



www.diosteub.org

The Steubenville REGISTER

VOL. 71, NO. 13

SERVING 13 COUNTIES IN SOUTHEAST OHIO

FEB. 26, 2016

News Briefs

Collegiality, synodality prelate's work

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Collegiality and synodality are "twin sisters" of a bishop's work, according to Cardinal Wilfrid Napier of Durban, South Africa, who gave the annual Cardinal Dearden Lecture Feb. 18 at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

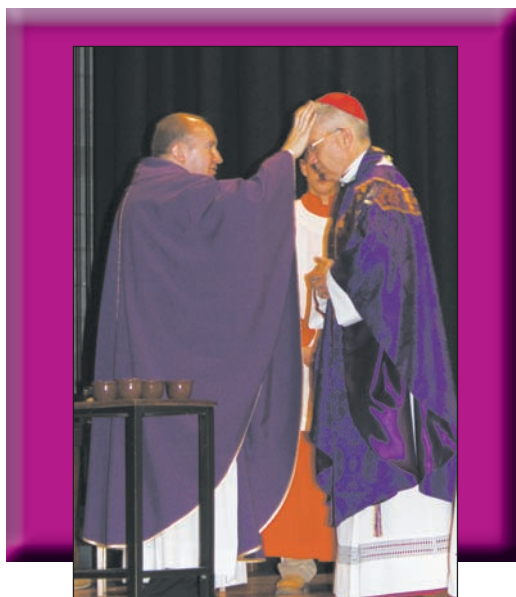
Cardinal Napier defined collegiality as "a cooperative relationship with colleagues," as it is with the pope and the bishops.

He defined synodality as "the participation of the local church in the life and ministry of the universal church," which has three elements to it: bishops listening to the faithful, bishops listening to each other, and bishops listening to the pope."

CRS collection in diocese, nation March 6

WASHINGTON — The annual Catholic Relief Services Collection will be held in most parishes — including those in the Diocese of Steubenville — March 6, Laetare Sunday.

The collection supports Catholic organizations that carry out international relief and solidarity efforts and continues to help those suffering at home and across the globe. Programs supported by the collection include relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war and natural disasters; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor; legal, pastoral and support services for immigrants; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and advocacy efforts.



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton receives ashes from Father Michael W. Gossett, a Diocese of Steubenville priest who is a parochial vicar, a high school chaplain and the diocesan vocations director, during a Feb. 10 Mass at Catholic Central High School, Steubenville. Bishop Monforton told the students gathered in the Berkman Theater, Lanman Hall, that the 40 days of Lent, which began that day, are meant to change their hearts. He quoted Mother Teresa, who he said 26 years ago signed the prayer book he carried — "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." (Photo by DeFrancis)



Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton greets Father Thomas A. Vennitti, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph parishes, Toronto, and members, or soon to be members, of the Toronto Catholic community Feb. 14 at St. Agnes Church, Mingo Junction. Seated around the lunch table, prior to the rite of election and recognition of candidates for full initiation into the church in the diocese, are Nathan Keenan, Cole DeGarmo, Betty and Butch Waggoner, Kevin and Beth DeGarmo, and standing, William Payne and Emily VanNuys. The Toronto Catholic community has six catechumens and one candidate. (Photo by DeFrancis)

Catechumens, candidates move toward Catholicism

MINGO JUNCTION — Three generations of a Toronto family and a young couple soon to be married in St. Joseph Church, Toronto, were among the catechumens and candidates at rites of election and recognition of candidates for full initiation into the church in the Diocese of Steubenville.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton presided at the rite of election — the election of catechumens and the call to continuing conversion — Feb. 14 at St. Agnes

Church, Mingo Junction, and Feb. 21 at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta.

Butch Waggoner, Kevin, Beth and Cole DeGarmo and William Payne were among the elect in the gathering of parish pastors, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults teams, sponsors and family members of the catechumens — to be baptized and confirmed and receive first Eucharist at the Easter Vigil in

To Page 5

AIM director to retire, after nearly 20-year association

STEUBENVILLE — Sharon Maedke began her association with AIM Women's Center 17 years ago as a volunteer.

After a stint as interim director, she became AIM's director.

At the end of March, Maedke will step aside from the organization that began in 1987 and strives to serve pregnant and at-risk women by transforming any fears surrounding their pregnancy.

On a recent morning, Maedke sat in the AIM Women's Center — 248 N. Fifth St. — and remembered how the birth of her now 18-year-old granddaughter transformed the lives of her and her family. Maedke's husband Thomas is a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Steubenville. They are the parents of three children. It was their oldest daughter who caused the Maedke family to relocate from Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Steubenville.

As a senior in high school, Maedke explained that her and her husband's oldest daughter became pregnant. Even though she had an infant, the Maedke's daughter's desire was to attend Franciscan University of Steubenville. "We told her we would support her," Maedke said. That meant that Thomas and Sharon Maedke quit their jobs and moved to Steubenville with their family.

"It transformed all of our lives," she said.

Early in their relocation, Maedke said that she was invited to volunteer at AIM Women's Center. "I have met the nicest women at AIM," she added.

When asked to become the director, approximately 15 years ago, Maedke said she knew she could do the job

with the women, who she called prayerful and godly, that were there to help her. "It is God's ministry," she said.

Though she declared, "I just enjoy coming to work every day," Maedke said the time has come for someone else to direct AIM Women's Center. "I really feel the Lord nudging me. It is such a strong ministry. It is time for somebody to step up and take it to the next level."

Maedke had praise for the AIM staff and volunteers.

Some of the free services offered by AIM are pregnancy testing, obstetrical

To Page 4



(Photo by DeFrancis)

Sharon Maedke

Bishop John King Mussio Central preschoolers celebrate heart month

STEUBENVILLE — February is American Heart Month.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women. Every year one in four deaths is caused by heart disease.

Each year, 40,000 babies are born with congenital heart defects.

The issue of heart defects was made more real, recently, to Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary School preschoolers, when 41 of the boys and girls learned how one of their peers underwent heart surgery as an infant and faces more surgery, probably when a teenager.

Ladonna Nese, teacher of the BJKM 4-year-olds, invited Halle Wright's mother, Kelly, to the classroom to explain her daughter's heart problems.

Very early in her pregnancy, Wright said she was told there was something wrong with her baby's heart. Once Halle was born, the doctors at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, diagnosed the problem. At five weeks, Halle had emergency surgery. Three weeks later, she underwent a second procedure to drain fluid from around her heart, Wright explained.

When Halle is approximately 8, additional testing will begin that will set the schedule for surgery to replace the flap that



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton greets Halle Wright, seated left, her classmates and her mother, Kelly, standing, at the Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary School preschool. The preschoolers pray for the bishop daily said their teacher Ladonna Nese and her aides, Vickie D'Ortenzio and Patty Hanle. (Photo by DeFrancis)

takes the place of her pulmonary valve, Kelly Wright said. "Doctors hope to wait until she is nearly fully grown."

Meanwhile, the 4-year-old is really, really active and healthy, Halle's mother said.

She has no restrictions on her activities, yet.

Halle, her mother and brothers, Michael, 10, and Zach, 7, are Steubenville residents and members of Blessed Sacrament Parish,

Wintersville. Michael and Zach are students at Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary School, also.

The day Halle's mother visited BJKM, with photographs from her daughter's medical care as an infant to talk about heart defects, the preschoolers, also, wore red. Wearing that color early during heart month is a tradition that began 13 years ago to bring attention to the heart disease and stroke that causes one in three deaths among women yearly, American Heart Association data reads.

Preschoolers, also, gave donations for the Mended Little Hearts, an offshoot of Mended Hearts, which since 1951 has provided hope and support to heart patients and their families. Beginning in 2004, Mended Little Hearts has focused on families and caregivers of children with heart defects and heart disease. It provides answers, education, resources and peer-to-peer support, information on the organization reads.

As the preschoolers sat around their worktables, they strung what Wright called beads of courage, a practice Children's Hospital staff does for young patients as they receive treatment. In addition, they made cards for hospitalized boys and girls.

Pope's encyclical focus of April 28 symposium at Franciscan University

STEUBENVILLE — An April 28 symposium on Pope Francis' encyclical — "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home" — will be held at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Co-sponsored by the Diocese of Steubenville and Franciscan University's Veritas Center for Ethics in Public Life and Science and Faith Lecture Series, the symposium will be held from 2-9 p.m. to address "Laudato Si'" from a variety of perspectives and disciplines — economics, climatology, theology, philosophy, ecology, energy and psychology.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton will open the symposium.

Speakers will include Kenneth Kunkel, professor of atmospheric sciences whose more than 25-year research has centered on climate variability and change, North Carolina State University, and Lonnie Ellis, associate director, Catholic Climate Covenant, an organization formed from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Franciscan University panelists include John Crosby, philosophy; Patricia Donohue, theology; Justin Greenly, engineering; Eric Haenni, biology; Marita O'Brien,

psychology; Michael Welker, business; Benjamin Wiker, political science; and Petroc Willey, catechetics.

To register for the free symposium and for more information, visit www.franciscan.edu/laudato-si/.

NEED A PASSPORT?

Citizens of Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania come to the Jefferson County Auto Title Department or Rayland, Ohio Auto Title Department.

Both offices open Monday – Friday and Rayland office is also open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **EXCEPT** when a holiday falls on a Friday or a Monday.

Upon purchase of your **PASSPORT** with us, your photo I.D. is "**FREE.**"

This can be a savings of \$7 to \$50.

Call (740) 283-8509 or (740) 859-0411

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

••• ALLOW 4 TO 6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY •••

CLERK OF COURTS

www.jeffersoncountyoh.com

Preplanning your final wishes is essential
Prefunding is an option but not a requirement
We have affordable **interest free** payment plans available
Call us today for a free "Funeral Cost Estimate"



Mosti Funeral Homes, Inc.

Sunset Chapel 44.35, Sunset Blvd., Steubenville, Ohio 43953

740-264-4767

321 South 4th Street, Steubenville, Ohio 43952

740-282-2541

"A Funeral Service For A Life Remembered"

GENERATION AFTER GENERATION, RIESBECK'S FOOD MARKETS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A NAME YOU CAN RELY ON FOR TOTAL SERVICE. IN OUR FULL SERVICE BAKERIES, YOU'LL FIND GRANDMA RIESBECK'S ORIGINAL RECIPES STILL BEING USED TODAY. THAT'S JUST ONE WAY RIESBECK'S CONTINUES TO SERVE YOU.

