catholic Central High School will host a night at the races, in the school cafeteria, 320 West View, March 18. Doors for

the adult only event will open at 6 p.m.; races will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Steubenville — Handmade religious articles, made by the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, Belarus, will be on display March 18 and March 19 at St. Peter Church. Proceeds from the sale of the items will be used by the sisters in their mission to render spiritual, social and financial support to the sick and suffering at the National Psychiatric Clinic, the boarding home for children with special needs, for mentally challenged adults and at a clinic.

Steubenville — Mass, with the distribution of ashes, will be celebrated March 1, at 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 5:15 p.m. and 7 p.m., at Holy Rosary Church. Liturgy of the Word, with distribution of ashes, will be at noon.

Beginning March 3, Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays throughout Lent, at noon and 7 p.m., at Holy Rosary Church.

Tiltonsville — Ashes will be distributed March 1, at the 8 a.m. Mass, at St. Joseph Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed Fridays during Lent, beginning March 3, at 6:30 p.m.

The annual St. Joseph Parish spaghetti dinner will be held Feb. 26, in the church dining hall, from noon until 3 p.m. Cost to eat is \$8 for adults, \$6 for children under the age of 12. Eat in or takeout will be available. Homemade cream puffs will also be sold that day. Tickets can be purchased in advance by telephoning (740) 859-4492.

Toronto — Potato-cheese, cabbage and prune pirohi will be sold for \$5 per dozen by the Toronto Catholic community CWC following weekend Masses at St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph churches.

Woodfield — During the Lenten season, Mass will be celebrated on Fridays, at 6:30 p.m., at St. Sylvester Church. Praying of Stations of the Cross will follow.

Yorkville — Ashes will be distributed at the 6:30 p.m. Mass, March 1, at St. Lucy Church.

Around and About

Mingo Junction — Fish fries will be held from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and from 4-6:30 p.m., every Friday during Lent through April 7, at the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361 hall, 117 Legion Drive. Eat in or carryout orders will be available; delivery to businesses will be available from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. To place an order or for additional information, telephone (740) 535-8037.

St. Clairsville — Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Council 4243 will hold an annual spaghetti dinner March 11 in St. Mary Church Marian Hall. Meals will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and from 5:30-7 p.m. Takeout orders will be available, also. Adult tickets can be purchased in advance for \$8; \$5, for children 12 years of age and under. For additional information or to purchase tickets, telephone John Swan at (740) 695-0366.

Steubenville — In commemoration of the eighth centenary of the birth of St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan saint and doctor of the church, Franciscan University of Steubenville will host a Bonaventure

workshop March 25, from 8:45 a.m.-4:45 p.m., in the Tony and Nina Gentile Gallery, J.C. Williams Center, at the university. The day will include talks, each followed by a question/answer session and a panel discussion. Admission is free, but advance registration is requested at www.franciscan.edu/bonaventure-workshop.

Toronto — The Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother will sponsor a Lenten retreat titled "Overshadowed by the Holy Spirit" from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., March 25, at Our Lady of Sorrows Monastery, 369 Little Church Road. The retreat will include Mass, adoration, confession, lunch, talks, testimonies and more. Registration is required by March 13; suggested donation is \$25. Register online at www.franciscansisterst.org/lenten-retreat-2017 or telephone (740) 544-5542, extension 112.

Woodfield — Knights of Columbus St. Joseph of Monroe County Council 5009 will sponsor fish fries March 3, March 17 and March 31, beginning at 4 p.m., at St. Sylvester Central School.



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Lenten series scheduled in four churches

STEUBENVILLE/WINTERSVILLE — Parishes in Steubenville and Wintersville will sponsor a 2017 Lenten Series, which includes presentations by a Diocese of Pittsburgh priest and Mass, celebrated March 15 by Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton.

Under the theme "Encountering the Living God," Father Joseph Freedy will present "Getting God Right: Who He Is and How He Loves Us," March 8, at St. Peter Church, 425 N. Fourth St., Steubenville; "Forgiveness: Having a Heart Like His," March 15, Holy Family Church, 2608 Hollywood Blvd., Steubenville; "Humility: the Key That Opens the Door to the Encounter," March 22, Holy Rosary Church, 204 Rosemont Ave., Steubenville; and "Striving for Sanctity: Allowing God to Make Us Saints," March 29, Blessed Sacrament Church, 852 Main St., Wintersville.

Father Freedy grew up in Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, where he attended St. Thomas More Grade School and Bethel



(Photo provided)

Father Freedy

St. Paul Seminary, Pittsburgh, and studied, also, in Rome. He was ordained a priest in June 2008. For the past six years, Father Freedy has served as the vocations director for the Pittsburgh Diocese.

The evening Lenten reflection series includes Mass, which begins at 5:15 p.m.; the presentation, 6:15 p.m.; followed by soup and conversation.

Nancy Schreck, spokeswoman for the planners of the series, said people can attend one or all of the evening presentations to enrich their Lenten devotions and Easter joy.

Obituaries

Juanita Dyer Bletch, 94, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, Feb. 3.

Mary C. Fregiato, 97, (mother of Belmont County Common Pleas Court Judge Frank A. Fregiato, chairman of the Diocese of Steubenville Child Protection Review Board) St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Feb. 11.

Winona L. Hastwell, 88, Blessed Sacrament, Wintersville, Feb. 3.

Russell R. "Rusty" Roth, 88, (father-in-law of Martin B. Thompson, Diocese of Steubenville information and technology director and Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign associate director) St. Joseph, Toronto, Feb. 7.

Patricia McIntyre Whiteley, 56, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Feb. 4.



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton stands (photo at left) with the poster promoting the 2017 Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign, while Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general and DPSC director, (center photo) joins Martin B. Thompson, information and technology director and DPSC associate director, and James G. Piazza, executive assistant to the bishop, right, at the DPSC major gift dinner at the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361 hall, Mingo Junction. Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon (photo at right) bids Bishop Monforton a good evening, at the conclusion of the 2017 major gift dinners, Feb. 13. The dinners began in Ironton, continued in Athens, Marietta and St. Clairsville, before concluding in Mingo Junction. (Photos by DeFrancis)

Bishop Monforton

From Page 1

The survey results will be returned to individual parishes after tallied by Greater Mission Development Services, Elkridge, Maryland, Thomas J. Sonni, president. Initial survey results have been given to the Mission Advancement Planning Advisory Task Force, comprised of 17 people from around the diocese who were named by Bishop Monforton (the task force is expected to use the survey results along with data from the diocese to prioritize financial and pastoral needs of parishes and the diocese, Sister Mary Brigid Callan, Family of Jacopa Association, Steubenville, stewardship and development director for the diocese, said earlier).

As diners settled in at their tables, Father James M. Dunfee, pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Mingo Junction, opened the evening. He was followed to the podium by Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general and director of the DPSC.

As Msgr. Kemo reflected on what is important in life, he said, "The most important things that come to mind ... helping with a situation, helping another person in need and helping the church. In fact, helping is what the DPSC is all about. It is more than about giving money. It is giving part of what we have to do to help Christ's church to grow and prosper."

"Do Whatever He Tells You" is the theme of the 2017 DPSC. It is taken from the Gospel of John, when Jesus and Mary are at a wedding reception, where the wine runs out. "We chose this theme because we are asking the assistance of Mary under the title the Immaculate Heart of Mary to help us in all our diocesan endeavors," Msgr. Kemo said. "And who better to ask? The one who cared for her Son, the one who taught her Son, the one who stood by her Son in good times and in bad."

"What I am trying to say is that the DPSC is more than giving money. It is giving a part of ourselves to Mary and, in faith, believing and trusting that she will bring our needs to her Son who, in turn, will take what we give and do more with it than we

ever expected. As he made better wine from the water, he will make our diocese more vibrant and stronger than ever."

The goal of the 2017 DPSC is \$1,340,000, which is an increase for the first time in two years, Msgr. Kemo said. The increase is necessitated for added programs in the Office of Christian Formation and Schools to reach youth and evangelize, to fund the Office for Stewardship and Development and to expand the work of the Office of Family and Social Concerns (Catholic Charities). "And these are only a few of the additions that will be made to make our diocese stronger and better trying to serve the needs of all."

Msgr. Kemo urged parishioners to increase their support to the DPSC, so their parishes reach their goals and rebates will remain substantial. In last year's campaign, more than \$950,000 was returned to parishes. "This is money that they would not have had and can be used in any way that the parish finds necessary," he said.

In addition, Msgr. Kemo praised parishioners for their generosity. That financial support allows "the diocese to move forward in the name of Christ, to minister to those in need, to teach in the name of Jesus, to lead in a troubled, immoral world, and to be a sign of better things to come in the life of resurrection," he said.

The annual campaign continues with a taped message from Bishop Monforton that will be played in parishes after which parishioners in the pew are asked to make pledges.

DPSC pledges or one-time gifts to the campaign should be made in parishes, said Martin B. Thompson, DPSC associate director.

Pledge cards will be mailed to parishioners, or will be available at parishes.

Pledges can be paid with cash; a personal check made payable to the Diocese of Steubenville, noting DPSC on the memo line of the check; or a credit/debit card by visiting diosteub.org/giveonline. Pledges can be paid in six monthly payments, beginning in May.

Questions concerning the DPSC can be raised with Msgr. Kemo, at the downtown Steubenville chancery, (740) 282-3631, or email kkemo@diosteub.org, or Thomp-

son, at the chancery by phone or email, mthompson@diosteub.org.

In addition, gifts of appreciated stock can be contributed to the DPSC.

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