GENERATION AFTER GENERATION.



Riesbeck's®
Food Markets

BARNESVILLE • BRIDGEPORT • CAMBRIDGE • FOLLANSBEE
ELM GROVE • NEW CONCORD • SHADYSIDE
SOUTH ZANESVILLE • ST. CLAIRSVILLE • TORONTO
WINTERSVILLE • WOODSFIELD • ZANESVILLE

Riesbeck's®
PHARMACY 
Service You Can Trust!

BRIDGEPORT • CAMBRIDGE • SHADYSIDE
SOUTH ZANESVILLE • ST. CLAIRSVILLE
WINTERSVILLE

Stay connected to Riesbeck's!
www.riesbeckfoods.com

 Like us on Facebook |  follow us on twitter



Work continues by James White Construction Co., Weirton, West Virginia, to set the stage for a renovated, restored and renewed Holy Name Cathedral, Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton told the diocesan Presbyteral Council Feb. 11 in St. Clairsville. The facade of the former Youth Center that stood next to the cathedral rectory on South Fifth Street, Steubenville, is being removed to permit realignment of streets to create a pedestrian-friendly walkway. (Photo by DeFrancis)

Presbyteral Council sits in regular session Feb. 11

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — When Presbyteral Council met in a regularly scheduled session Feb. 11, proposed funeral instructions for diocesan priests that will be considered by Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton were accepted.

The council – comprised of priests who aid the bishop in the governance of the diocese – received the multiple pages of instruction forms from Father Thomas A. Chillog, Diocese of Steubenville episcopal vicar for pastoral planning and personnel. He, also, chairs Presbyteral Council.

As explained by Father Chillog, the information requested for a priest’s funeral arrangement, vigil service, funeral liturgy with Mass and rite of committal will be examined now by Bishop Monforton for possible promulgation. If the bishop approves the forms, the pages are to be completed by each diocesan priest and submitted to the Office of the Chancellor, Linda A. Nichols, 422 Washington St., Steubenville.

The same documentation is expected to be received from Diocese of Steubenville permanent deacons, Father Chillog said.

As Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general, detailed financial items to Presbyteral Council, meeting in St. Mary Church, Marian Hall, one of the things he discussed was parish audits. During parish audits, initiated in 2007, certified public accountants review parish finances, Msgr. Kemo explained. The audits occur on a three-year cycle. Parishes to be audited this year include St. Francis Xavier, Malvern; St. Gabriel, Minerva; St. Joseph and St. Francis of Assisi, Toronto; St. Teresa of Avila, Cadiz; Sacred Heart, Hopedale; St. Matthias Mission, Freeport; St. Joseph, Amsterdam; St. John Fisher, Richmond; Our Lady of Mercy, Carrollton; St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Morges; along with St. John, Bellaire; Sacred Heart, Neffs; St. John Vianney, Powhatan Point; St. Mary, Shadyside; St. James, McConnellsville; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Barnesville; St. Mary, Temperanceville; St. Joseph and St. Lawrence O’Toole, Ironton; St. Mary Mission, Pine Grove; St. Louis, Gallipolis; and Sacred Heart, Pomeroy. The majority of the audits will occur after April 15 and are expected to be completed by June, Msgr. Kemo said.

As discussion continued on diocesan finances, Bishop Monforton added that efforts are being made to obtain a grant for the diocese from Catholic Extension. Already, he said, \$25,000 has been received from a Catholic Home Missions’ grant. That money has been dedicated to Hispanic ministry.

During further discussion of diocesan finances, Father John F. Mucha, who chairs the Priests’ Retirement Plan, said recent reports had indicated that if no changes occurred in the priests’ pension fund, it could run out of money in 25 years. However, he said, in viewing the plan with others nationwide, it ranks in the upper third for security. And, an estimated \$260,000 infusion to the fund from the diocese is a welcome addition, Father Mucha said. That money was realized by the diocese from oil and natural gas leases. Too, Father Mucha said he is encouraged because some priests designate the pension fund in their wills and estates. Therefore, presently, he said, “I am not overly concerned. I am not sure that the fund ever will be fully funded, because we have no control over the market. But, I am comfortable in the fact that the fund is in the upper third in the country.”

Early in the meeting, Jacopa Sister Mary Brigid Callan was introduced as the new stewardship and development director for the diocese.

Just prior to the meeting’s conclusion, Father Thomas A. Nelson, a parochial vicar in the diocese, was elected executive secretary for Presbyteral Council.

Bishop Monforton’s Schedule

- Feb. 27 Diocesan Men’s Day of Renewal Mass, St. Stephen Church, Caldwell, 2 p.m.
- 28 Mass, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, Fulda, 9 a.m.
Mass, St. Michael Church, Carlisle, 10:30 a.m.
- March 1 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m.
- March 2 Radio segment WDEO 990 AM, 12:20 p.m.
Mass for Steubenville/Wintersville Lenten series, Blessed Sacrament Church, Wintersville, 5:15 p.m.
- 3 WAOB radio segment, 7:40 a.m., 8:40 a.m. and 6:40 p.m.

WE CHOOSE LIFE

The Knights of Columbus is proud to support life.

James B. Valent
General Agent
740-280-0280
james.valent@kofc.org

LIFE INSURANCE DISABILITY INSURANCE LONG-TERM CARE RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

JOSEPH A. GABIS, M.D.
DANIELLE HERRICK POZIVIAK C.N.P.

CARDIOLOGY

Medical Office Building
92 North Fourth Street
Martins Ferry, OH 43935
PHONE: (740) 633-6462

FORT STEUBEN BURIAL ESTATES ASSOCIATION
801 Canton Road – Wintersville OH 43953
(740) 266-6101

“Where the Memory of Beautiful Lives Will be Kept Beautiful . . . Always”

Pre-need planning for graves, vaults, bronze memorials and chapel mausoleum.

LIBERTY BANK
“Serving the Community Since 1896”

314 PARK AVE., IRONTON
(740) 532-2856 • (740) 886-9491
www.libbk.com

FDIC

Fellow Catholics

J&D
WATERPROOFING
Since 1939

- Basement Waterproofing
- Foundation Repair
Full Wall Anchors
- Free Basement Inspection & Estimates
- Day, Evening or Weekend Appointments
Shop at Home

1-800-VERYDRY
1-800-837-9379

Joe Billante

DCCW Lenten Day of Spirituality, March 12, at St. Clairsville church

HARRISVILLE/TORONTO — “Prayer” is the focus of the theme of the fifth annual Lenten Day of Spirituality for Diocese of Steubenville women.

Franciscan Sister Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother Mary Catherine Kasuboski will be the featured presenter for the day of spirituality that will be held at St. Mary Church, 218 W. Main St., St. Clairsville, under the sponsorship of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, said Pam Ambrose, DCCW president, and DeDe Kidder, DCCW past president and publicity chairwoman.

A 1993 graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Sister Mary Catherine earned a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish. She taught in Nicaragua for a year. On her return to the Steubenville area, she entered the Franciscan Sisters, whose motherhouse is located in Toronto.

For 13 years, Sister Mary Catherine served her community’s finance office, six

as general treasurer. In addition, she has worked in campus ministry at Franciscan University of Steubenville and has given retreats, parish missions and addressed student groups. Currently, Sister Mary Catherine, also a singer who loves to read and write, serves the Franciscan Sisters as the first general councilor. In her community’s local leadership, Sister Mary Catherine, too, directs the formation of sisters who are in temporary vows.

Retreatants are urged by Sister Mary



(Photo provided)

Sister Mary Catherine

Catherine to come to the day of spirituality with a Bible, since she will focus on “Prayer: Growing in Friendship with God”; “Put Out into the Deep: Overcoming Obstacles to Prayer”; and “Prayer: a Personal Encounter with God.” She has said that it is her hope that in the context of her third talk, she will give participants an opportunity to apply what they have learned about prayer in the first two talks and to have a prayer experience – a real encounter with God.

The Lenten Day of Spirituality will begin with registration, starting at 8:30 a.m. and continuing until 9:45 a.m.

Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. and again at 4:30 p.m. at St. Mary Church on

the day of the Lenten retreat.

The morning’s Lenten-day program will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m.

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 Rebecca Thacker, DCCW treasurer. Her address is 6 Woodside Drive, Athens, OH 45701; her email bobcatprof@yahoo.com and her telephone number (740) 447-2321.

Checks for registration should be made payable to the Steubenville DCCW and mailed with the reservation.

Questions about the day of spirituality can be asked of Ambrose, P.O. Box 234, Harrisville, OH 43974, and telephone (740) 546-3685 or Joanne Kolanski, 46919 Columbia St., St. Clairsville, OH 43950, telephone (740) 695-1617 or (740) 312-8356 or email jkolanski51@comcast.net.

Former West Virginia resident featured speaker at annual AIM fundraiser

STEUBENVILLE — The AIM Women’s Center annual fundraising banquet March 15 is themed from Scripture – “Do Everything in Love” (1 Cor 16:14).

Kristan Mercer-Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America, will be the featured speaker at the fundraiser at the Serbian-American

Cultural Center, 1000 Colliers Way, Weirton, West Virginia, announced Sharon Maedke, AIM Women’s Center director.

Founded in 1988 and reorganized in 2006, Students for Life is a pro-life, non-



(Photo provided)

Kristan Mercer-Hawkins

profit organization that seeks to end abortion, euthanasia and infanticide by educating students about these issues and identifying pro-life student leaders and giving them the training skills and resources to spread their message, information on the organization reads. Students for Life sends field teams to organize new campus pro-life groups on American college and high school cam-

puses. Mercer-Hawkins is credited with helping triple the number of campus pro-life groups in the U.S.

Mercer-Hawkins grew up in Wellsburg, West Virginia, and was a volunteer at the

AIM Women’s Center in downtown Steubenville while still a student at Brooke High School (Brooke County, West Virginia). As a teenager, she served as the West Virginia Teens for Life president and, also, started a pro-life group on her Bethany College campus. Presently, she, her husband and four children reside in the St. Paul, Minnesota, area.

Seating for the AIM Women’s Center event begins at 6 p.m. Dinner and the program will begin at 7 p.m.

Since it began operation in 1987, AIM has assisted thousands of women. Information on the organization points to its offering free services to support women

who are experiencing an unexpected or crisis pregnancy. AIM’s goal is to erase the need for abortion. The women’s center provides counseling, free pregnancy tests, free limited ultrasounds, a learn and earn program and a 24-hour help line. All AIM’s services are confidential and have no eligibility requirements, it is stressed. Private contributions and individual donations fund AIM. The women’s center can be reached at (740) 283-3636 or via its website www.aimfriendsforlife.org.

While in the area, Mercer-Hawkins, also, is expected to visit the Franciscan University of Steubenville campus, March 16, a spokeswoman for Students for Life said.

AIM director to retire

From Page 1

ultrasounds, parenting classes, material assistance, educational programming, post-abortion counseling, adoption referrals and a 24-hour help line.

Throughout her years of service, Maedke said she has witnessed an increase in the client base at AIM. “We are seeing more abortion-driven women. The reason we are here is to step up alongside of them.” These women are in a situation – unplanned pregnancy, something not thought about, not wanted – that involves what is the number

one decision that they will make in their lifetime and will impact their life more than any other they have to make, Maedke said.

The women arrive at AIM through various routes – sometimes word-of-mouth, maybe the AIM website, www.aimwomenscenter.com. Many of the women are very young; others are a little older, in their 20s. Some of the 18- to 25-year-olds have had previous abortions.

AIM gives the women everything they need to make a decision to choose life, Maedke said.



Knights of Columbus®
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE®



John Spencer
740-444-9632
John.Spencer@kofc.org
Kofcspencer.com

Protecting Catholic families since 1882.

Life Insurance • Long-Term Care
Retirement Annuities • Disability



Memorials

Creative, Affordable, Forever

Serving Families Throughout the Diocese of Steubenville

Hayslip Memorials
175 Main St., Wintersville, OH
(740) 264-0823

Gallagher & Son’s Monuments
St. Clairsville, OH
(740) 695-4800

Malaga, OH
(740) 472-1210

Cambridge Monuments
Cambridge, OH
(740) 432-5462

Miller Memorials
Marietta, OH
(740) 373-5041

ProximoTravel

Pilgrimages for Catholics and people of all faiths

Prices starting at \$2,499 ~ with Airfare Included in this price from anywhere in the USA

Several trips to different destinations: the Holy Land; Italy; France, Portugal, & Spain; Poland; Medjugorje, Lourdes, & Fatima; Ireland & Scotland; England; Austria, Germany, & Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; Viking Cruises; Caribbean Cruises; Budapest; Prague; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Colombia; Brazil; Argentina; Domestic Destinations; etc...

We also specialize in custom trips for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

(Hablamos Español)
www.proximotravel.com
anthony@proximotravel.com

508-340-9370
855-842-8001
Call us 24/7

For the third time annually, Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School, Steubenville, students forego a usual lunch and instead, choose rice in support of Mary's Meals. Founded in 2002, Mary's Meals is based on the concept that every child should be able to receive one good meal a day in his or her school. Presently, more than 900,000 students are fed through the meals that center, too, on lifting the world's poorest out of poverty through education. Theresa Danaher, Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary and Junior High School principal, explained that she, junior high teachers, staff and students buy rice and bottled water during a Lenten lunch and donate the proceeds to Mary's Meals. This year \$575 was raised toward the junior high goal of \$7,254, Danaher said. Students want to continue their support of "Cynthia's Kitchen," named in honor of deceased Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School student Cynthia Phillipson, who participated in Mary's Meals locally in 2014, Danaher said. "Cynthia's Kitchen," located at St. Dominic School in Liberia, feeds 372 students a day. BJKM Junior High students have raised approximately half of their goal, Danher said. To support "Cynthia's Kitchen," send donations to BJKM Junior High, 320 West View Ave., Suite 2, Steubenville, OH, 43952. Make checks payable to BJKM Junior High and write Cynthia's Kitchen or Mary's Meals on the memo line. (Photo by DeFrancis)



Catechumens, candidates

From Page 1

their respective parishes – and candidates – to enter into full communion with the church by receiving confirmation and first Eucharist.

After sharing lunch in the St. Agnes Church hall, prior to walking upstairs for the presentation of catechumens and candidates, the soon to be members of the Toronto Catholic community sat with their pastor, Father Thomas A. Vennitti, and talked about their faith journey.

Betty Waggoner is no stranger to the Catholic Church. She is a graduate of St. Joseph School, Toronto. She was a Byzantine Catholic, who 48 years ago married a Methodist, Butch, in his home church. Beth DeGarmo, the Waggoner's daughter, is responsible for her parents, her husband, Kevin, and son, Cole, joining the Toronto Catholic community.

As Beth DeGarmo explained, it was approximately three years ago when, "I felt something was missing, so I started going to morning Mass." Sometime later, at her invitation, her parents, husband and son joined her at Mass. Now, in RCIA, all have praise for Father Vennitti and during the Easter Vigil will become members of the Toronto Catholic community.

Fourteen-year-old Cole sat, too, with his sponsor, fellow Toronto City Schools' student Nathan Keenan, 16. The two are friends, play football and lift together, they said. There was no hesitation on Nathan's part when he was asked to stand with Cole, he said. Faith is part of their routine, especially as football players, whose coaches encourage prayer and even participation in services in different city churches before home games, the youth said.

For the 23-year-old Payne, his sponsor is his soon to be wife, Emily VanNuys. The two will be married in August by Father Vennitti, they said.

As he greeted the people, in the lower level of St.

Agnes Church, Bishop Monforton entertained questions. In response to one on the importance of the laity in the church, he said, "You are the evangelizers."

On another, on the need for prayer, he replied, "Prayer begins with the heart, not the head. ... In prayer, we are always in God's presence."

During his homily, Bishop Monforton reminded the people that as faithful followers of Jesus, that Jesus is the one we are called to imitate. To do that, he suggested the words of Pope Francis, "Holiness does not mean doing extraordinary things, but carrying out daily things in an extraordinary way – with love, joy and faith."

Father James M. Dunfee is pastor of St. Agnes Parish.

Others expected at the rites of election included Christ the King University Parish and St. Paul Parish, Athens, two catechumens and six candidates; Noble County parishes of Corpus Christi, Belle Valley, St. Stephen, Caldwell, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Fulda, and St. Stephen, Caldwell, one catechumen and one candidate; St. Bernard, Beverly, one catechumen and two candidates; St. Mary of the Hills, Buchtel, and Holy Cross, Glouster, two catechumens and seven candidates; St. Teresa of Avila, Cadiz, three candidates; Christ Our Light, Cambridge, five catechumens and eight candidates; St. Frances Cabrini,

Colerain, one candidate; St. Louis, Gallipolis, five candidates; St. Joseph and St. Lawrence O'Toole, Ironton, six catechumens and five candidates; St. Ambrose, Little Hocking, one catechumen and nine candidates; Our Lady of Mercy, Lowell, two candidates; St. Francis Xavier, Malvern, and St. Gabriel, Minerva, two catechumens and four candidates; St. Mary, Marietta, seven catechumens and 15 candidates; St. Mary, St. Clairsville, one catechumen and one candidate; Franciscan University of Steubenville, one candidate; Holy Family, Steubenville, three candidates; Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes, Wintersville, three catechumens and four candidates; and St. Sylvester, Woodsfield, two catechumens and six candidates.



COOKING TRADITIONS

Featuring Rusyn and American Favorites

"Cooking Traditions" is a 130-page cookbook featuring Christmas and Easter recipes according to the Rusyn-Slavonic traditions in our Byzantine rite.

This book also showcases many great recipes for Eastern European foods and contemporary American favorites: halushki, potato dumpling halushki, stuffed cabbage, soups, casseroles, baked goods and meat dishes.

"Cooking Traditions" is available from St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, McKeesport, for \$12 at the church or \$15 per mail order.

Remit check or money order for \$15 per book payable to St. Nicholas Church, 410 Sixth St., McKeesport, PA 15132; do not call on Sundays.

For additional information, call (412) 664-9131, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Allow three weeks for mail delivery.



Samaritan House
Thrift Store


424 Washington Street
(740) 282-0563

Emergency
⊕
Food bank

Hours: M, T, TH, F 9:30-3:30
20 cent Tuesdays • Volunteers needed

**CAWLEY & PEOPLES
FUNERAL HOMES**

Marietta (373-1111) Lowell (896-3000)
Barlow (678-2277)



FURNITURE • TV • APPLIANCES
143 N. FOURTH ST.
STEUBENVILLE OH 43952
PHONE: 283-1222


MT. CALVARY CEMETERY

94 Mt. Calvary Lane
Steubenville, OH 43952

Phone: (740) 264-1331
Fax: (740) 264-9203
E-mail: mtcalvarycemetery@att.net


Eternal Rest Grant Them, O Lord

Richard A. Pizzoferrato, Superintendent



Morrison
INCORPORATED

Refrigeration • Heating •
Air Conditioning
Colegate Drive, Marietta
373-5869



Real Living
McCarthy Real Estate

Real People. Real Service. Real Results.
318 2nd St., Marietta, OH 45750
740-373-1523
800-367-9558
www.MariettaRealEstate.com

STEUBENVILLE  DIOCESE

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

www.steubenvillecee.org

... a wedding is just a day ... a marriage is a lifetime

**CITY RESCUE
MISSION, INC.**

Prompt pick-up
Clothing • Household Misc.
Furniture • Glassware • Small Appliances
644 Market St.
283-1621 or 282-4851

Schuetz Funeral Home

Mingo Junction, Ohio
(740) 317-7282
Jeffrey Schuetz LIC

Full service casket and vault \$4,999
Cremation and urn, \$1,195

**Tri-State
Printing
Company**
Commercial Printing

157 N. 3rd St.
Steubenville

740/283-3686
800/642-1166

St. John Paul II Jesus' Awareness of His Redemptive Sacrifice

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

St. John Paul introduces his next reflection on the death and resurrection of Jesus with the question: "To what extent was Jesus aware of this purpose of his mission (i.e., the redemption of the human race)? When and how did he perceive his vocation to offer himself in sacrifice for the sins of the world?"

To most of us, this may seem a strange question. Jesus was God, the second person of the blessed Trinity. Why would he *not* know of God's plans for the world and for himself as man? However, recent speculation by some theologians raises the question of the *consciousness* of Jesus as man. As man, did he know and understand all that he did as God? We might say, at the very beginning of the discussion that the question can be considered moot. Jesus was, after all, one person, but with the natures of both God and man. People may speculate all they wish, but the bottom line is that we do not have – nor can we have – any experience of what it is like to have two natures in the same person. At most, all we can do is guess. Nevertheless, since the question has been raised, let us see how John Paul addresses it.

John Paul admits: "It is not easy to penetrate the historical evolution of Jesus' consciousness." The only source of information possible on such a subject is that of divine revelation itself. As usual, the pope turns to sacred Scripture first. Luke's Gospel tells us that Jesus, as a youngster, "progressed steadily in wisdom and age and grace before God and men" (Lk 2:52). We are told, therefore, that, as a human being, Jesus grew up and matured much like the rest of us. How much his divine consciousness had to do with this, we are not told. There are passages in the Gospels, as we have already seen, where Jesus knew of his mission and would not be deterred from it, e.g., when he foretold his future death at the hands of the Jewish leadership. Peter insisted that he would never allow such a thing to happen. Jesus' reply was, "Get out of my way, you Satan

(i.e., obstacle) you are judging not by God's standards, but by man's" (Mk 8:33).

Again, we read where Jesus declared, "I have come to light a fire on the earth. How I wish that blaze were ignited! I have a baptism to receive. What anguish I feel until it is over" (Lk 12:49-50)! In the opening address of his public life in the synagogue at Nazareth, he announced his mission. Quoting Isaiah, he said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, therefore, he has anointed me (meaning commissioned me for a task)." That task was, among other things, "To preach the good news" (Lk 4:16-19). On another occasion, Jesus said, "The Son of Man has come not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life in ransom for many" (Mk 10:45).

Even at age 12, when he was found by Mary and Joseph in the Temple speaking with the learned, he declared, "He must be about his Father's business" (Lk 2:49). Before beginning his public life, Jesus joined the crowds who were being baptized by John at the Jordan River in order to identify with the masses of humanity whom he came to save and was identified by John as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (Jn 1:29).

In his preaching, Jesus often described his own mission in parables, e.g., the bridegroom whose friends do not fast while he is present (Mk 2: 18-20); the son of the landowner who is killed by the unjust tenants (Mt 21:33-46), etc.

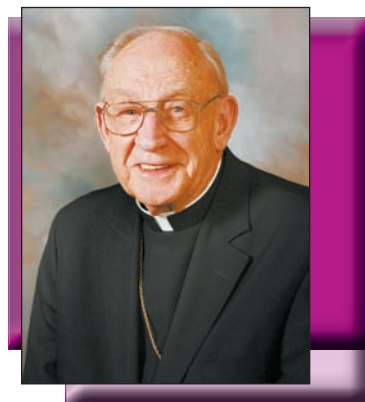
John Paul calls special attention to the training of his apostles regarding his mission. In the occasion at Caesarea Philippi, he asked them what people were saying about him. They told him that some say he's a reincarnation of John the Baptist, or of Elijah, or one of the other prophets. When Jesus asked what they have to say about him, Peter spoke up: "You are the messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said, "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah. No mere man has revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven." He went on then to declare that Peter was to be the rock upon which he would build his church, against which even the gates of hell would not prevail (Mt 16: 13-20). This

passage is especially interesting for our consideration here, since it implies that Jesus, as man, was privy to the mind and plan of God the Father. There follows in Matthew's Gospel the scene quoted above, where Jesus predicted his passion and death, and Peter, the "rock," protested: "God forbid, Lord.

This shall never happen to you." Peter had to be rebuked by Jesus for not getting the picture (Mt 16:22).

The pope points out: "We should note, however, that in the texts quoted, when Jesus announced his passion and death, he spoke also of his resurrection, which would take place 'on the third day.'" This does not in any way affect the essential significance of the messianic sacrifice by death on the cross. On the contrary, it emphasizes its salvific and life-giving meaning. This pertains to the most profound essence of Christ's mission: the world's redemption. Jesus was to fulfill the true Passover, that is, the passage of man to a new life in God. It is in this same spirit, John Paul shows, that Jesus trained and formed his followers, especially his Apostles. They must expect to follow in the footsteps of their Master. Like him, they are to expect to be rejected, to be opposed, persecuted, and, in not a few cases, literally, to be put to death. "They will hand you over to the courts. You will be arraigned before governors and kings because of me as a witness before them" (Mk 13:9). "They will hand you over to persecution, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of my name" (Mt 24:9). "Truly, I say, to you ... you will grieve, but your grief will become joy" (Jn 16:20). John Paul continues: "Both the apostles and the church are called upon in all ages to take part in Christ's paschal mystery in its entirety."

Clearly, Jesus knew what he was saying and why, because he spoke with the consciousness of both God and man!



Bishop Sheldon

... Jesus knew what he was saying and why, because he spoke with the consciousness of both God and man!

God's Inexhaustibility

By Father Ron Rolheiser

Many of us, I am sure, have been inspired by the movie, "Of Gods and Men," which tells the story of a group of Trappist monks who, after making a painful decision not to flee from the violence in Algeria in the 1990s, are eventually martyred by Islamic extremists in 1996. Recently, I was much inspired by reading the diaries of one of those monks, Christophe Lebreton. Published under the title "Born from the Gaze of God: The Tibhirine Journal of a Martyr Monk," his diaries chronicle the last three years of his life and give us an insight into his, and his community's, decision to remain in Algeria in the face of almost certain death.

In one of his journal entries, Christophe shares how in this situation of hatred and threat, caught between Islamic extremists on one side and a corrupt government on the other, in seeking

ground for hope, he draws upon a poem, "The Well," by a French poet, Jean-Claude Renard:

*But how can we affirm it's already too late
to fulfill the desire –
so patient does the gift remain;
and when always, perhaps, something or
someone says, from the depth of silence and nakedness,
that an ineffable fire continues to dig in us
beneath wastelands peopled by thorns
a well that nothing exhausts.*

A well that nothing exhausts. Perhaps that is the real basis for hope.

For all of us there are times in life when we seem to lose hope, when we look at the world or at ourselves and, consciously or unconsciously, think: "It's too late! This has gone too far! Nothing can redeem this! All the chances to change this have been used up! It's hopeless!"

But is this natural, depressive feeling in fact a loss of hope? Not necessarily. Indeed it is precisely when we feel this way, when we have succumbed to the feeling that we have exhausted all of our chances, it's then that hope can arrive and replace its counterfeits, wishful thinking and natural optimism. What is hope?

We generally confuse hope with either wishful thinking

or with natural optimism, both of which have little to do with hope. Wishful thinking has no foundation. We can wish to win a lottery or to have the body of a world-class athlete, but that wish has no reality upon which to draw. It's pure fantasy. Optimism, for its part, is based upon natural temperament and also has little to do with hope. Terry

To Page 8

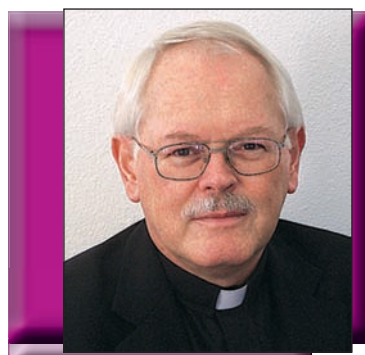
The Steubenville Register

Biweekly publication of the Diocese of Steubenville
P.O. Box 160, 422 Washington St.
Steubenville, OH 43952-5160
email: register@diosteub.org

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

Telephone (740) 282-3631; FAX (740) 282-3238
Subscription rate \$15 per year in state of Ohio;
\$17 per year outside the state of Ohio;
\$24 per year to all foreign countries

Periodicals postage paid at Steubenville, OH 43952 SSN 0744-771X



Father Rolheiser

Faith and Lent

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Advocate (Holy Spirit) comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father will testify to me. And you also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning” (Jn 15:26-27).

Personal is not synonymous with private

These words of Jesus place our faith in plain view: our faith is not simply private. Each one of us is all too familiar with family members or friends, even public figures, who assert that their faith is their own and that they have no right to impose their faith on others. Such remarks confuse *evangelization* with *proselytization*. To hold the position that our faith does not transcend our private lives begs the question whether or not we hold our faith in high regard. Jesus instructs that we are responsible to testify to our faith in and out of season.

The result of living our baptismal calling is manifold. For example, as Christians we are charged to promote peace and justice in our local and international communities, to educate both young and old of the Good News in our midst (such as through our religious education programs), to be responsible custodians of this world God created to be good, and most certainly to promote

the dignity of all human life. When we engage society and our world we realize our Christian vocation to its fullest potential.

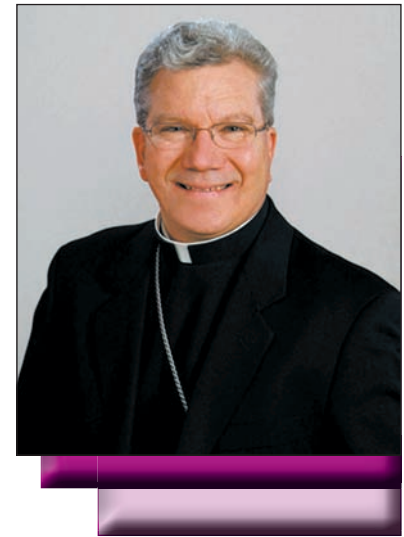
In turn, we should remember in prayer those persons who fail to embrace fully their baptismal calling, for they still are our brothers and sisters. We may not be fully aware of an occurrence or two that may have affected them which led them to be adverse or apathetic toward their faith. While there is no justifiable reason for one to “place their faith under a bushel basket,” we are encouraged to pray for all members of our faith without discrimination.

Our faith is both public and personal. Jesus Christ did not indicate that his work was done after the Easter Resurrection and the Ascension, for his work continues in you and in me.

Our Lenten Pilgrimage Continues

We ascend the mountain of Easter this Lenten season as fellow believers who are never alone. Jesus accompanies us, better yet, shows us the way leading us to the Easter Resurrection. In the meantime, we live these 40 days with the words imparted to us Ash Wednesday: *Repent and believe in the Gospel*.

We began this Lenten season with ashes on our foreheads, a reminder of the fleeting promises of this world and an invitation to our Lenten purification in preparation for the Easter season. The liturgical practice of ashes has its historical roots in our Church over 1,000 years ago. While Catholics and many Christians receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, did you know that not



Bishop Monforton

all receive on the forehead?

Lent is a time for us to remember that all are in need of conversion in one form or another. We are not perfect. This season purges those unwanted distractions from our lives and reminds us that the call to repentance remains strong.

We have reached the end of the Second Week of this Lenten season (Feb. 27). Perhaps we can take a moment to reflect on how successful we have been at our Lenten promises. It is not too late to modify or change them, as long as they train our focus on God’s enduring love.

May you and your family have a blessed Lent.

Coming Home (Fourth Sunday in Lent, Cycle C, March 6)

By Father Paul J. Walker

The story we encounter in this tale is, bar none, the most outrageous (even “comic”) of all Jesus’ parables. We need here to recall the part played by parables in the ministry of Jesus. Parables as Jesus employed them are not moral lessons urging correct action or orthodox thought. They are not something we look *at*, but something we look *through*. De Paul University Scripture Professor John Dominic Crossan calls parables “a glass of vision” (“The Dark Interval,” 1975, Argus). Looking *through* the words and deeds of Jesus will color our world – how we imagine God, the world, ourselves and others and how these three are related!

In Luke 15, we encounter, in my opinion, a parable so amazing, so awesome, it shares the essence, or heart, of the Gospel in a way exceeded only by the event of the Cross! We connect with the younger son’s sojourn into the “far country” and we can focus on the depths, the abyss, into which he has fallen: a lost legacy, a lost home and, worst of all, a lost relationship with his father.

I believe this parable gives us the wisest, most profound insight into the meaning of sin found in the Bible. To sin as the prodigal did is not to squander the family wealth, not to fornicate as the prodigal fornicated – these are *symptoms* of something more profound. To sin is to break a bond; to destroy a relationship; to withdraw myself from God my Father and from his love. But the most cogent or graphic image is that of the son wandering in the “far country” – lost and cut off from all that held him secure in his father’s house. The prodigal’s restoration with ring, robe, sandals, embrace and festive banquet to celebrate

his return is iconic, i.e., a portrait, an icon revealing God’s welcome of all who are temporarily lost: far from home, far from an affirming, forgiving and embracing relationship with God and family; those who fear they are too far gone to come back.

Now follows a rather abrupt shift to the older brother who is unwilling (unable?) to claim filial kinship with either his wayward brother or with the uncalculating love of the father. This brother epitomizes the attitude and shortsightedness of the religious leaders (scribes and Pharisees) to whom the parable is addressed. They murmur against Jesus as he over and over again violates the rabbinical dictum: “Let not a man associate with the wicked, not even to bring them to the Law.”



Father Walker

Moving around in all this drama is a notion of fatherhood that goes by the name of *patriarchy* – fatherhood becomes almost synonymous with authority, law and discipline. Again, remember the context – to whom is Jesus speaking? He speaks to the Pharisees and scribes who often complain of Jesus’ scandalous association with sinners and those outside the Law. It is they (Pharisees and scribes) who come out of such a patriarchal (juridical) organization of reality. They are accustomed to evaluate, accuse, judge – almost reflexively.

Jesus decides to introduce them (through the “glass of

vision”) to a different experience, less juridical and patriarchal, of God – (“Abba”).

At first, they must have all been with him as he begins the parable: The son, asserting independence, defying any constraint, takes off to indulge himself randomly and ends up in competition with pigs for garbage (especially disgusting in a Jewish world-view)! “So far, so good,” they think. “Let the punishment fit the crime.” They are probably also impressed by the prodigal’s orthodox reaction to his dismal situation: He must confess the validity of the Pharisaic idea as his surest bet to improve his situation. He is not truly repentant or sorry (except for himself) and harbors no purpose of amendment. He even retrieves a formula, probably learned under the teaching of the scribes, not unlike those learned in our religious formation:

- “Father, I have sinned against heaven and you”;
- “I no longer deserve to be called your son”;
- “Treat me as you would ... hired servants.”

So, having practiced it to insure he will recite it in a proper servile way, the boy makes his way back to his father’s house.

So far, Jesus’ story has kept pace with the juridical mindset of his audience. But now he introduces something unexpected that changes the whole direction, not only of the story, but of the universe itself! While the boy was still “a long way off,” the father *runs* to his son; the embrace and kiss he offers are not in the script. The father is behaving completely outside the role assigned to him! The son, remaining in his scribal role or script, begins to recite his memorized formula, but he never gets to finish, as his father overrides his declamation with an enthusiastic order for him to be clothed and ornamented as a true family

To Page 8

St. Vincent to host new evangelization

LATROBE, Pa. — Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington; Carolyn Woo, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Relief Services and Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, will keynote a conference on the new evangelization May 23-25 at St. Vincent College.

Cardinal Wuerl will give the opening address, “The New Evangelization and Higher Education: The Vision of Pope Francis.” He serves on a number of Vatican congregations, chairs numerous committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is the author of more than a dozen books, was a key figure in the 2012 synod on the New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith and was appointed by Pope Francis to the 2014 and 2015 synods on the family.

Woo will address “Campus Ministry: Our Daily Encounter with Christ.” Prior to joining CRS, she served as dean of the University of Notre Dame’s (Indiana) Mendoza College of Business. In June 2015, Woo was a presenter in Rome for the release of Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment.

Bishop Barron, founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, also, hosted Catholicism, an award-winning documentary, is a bestselling author and has a website that is said to reach millions annually. He will address “The



Cardinal Wuerl



Carolyn Woo



Bishop Barron

(Photos provided)

New Evangelization: The Impact of Social Media.”

Other speakers include William Portier, professor of theology at the University of Dayton (Ohio), whose topic will be “Curriculum and Catholic Identity? Possibilities and Limits”; Claudia Herrera, director of campus ministry at St. Thomas University (Miami, Florida), who will discuss “Campus Ministry: A Place for All God’s Children”; James V. Maher, provost emeritus, University of Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania), who will provide insights to the dialogue between faith and natural sciences with his talk “The New Evangelization: The Dialogue Between Science and Faith”; Msgr. Ray East, pastor, St. Teresa of Avila, Washington, D.C., and director of the Office of Black Catholics for the Archdiocese of Washington, who will speak on “The New Evangelization: Inculturation of the Faith”; Marcel LeJeune, assistant director of campus ministry at Texas A&M (College Station, Texas), who will talk on “Missionary Discipleship and the Public University”; and Msgr. Vincent Krische, senior adviser, Petrus Development (Austin, Texas), whose topic’s title is “Empowered by the Spirit: Campus Ministry Faces the Future.”

For additional conference information, visit www.stvincent.edu/NewEvangelization.



St. Mary School, Marietta, parent volunteers – from left, Doug Kytta, Dave Rauch and Kristi Canfield – batter fish to prepare it for the St. Mary School Lenten Fish Fry. The fish fry is held every Friday during Lent through March 18 at the 320 Marion St. school. Hours are 5-7 p.m. Items can be ordered inside or picked up via a drive-thru and include baked or fried fish dinners with baked potato or fries, cole slaw, green beans and a roll. The proceeds from the annual fish fry help support St. Mary School, which educates boys and girls in preschool through grade eight. Susan T. Rauch is school principal. Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, is the school’s pastoral administrator. St. Mary parishioners have supported the school since 1896. (Photo provided)

God’s Inexhaustibility

From Page 6

Eagleton, in a recent book, “Hope without Optimism,” suggests rather cynically that optimism is simply a natural temperament and an enslaving one at that: “The optimist is chained to cheerfulness.” Moreover, he asserts, that the optimist’s monochrome glaze over the world differs from pessimism only by being monochromatically rosy instead of monochromatically gray. Hope isn’t a wish or a mood; it is a perspective on life that needs to be grounded on a sufficient reality. What is that sufficient reality?

Jim Wallis, a salient figure of Christian hope in our time, says that our hope should not be grounded on what we see on the news of the world each night because that news constantly changes and, on any given night, can be so negative so as to give us little ground for hope. He’s right. Whether the world seems better or worse on a given evening is hardly sufficient cause for us to trust that in the end all will be well. Things might change drastically the next night.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, who perennially protested that he was a man of hope rather than of optimism, in an answer to a question, once suggested that there are two sufficient reasons for hope. Asked what would happen if we blew up the world with an atomic bomb, he replied: That would set things back a few million years, but God’s plan for the earth would still come about. Why? Because Christ promised it and,

in the resurrection, God shows that God has the power to deliver on that promise. Hope is based on God’s promise and God’s power.

But there is still another reason for our hope, something else that grounds our hope and gives us sufficient reason to live in trust that eventually all will be well, namely, God’s inexhaustibility. Underneath and beneath, beneath us and beneath our universe, there is a well that nothing exhausts.

And it is this which we so often forget or slim down to the limited size of our own hearts and imaginations: God is a prodigal God, almost unimaginable in the scope of physical creation, a God who has created and is still creating billions upon billions of universes. Moreover, this prodigal God, so beyond our imagination in creativity, is, as has been revealed to us by Jesus, equally unimaginable in patience and mercy. There is never an end to our number of chances. There is no limit to God’s patience. There is nothing that can ever exhaust the divine well.

It’s never too late! God’s creativity and mercy are inexhaustible.

Father Rolheiser is a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate priest, president of the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, lecturer, author, retreat master and widely circulated newspaper columnist. His website is www.ronrolheiser.com.

Coming Home

From Page 7

member, calls for a feast to be prepared and with wild joy in his heart and his voice exclaims, “... this son of mine was dead, and has come to life. ... He was lost and has been found.”

By now Pharisees and scribes who have heard the parable are less concerned about the prodigal and more worried about the father! Definitely out of character; he’s uttering things to be found nowhere in any orthodox ritual of repentance: no scolding, no yelling, no reprimanding, no setting punishment – he sees only the object of his love. The elder son, like Jesus’ audience, is having his father-son database reprogrammed. For this older youth, his father is someone to be obeyed, to be pleased, someone from whom love is earned by being the patriarchal image of the “good son.” He did not understand being loved simply because he was a son. In his anger at the father, he is unable to go rejoicing into the feast of life set for all lost and wayward sons and daughters who “get” what a father’s (God’s) wild, unconditional love can look like, the lengths to which it stretches and the depths to which it plummets.

As are all of Jesus’ parables, here is an icon disclosing the God who adores us even more than the Law would have us adore him; the God who longs not so much to correct us as to embrace us. The story offers a framework in which to imagine and explore both sin and grace:

- sin – wandering, lost in the far country, away from home and the relationships that hold us there;
- grace – coming home, the embrace of God who waits, watches and sets the banquet table. Indeed, this parable is the

center of the universe of grace, the sun around which everything orbits.

Late German Lutheran Theologian Helmut Thielicke (1908-1986) offers this insight on the parable:

This is Jesus Christ himself who is speaking. And he is not merely telling us about this father; the Father is in him. He is not merely imagining a picture of an alleged heaven that is open to sinners; in him the kingdom is actually in the midst of us. Does he not eat with sinners? Does he not seek out the lost? Is he not with us when we die and leave all others behind? Is he not the light that shines in the darkness? Is he not the very voice of the Father’s heart that overtakes us in the far country and tells us that incredibly joyful news, “You can come home. Come home?”

The ultimate theme of this story, therefore, is not the prodigal son, but the Father who finds us. The ultimate theme is not faithlessness of human beings, but the faithfulness of God. The ultimate secret of this story is this: There is a homecoming for us all because there is a home.

“Richer Fare: Reflections on the Sunday Readings,” Page 168

Father Walker is a Diocese of Steubenville priest, retired from active parish ministry. However, he continues to reside in his hometown, McConnelsville, and celebrates weekday and Sunday Masses at St. James Church there, as well as writes a regular column for The Steubenville Register.

Pope Francis calls for jubilee moratorium on death penalty worldwide

By Junno Arocho Esteves

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis called for a moratorium on executions during the Year of Mercy and said the Fifth Commandment, “Thou shalt not kill,” applies not only to the innocent but to the guilty as well.

“Even a criminal has the inviolable right to life, a gift of God,” he said Feb. 21 after reciting the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

Marking the beginning of an international conference “For a world without the death penalty,” sponsored by the Community of Sant’Egidio, the pope expressed hope that it will strengthen efforts to abolish the death penalty.

Increasing opposition worldwide to the death penalty as “an instrument of legitimate social defense” is “a sign of hope,” he said. “This issue has to be considered within the perspective of penal justice, which is more and more in compliance with human dignity and God’s plan for humanity and society,” the pope said.

The pope appealed to world leaders to reach an international consensus on the abolition of the death penalty. He

also proposed Catholic government leaders “make a courageous and exemplary gesture by seeking a moratorium on executions during this holy Year of Mercy.”

“All Christians and people of goodwill are called today to work not only for the abolition of the death penalty, but also to improve the conditions of life in prison, in the respect of human dignity of people deprived of freedom,” he said.

In his remarks before reciting the Angelus prayer, the pope recalled his Feb. 12-17 visit to Mexico, calling it an “experience of transfiguration.”

“The Lord has shown us the light of his glory through the body of the church, of his holy people that lives in this land — a body so often wounded, a people so often oppressed, despised, violated in its dignity. The various encounters we experienced in Mexico were truly full of light: the light of a faith that transfigures faces and enlightens our path,” he said.

The main goal of his trip (Page 12), he added, was his visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe to pray before the miraculous image of Mary.

“I contemplated and I allowed myself to be gazed upon by she who carries imprinted in her eyes the gaze of all of her children, gathering up the sorrows caused by violence, kidnapping, assassinations, the violence against so many poor people, against so many women,” he said.

Pope Francis also gave thanks to God for his meeting with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, calling it “a prophetic light of the Resurrection which the world today needs more than ever.”

“May the holy mother of God continue to guide us on the path of unity,” the pope said.

Before concluding his address, the pope prescribed some “spiritual medicine” to the faithful for the Lenten season: the rosary.

Volunteers, including some poor, homeless and refugees along with religious, distributed small white boxes with an anatomical drawing of the human heart that contained a rosary along with the Divine Mercy image of Jesus.

“Receive this gift as a spiritual help to spread love, forgiveness and brotherhood, especially during this Year of Mercy,” the pope said.

Death-row experience interweaves lives of priest, man he helped free

By Jerri Donohue

NORTH OLMSTED, Ohio (CNS) — When Father Neil Kokoothe first met Joseph D’Ambrosio on Ohio’s death row in December 1998, he intended to describe the funeral of the condemned man’s mother.

D’Ambrosio would not listen, however. Another inmate had told him the priest had been a lawyer before ordination. Now, D’Ambrosio pleaded for help with his case.

“It’s God’s providence,” D’Ambrosio, a lifelong Catholic, said recently of Father Kokoothe’s unexpected entrance into his life.

A three-judge panel had convicted D’Ambrosio of murder in 1989 after a trial that lasted less than three days. No forensic evidence linked him to the crime and D’Ambrosio insisted he had not killed teenager Anthony Klann.

Father Kokoothe hesitated to help.

“My ministry on death row was never about getting involved in their cases,” he said. “I simply wanted to companion some men who had been sentenced to death.”

He told D’Ambrosio he did not have time to read thousands of pages of transcripts and appellate work. Father Kokoothe was stunned when the convict informed him that his capital case filled a single volume.

The priest read it, spotting problems in the only witness account that placed D’Ambrosio at the crime scene. Father Kokoothe knew, for example, that it was impossible for the victim to scream for mercy with gaping stab wounds in his trachea. Not only was the priest a lawyer, but he also had worked as a registered nurse for 15 years.

Father Kokoothe visited D’Ambrosio a few weeks later. He promised to investigate — but only if the prisoner swore he had nothing to do with the murder. Then he added another condition.

“He looked me dead in the eye and said, ‘One little deceit and I’m through with you!’” D’Ambrosio recalled.

Father Kokoothe said that some people ignore his background as an attorney and a nurse. They assume he believes anyone claiming to be innocent.

“I think just the opposite is the case,” he said. “I want empirical proof that this is true.”

For his part, D’Ambrosio longed to clear his name.

“He knew that a new trial and new evidence would win his freedom,” Father Kokoothe said in an interview for Catholic News Service.

In his ensuing research, the priest learned that Klann, the only witness in a rape trial, had been slain before he could testify. The accused rapist was the same man who fingered D’Ambrosio for Klann’s murder.

Father Kokoothe also discovered that the prosecution had withheld crucial evidence from D’Ambrosio’s public defender.

The priest enlisted the aid of journalists who eventually publicized D’Ambrosio’s story. Still, the years rolled by.

Then another death-row inmate exhausted his appeals and he asked his spiritual adviser, a minister, to help D’Ambrosio instead. The pastor contacted a prestigious law firm and it agreed to work pro bono on D’Ambrosio’s case.

Meanwhile, Father Kokoothe continued to support D’Ambrosio. The men are close in age, with both in their mid-50s, but the priest developed a paternal attitude toward the prisoner. Prior to a retrial, a judge ordered that D’Ambrosio be released on house arrest. Father Kokoothe worried it would be cruel to give D’Ambrosio a taste of freedom, however limited. If the case went against the defendant, he might return to death row within months. Father Kokoothe advised him to stay in the county jail.

D’Ambrosio rejected the suggestion.

“One minute of freedom is worth it,” he said. “I was living in a 6-foot-by-9-foot cell for 22 years!”

D’Ambrosio moved into a friend’s apartment, leaving it only for medical appointments and meetings with his lawyers.

Then, during a pretrial hearing, the prosecution revealed that it still had not shared all physical evidence with D’Ambrosio’s defense team. A federal judge soon ordered D’Ambrosio’s release, and she ruled that his conviction and sentence be expunged. He was exonerated Jan. 23, 2012.

Prosecutors appealed her decision. In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case.

David Mills, a court-appointed attorney who ultimately ensured that D’Ambrosio was released and not retried, acknowledged Father Kokoothe’s pivotal role years earlier.

“He essentially started everything in terms of overturning Joe’s conviction,” Mills said of the priest. “By meeting with Joe and really listening, he got the ball rolling.”



Father Neil Kokoothe, pastor of St. Clarence Parish in North Olmsted, Ohio, and former death-row inmate Joe D’Ambrosio pose for a photo Feb. 11. (CNS photo/William Rieter)

As a free man, D’Ambrosio no longer needed an advocate, but his life had been on hold for two decades.

By that time, Father Kokoothe was pastor of St. Clarence Parish in North Olmsted. Many parishioners had corresponded with D’Ambrosio when he was in prison; some attended his court proceedings. Nobody objected when the parish hired the self-described jack-of-all-trades as a maintenance man.

Congregations of various religious denominations as well as groups opposed to capital punishment often invited D’Ambrosio and Father Kokoothe to relate their experience. When the two finally spoke at St. Clarence, parishioners packed the church. They presented D’Ambrosio with a watch engraved with the date of the Supreme Court decision that allowed him to get on with life. “It’s one of my most cherished things,” D’Ambrosio said. “I’ve never felt more unconditional love than I have in this parish. This is my family.”

In recent years, D’Ambrosio and Father Kokoothe addressed federal public defenders in Arizona and Idaho, the National Defense Investigators Association convention in San Diego and an anti-death penalty organization in London. In

this Year of Mercy, they will make several presentations.

Although he sometimes speaks alone, D’Ambrosio said they work best as a team.

“It’s a brother-type relationship,” D’Ambrosio said.

An incident last year illustrated this.

“Death row is not a good experience,” Father Kokoothe said. “If it were me, there would come a time when I wanted to put it behind me, totally, and just move on.”

He asked D’Ambrosio when he wanted to stop speaking about his ordeal.

Almost executed for a crime he did not commit, D’Ambrosio did not need to reflect before answering.

“Not until the death penalty is done,” he said.

U
P
and
D
O
W
N
the
D
I
O
C
E
S
E

Athens — A weekly discussion program, facilitated by Father Mark A. Moore, pastor of Christ the King University Parish and St. Paul Parish, will be presented at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., Thursdays, in the Holy Family Center, located at Christ the King University Parish; reflection and discussion will focus on Scripture and the writing of Pope Francis.

“Walk With Jesus Through Holy Week” is being sponsored by the Athens Catholic community, as a special event to learn about, and prepare, for Holy Week. Participants will have the opportunity to “Walk With Jesus” and experience Holy Week through five stations: Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane/Good Friday, the resurrection, and the food station. Registrations are required; register on the parish website, www.athenscatholic.org.

Belle Valley — “Year of Mercy” adoration and confessions will take place at 6 p.m., March 3, at Corpus Christi Church.

Corpus Christi Parish will sponsor a soup and sandwich luncheon from noon-1:30 p.m., Feb. 28, in the church hall. Beef vegetable, chicken noodle, potato soups and chili will be available, along with hog dogs and Sloppy Joes. Donations will be accepted; proceeds will benefit local college students.

Beverly — Benediction and Stations of the Cross will occur at 7 p.m., Fridays, at St. Bernard Church.

A Lenten penance service will be held at 7 p.m., March 15, at St. Bernard Church.

Subs will be sold by St. Bernard CWC for \$4 each, following Feb. 27 and Feb. 28 Masses, in the church hall.

The 19th annual performance of “People of the Passion,” featuring music, drama and dance, will be held at 7:30 p.m., March 5 and March 6, at St. Bernard Church. The presentation is not recommended for infants or toddlers.

Buchtel — The movie “Do You Believe?” will be shown Feb. 26, following the 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross, at St. Mary of the Hills Church.

Caldwell — “Year of Mercy” adoration and confessions will take place at 6 p.m., March 4, at St. Stephen Church.

A Lenten penance service will be held at 7 p.m., March 15, at St. Stephen Church.

Cambridge — Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Fridays of Lent, at St. Benedict Church.

Cambridge — St. Benedict School students will lead Stations of the Cross at 2 p.m., Fridays of Lent, at St. Benedict Church; junior high students will lead prayers and reflection. Eighth-grade students will lead “Shadow Stations” at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., March 18, at St. Benedict Church.

St. Benedict School will host an open house from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m., March 15, at 220 N. Seventh St. The school offers a faith-based curriculum for grades kindergarten through eight. Scholarships are available. The open house will provide parents and families an opportunity to meet the teachers, tour the school and sign up for an April 1 kindergarten screening. For additional information, telephone Jane Rush, school principal, at (740) 432-6751.

Carlisle — “Year of Mercy” adoration and confessions will take place at 6 p.m., March 3, at St. Michael Church.

Chesapeake — St. Ann CWC will sponsor a new project, assisting the Marshall Catholic Newman Center, which provides a home away from home for Catholic students while attending the university. The CWC will provide a covered-dish dinner for students March 31 on the Newman Center campus, 1609 Fifth Ave., Huntington, West Virginia. To volunteer, call Theresa Adkins at (740) 867-4272; monetary donations will also be accepted for future dinners.

St. Ann CWC will have a Lenten program following the celebration of the 6:30 p.m. Mass, March 2, at the church. There will be a potluck dinner that evening.

Following the March 6 celebration of the 11:15



The Ladies (and gentlemen) of St. Mary Church, Martins Ferry, say the “grandma’s homemade gnocchi” they are rolling are “the best you’ll ever taste.” This is the seventh consecutive year for the fundraiser that provides support for parish upkeep and major church projects. Gnocchi are \$5 a pound and can be ordered by calling (740) 633-3877 before March 5. Gnocchi will be available for pickup from 10 a.m. until noon, March 19, at St. Mary Central School auditorium, 24 N. Fourth St., Martins Ferry. Among those shaping the gnocchi on a recent night are, in front, from left, Lillian Laughlin, Dorothy Elliott, Bob Martini, Barbara Ann Edge, Diann Lucas, Carmen Prati-Miller, Connie Crecion, Donna Winland and Joyce Martini; and, in back, from left, Lois Suriano, Kathy Kimble, Bill Kimble, Mike Crecion, Wilbur Winland, Father Thomas Marut, St. Mary Parish pastor, and Gail Bender. (Photo provided)

a.m. Mass and a light lunch, St. Ann CWC will host Janet Ingles’ one-woman show presentation of Corrie Ten Boom, a Danish Christian, who, with her family, hid Jewish citizens from the Nazi’s during World War II, and was sent to a concentration camp for her actions.

St. Ann CWC will sponsor a pancake breakfast from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., March 13, in the church hall. Cost is \$5 for adults to eat; \$3 for children 12 years of age and under. Proceeds will benefit CWC projects.

Churchtown — An all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast will be held at St. John Central School cafeteria, 17654 Ohio Route 676, Marietta, from 8-11:30 a.m., Feb. 28. Cost for adults to eat is \$6; children eat for \$3; a family eats for \$20. There will be a bake sale at the breakfast; religious items can also be purchased.

A designer purse bingo will be held at 7 p.m., March 5, at the Knights of Columbus Council 4617 hall, 17784 Ohio Route 676, Marietta. Cost is \$20 for 20 games. Proceeds will benefit St. John Central School. Purchase tickets at the door or by calling the school, (740) 896-2697.

Fulda — “Year of Mercy” adoration and confessions will take place at 6 p.m., March 4, at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church.

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

Gallipolis — Throughout the Lenten season, Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m., Mondays, at St. Louis Church.

Ironton — Throughout the Lenten season, Stations of the Cross will be prayed Fridays, at 3 p.m., at St. Lawrence O’Toole Church, and at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Church.

Ironton — St. Luke Productions, a nationally acclaimed production company that tours throughout the country presenting dramas depicting lives of various saints and spiritual events, will present “Maximilian – Saint of Auschwitz” at 7 p.m., March 4, in St. Joseph Central High School gymnasium, 912 S. Sixth St. Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the event.

Little Hocking — Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 3:30 p.m., March 4, at St. Ambrose Church; evening prayer and Benediction will be at 6:30 p.m.

A Lenten penance service will be held at 7 p.m., March 17, at St. Ambrose Church.

Lowell — A Lenten penance service will be held at 7 p.m., March 14, at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Malvern/Minerva — Students in grades seven through 12 from St. Francis Xavier Parish, Malvern, and St. Gabriel Parish, Minerva, will sponsor a bake sale March 5 and March 6, following the celebration of all Masses at the churches. Proceeds from the event will assist a child from Honduras, sponsored by the parish school of religion, and a special roller skating event at Minerva Skating Rink.

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 distribution of holy Communion and Benediction.

The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption will have a penance service at 7 p.m., March 16.

Visitation Deanery Council of Catholic Women will have a day of recollection Feb. 28 at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption. A prayer service will be held at 2 p.m.

A Lenten penance service will be held at 7 p.m., March 16, at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption.

Martins Ferry — A Lenten penance service will be held at 3 p.m., March 6, at St. Mary Church.

McConnelsville — A talk on the Hispanic ministry, presented by Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, and administrator of St. James Parish, McConnelsville, and Sister of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd Francisca Aguillon, coordinator of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Steubenville, will take place at 1 p.m., March 8, at St. James Church.

Mingo Junction — Religious articles, including crucifixes, religious art and rosaries, all made of olive wood native to Israel and Bethlehem, will be on sale following the celebration of the 5 p.m. March 5 and the 11 a.m. March 6 Masses, at St. Agnes Church.

Around the About

Athens — Habitat for Humanity will sponsor a fundraising competition titled "Athens County Nails It" April 19. For additional information, contact George Bain by emailing gbain45701@yahoo.com or telephoning (740) 592-3828.

Barlow — A World Day of Prayer celebration will be held at 10 a.m., March 4, at the Barlow Presbyterian Church, Ohio Route 550.

Caldwell — "War Room" will be shown at 5:30 p.m., Feb. 28, at the First Church of the Nazarene, 6 Cumberland St.

Cambridge — Fish dinners, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 1641, will be served from 5-7 p.m., Feb. 26, March 4 and March 11, in St. Benedict Church social hall, and from 1-2:30 p.m., March 13, in Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory social hall. Cost to eat is \$11 for adults; \$5 for children under the age of 12; children under the age of 5 eat for free. Proceeds will benefit the Knights scholarship program.

Carrollton — St. John's Villa will sponsor "An Enchanted Evening" auction/dinner March 12 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; registrations, which are required, can be made by telephoning (330) 627-9789.

Glouster — Lenten ecumenical services will be held at 7 p.m., March 3, at the Bishopville Church of Christ, 6555 Ohio Route 78, and March 10 at the Glouster United Methodist Church, 18475 Jacksonville Road.

Martins Ferry — A community Lenten service will be held at 4 p.m., Feb. 28, at the Grace Presbyterian Church, 7 N. Fourth St.

Minerva — Knights of Columbus Council 11380 will sponsor a pancake breakfast from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., March 6, at St. Gabriel Church hall. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, home fries, scrambled eggs and beverage. Adults eat for \$5; children, ages 6 through 12, eat for \$2; children, 5 years of age and under, eat for free.

Pomeroy — Knights of Columbus Msgr. John Joseph Jessing Council 1664 will sponsor a fish dinner from noon until 7 p.m., Feb. 26 and March 4, at Sacred Heart Church hall; donations will be accepted; desserts will be sold. Proceeds from the dinners will sponsor parish and parish

school of religion activities at Sacred Heart Church.

Steubenville — The Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus will host a "Lenten Morning of Recollection," for women, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., March 5, at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Oratory, 700 Lovers Lane; child care will be provided by the sisters. The morning will include the celebration of Mass, discussions, recitation of the rosary, confessions and a time of silent adoration. To register, telephone (740) 346-2625.

Steubenville — A two-day conference "Woman: Gift in Culture and Church" will be presented April 15 and April 16 at Franciscan University of Steubenville. According to a news release from the

university, "the purpose of the conference is to increase awareness of the vocation of women according to church teaching and to give participants a deeper understanding of who women are and who they are created to be." Both men and women can attend. Tickets cost \$20 for non-Franciscan University students and \$50 for the general public. For additional information or to register, visit <http://www.franciscan.edu/wgcc-conference>.

Wheeling, W.Va. — The annual spring membership tea of the West Virginia Auxiliary of the Congregation of St. Joseph will be held from 2-4 p.m., March 13, at Mount St. Joseph, 137 St. Joseph Road. There is no charge to attend; refreshments will be served.

Up and Down the Diocese

From Page 10

Sale of the articles, by Bethlehem Christian Families, a nonprofit organization, will assist in building a charitable hospital in Bethlehem and helping the less fortunate families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

The Lenten penance service will be held at 7 p.m., March 16, at St. Agnes Church.

Pomeroy — Mass will be celebrated in Spanish at 6:30 p.m., March 13, at Sacred Heart Church. A meal will follow in the church undercroft.

Steubenville — A Lenten penance service will be held at 7 p.m., March 17, at Holy Rosary Church.

Steubenville — Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary School will sponsor an online book fair through March 1. To place an order, visit www.bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/bishopjohnkingmussioelem.

Tiltonville — A spaghetti dinner will be held from noon-3 p.m., March 6, at St.

Joseph Church. Adults eat for \$8; children under the age of 12 eat for \$6. Takeout orders will be available; cream puffs will be sold. For additional information, telephone (740) 859-4018 or (740) 859-2644.

Toronto — Potato, cabbage and prune "pirohi" are being sold following Masses at St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph churches. Cost is \$5 per dozen.

Nut, apricot and poppy seed rolls will be sold for \$10 each, following the celebration of the 5 p.m., March 12 Mass, at St. Francis of Assisi Church; the 9 a.m., March 13 Mass, at St. Joseph Church; and the 11 a.m., March 13 Mass, at St. Francis.

Wintersville — Mother of Hope Deanery Council of Catholic Women will meet at 2 p.m., March 6, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Woodsfield — A Lenten penance service will be held at 7 p.m., March 14, at St. Sylvester Church.

Obituaries

Leona E. "Skip" Saling Barton, 86, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Fulda, Feb. 8.

Mary Bayardi, 99, St. Joseph, Tiltonville, Jan. 21.

Deno C. Capello Sr., 79, St. Stephen, Caldwell, Jan. 26.

Lorra A. Cochrun, 52, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Feb. 4.

Richard E. Crum, 82, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Feb. 6.

Jennie Dematte, 85, St. Joseph, Tiltonville, Jan. 15.

Marcella C. Estep, 72, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Jan. 26.

Frances Z. Fafrak, 73, Corpus Christi, Belle Valley, Jan. 25.

Charles C. Fulton Jr., 81, 46554 Main St., Jacobsburg, Ohio, St. Mary, Shadyside, Feb. 11.

Thomas "Tucker" Hannan Sr., 81, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, Feb. 12.

Frank L. Icuss, 67, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Feb. 8.

Joseph Ludwig, 67, Adena, St. Casimir, Feb. 16.

Richard Mayeres, 76, 432 W. 36th St., Shadyside, St. Mary, Feb. 3.

Dorothy Morelli, 85, St. Lucy, Yorkville, Jan. 27.

Karen E. Stevens Offenberger, 67, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Feb. 10.

James Paoleomilio, 91, Our Lady of Lourdes, Wintersville, Jan. 31.

Carl A. "Tony" Petry, 34, St. Stephen, Caldwell, Feb. 10.

Selma "Teets" Potenzini, 78, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Feb. 14.

Gerald Rhodes, 88, St. Joseph, Tiltonville, Oct. 26, 2015.

Denvor Schell, 84, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Fulda, Jan. 11.

Audrey Stuck Sperlazza, 88, Titusville, Florida, St. Joseph, Toronto, Feb. 9.

Patsy Spina, 79, St. Joseph, Tiltonville, Dec. 1, 2015.

Mario Spong, 92, St. Lucy, Yorkville, Jan. 9.

Yvonne Berarducci Steward, 63, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Feb. 2.

John C. "Jack" Tierney, 89, 528 Spence Lane, Martins Ferry, St. Mary, Feb. 12.

Nick Trolley, 79, 60741 Green Acres, Shadyside, St. Mary, Feb. 1.

Elizabeth A. Wuletich, 77, St. Stephen, Caldwell, Jan. 26.



CCHS MARCHING BAND :
PRESENTS:

**ST. STAN'S HOMEMADE
POLISH KIELBASA
FOR EASTER!**

Taking your pre-paid orders now through **3/14/16**

Name: _____

Phone: _____ / cell _____

of pounds _____ @ \$5.00 lb

* Total pre-paid: _____

Pick up date: Sunday March 20 (9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
at CCHS Cafeteria – back of building

Send pre-paid order to: (Checks to: CCHS Band Sausage)

Catholic Central High School
Attn: Band Sausage
320 West View Ave
Steubenville, OH 43952

** orders can be dropped off @ CCHS office in marked envelope **

Questions: Call Mary Godich @ 740-944-1249

'No more death, no more exploitation,' pope says at US-Mexico border

By David Agren

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (CNS) — Speaking from the symbolic platform of the U.S.-Mexico border, Pope Francis pleaded for the plight of immigrants while warning those refusing to offer safe shelter and passage that their actions and inhospitable attitudes were bringing about dishonor and self-destruction as their hearts hardened and they “lost their sensitivity to pain.”

Recalling the story of Jonah and his instructions from God to save the sinful city of Ninevah by telling the residents that “injustice has infected their way of seeing the world,” Pope Francis’ homily called for compassion, change and conversion on migration issues.

He alluded to Mexico and the United States as Ninevah, the city he said was showing symptoms of “self-destruction as a result of oppression, dishonor, violence and injustice.” He also said mercy was a way to win over opponents.

Also, the pope preached urgency.

“We cannot deny the humanitarian crisis which in recent years has meant the migration of thousands of people, whether by train or highway or on foot, crossing hundreds of kilometers through mountains, deserts and inhospitable areas,” Pope Francis said Feb. 17 to hundreds of thousands of people from both sides of the border.

“The human tragedy that is forced migration is a global phenomenon today. This crisis, which can be measured in numbers and statistics, we want to measure instead with names, stories and families.”

The Mass capped a six-day trip to Mexico in which Pope Francis traveled to the northern and southern borders and denounced the indignities of discrimination, corruption and violence. During the trip he also asked oft-oppressed indigenous peoples for their forgiveness and chastised the privileged political and business classes — saying their exclusionary actions were creating “fertile ground” for children to fall into organized crime and drug cartels.

Pope Francis delivered his homily a stone’s throw from the Rio Grande, which has swallowed so many migrants over the years as they vainly tried to enter the



Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and Pope Francis meet at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana Feb. 12. The pope was traveling to Mexico for a six-day pastoral visit.

United States in search of bettering their lot in life and, more recently, escaping violence enveloping Central America.

The Mass was celebrated as a binational event with thousands watching across the Rio Grande in El Paso and in a college football stadium. Pope Francis saluted the crowds watching at the Sun Bowl stadium and Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso for providing technological connections that allowed them to “pray, sing and celebrate together” and “make us feel like a single family and the same Christian community.”



Pope Francis waves to people gathered across the border in El Paso, Texas, after praying at a wooden cross in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Feb. 17. (CNS photo/Max Rossi, Reuters)

The pope focused on migration, along with the dangers migrants encounter en route to their destinations and the difficulties of surviving on the margins of society without protections.

“Being faced with so many legal vacuums, they get caught up in a web that ensnares and always destroys the poorest,” Pope Francis said.

Migration has marked Mexico for generations, though the number of Mexicans leaving the country is now surpassed by those returning — involuntarily or otherwise — as poor job prospects, an increasingly



Pope Francis embraces women during a meeting with young people at Jose Maria Morelos Pavon Stadium in Morelia, Mexico, Feb. 16. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via EPA)

move through Mexico — acts of compassion not always popular with the authorities.

“They are on the front lines, often risking their own lives,” he said. “By their very lives they are prophets of mercy. They

fortified border and anti-immigration initiatives prompt most to stay put.

Ironically, Mexico has assumed an unlikely role over the past several years: enforcer as it detains and deports record numbers of Central Americans trying to transit the country — while many more of those migrants are preyed upon by criminals and corrupt public officials and suffer crimes such as kidnap, robbery and rape. The Mexican crackdown came after thousands of Central American children streamed through Mexico in 2014, seeking to escape forced enlistment in gangs and hoping to reunite with parents living in the shadows of American society, working minimum-wage jobs to support children left with relatives they hadn’t seen in years.

“Each step, a journey laden with grave injustices. They are brothers and sisters of those excluded as a result of poverty and violence, drug trafficking and criminal organizations,” Pope Francis said, while lauding the priests, religious and lay Catholics who accompany and protect migrants as they



Pope Francis gives a vaccine to Rodrigo Lopez Miranda, 5, held by Mexico's first lady Angelica Rivera during a visit to the Federico Gomez Children's Hospital of Mexico in Mexico City Feb. 14.



Pope Francis accepts a crucifix from a prisoner as he visits Cereso prison in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Feb. 17. (CNS photos/Paul Haring)

are the beating heart and accompanying feet of the church that opens its arms and sustains.”

“They are brothers and sisters of those excluded as a result of poverty and violence, drug trafficking and criminal organizations,” Pope Francis said. “Injustice is radicalized in the young. They are ‘cannon fodder,’ persecuted and threatened when they try to flee the spiral of violence and hell of drugs. Then there are the women unjustly robbed of their lives.”

Pope Francis ended his homily by returning to the example of Jonah and his call for conversion in Ninevah. He called “mercy, which always rejects wickedness,” a way to win over opponents, saying it “always appeals to the latent and numbed goodness in every person,” and urged people to follow Jonah’s example.

“Just as in Jonah’s time, so too today may we commit ourselves to conversion,” Pope Francis said. “May we commit ourselves to conversion. May we be signs lighting the way and announcing salvations.”

Ciudad Juarez once held the dubious distinction of “murder capital of the world.” More than 10,000 lives were lost between

2008 and 2012 as drug cartels battled over a coveted smuggling route and young people were seduced by easy money into illegal activities that led to their deaths.

The pope’s visit was promoted by civic officials as a rebirth for Ciudad Juarez, though priests say the city still suffers vices such as exclusion and violence — in lower numbers than before — and jobs with low salaries and long hours in the booming factory for export economy, all of which strain family life.



Pope Francis celebrates Mass with the indigenous community from Chiapas in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Mexico, Feb. 15. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

tory for export economy, all of which strain family life.

Bishop McElroy challenges Catholics to combat ‘ugly tide of anti-Islamic bigotry’

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — San Diego Bishop Robert W. McElroy is challenging U.S. Catholics to take an active role in combating “the scourge of anti-Islamic prejudice.”

“We are witnessing in the United States a new nativism, which the American Catho-

lic community must reject and label for the religious bigotry which it is,” he said in a keynote address delivered Feb. 17 in the University of San Diego’s Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice.

The evening event took place against the backdrop of the first national Catholic-

Muslim dialogue, which was held Feb. 17-18 at the Catholic university.

Last May, after more than 20 years of regional dialogues with representatives of the U.S. Muslim community, the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops established a national Catholic-Muslim dialogue.

The dialogue seeks to foster understanding and collaboration between Catholics and Muslims. Chicago Archbishop Blase J. Cupich has been named its first Catholic co-chairman.