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# The Steubenville REGISTER

VOL. 71, NO. 11

SERVING 13 COUNTIES IN SOUTHEAST OHIO

JAN. 29, 2016

## News Briefs

### Papal-related event planned at Sun Bowl

EL PASO, Texas (CNS) — El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz and El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser announced plans for a local event that will be held Feb. 17 in conjunction with Pope Francis' visit to El Paso's sister city of Ciudad Juarez in Mexico.

Called "Two Nations, One Faith," the celebration will take place at Sun Bowl Stadium on the campus of the University of Texas at El Paso.

"In spite of the borders and boundaries that exist, we see ourselves as one great Catholic community, and we are immensely grateful and honored that our universal pastor, Pope Francis, has chosen to come to our area," Bishop Seitz said in a statement. "We celebrate this great day for our brothers and sisters in Juarez."

Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, is the last stop on Pope Francis' five-day Mexico tour. The Juarez visit will include a trip to a local prison, a visit with Juarez workers at a manufacturing operation, or "maquila," and with business leaders. To conclude the visit, he will celebrate an open-air Mass at the fairgrounds in Ciudad Juarez. A crowd of 220,000 is expected.

### Pope receives invite to Rome's mosque

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Muslim delegation formally invited Pope Francis to visit Rome's mosque, the largest mosque outside the Islamic world. The visit would mark the first time a pope visited the local mosque, which was opened in 1995.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, confirmed that the pope received the invitation Jan. 20, during an early morning private audience at the Vatican with a five-person Muslim delegation. Father Lombardi told reporters that the invitation "will be taken into consideration. The pope will see if and when he can go."

Imam Izzedin Elzir, president of the Union of Islamic Communities in Italy, told the Catholic television Tg2000 Jan. 19 that the delegation, during its meeting with the pope, was going to "reaffirm and underscore the importance of the dialogue with the Catholic Church that has been taking place for decades. Today it is necessary to highlight the importance of this dialogue more than ever before," Elzir said.



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, top, sits in a piece of heavy equipment that was moved into the Holy Name Cathedral parking lot Jan. 26. The equipment is being used by workers from James White Construction Co., Weirton, West Virginia, to begin the first phase of a renovated, restored and renewed cathedral. Bishop Monforton, above, signs a contract presented to him by Attorney Thomas S. Wilson, left, Diocese of Steubenville, Office of Civil Law, to enable the site work to begin at the cathedral, in Steubenville's southern end. Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general, right, witnesses the signing. Louis A. Almonte, vice president, James White Construction Co., said initial work by the firm will include demolition of the parking lot, across from the South Fifth Street cathedral. The asphalt on the lot will be maintained to permit items needed for the cathedral renovation, restoration and renewal to be stored on the lot. In the coming weeks, work will continue on replacement of water lines in front of and behind the cathedral, Almonte said. He urged motorists to avoid the Fifth and Slack streets area in the vicinity of the cathedral during the site work, which will be concluded in early spring, when some street repaving is completed. Wilson filed concluding paperwork Jan. 25 with the city of Steubenville to allow the work to commence. — See site plans/Page 12 — (Photos by DeFrancis)



Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, marks the start of the penitential season of Lent. New Mexico folk artist Patricio Chavez depicts the crucified Christ in a block print. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

### Official

Father Daniel Heusel has been appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Neffs, which he currently serves as administrator.

The appointment by Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton was effective Jan. 13.

Father Heusel, also, serves as pastor of St. John Parish, Bellaire.

## Christ Our Light youth among beneficiaries of Knights' annual fundraising

CAMBRIDGE — Knights of Columbus Council 1641, Cambridge, has taken profits from recent charitable fundraising and donated to Christ Our Light Parish youth, as well as the parish, St. Benedict School, Cambridge, and the local Habitat for Humanity.

Council 1641 distributed \$8,250, recently, a spokesman for the Knights said.

During 2015, 18 applied for high school or college scholarships from the Cam-



Applegate



Ginnetti

bridge organization. Each applicant was asked to write an essay of 300 words or more and act as a spiritual volunteer for at least 10 hours.

"What has Catholicism done for the United States of America?" was the theme of this year's scholarship competition, the spokesman said. Student responses were



Harshbarger

ners include Vincent Applegate, Christopher Ginnetti, Colin Harshbarger, Izabella Kuklica, Makayla Lochiatto and Brandon Welch.

Applegate is a senior at Bishop Rosecrans High School, Zanesville, Ohio. The scholarship recipient intends to attend college after his graduation from high school. He is the son of Kenneth and Mary Applegate.

Ginnetti, also a high school senior, is home schooled. He plans to attend Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is the son of Ronald and Christine Ginnetti.

A senior at John Glenn High School, New Concord, Ohio, Harshbarger plans to attend Ohio University, Athens, earn a bachelor's degree in biology and a doctorate in physical therapy. He is the son of Eric

judged by local educators and graded based on content, 70 percent, mechanics, 20 percent, and originality, 10 percent.

Scholarship winners



Kuklica

A senior at Meadowbrook High School, Byesville, Lochiatto expects to hold a forensic science degree by the time she graduates from college. She is the daughter of Matthew and Tamara Lochiatto.

A senior at Cambridge High School, Welch plans to attend Ohio University and major in mechanical engineering. He is the son of Timothy and Maureen Welch.

Those who received the college scholarships were awarded \$1,000 each, while high schoolers were given \$500 each, the Knights spokesman said. Kuklica, also,

and Teresa Harshbarger.

Kuklica is a home-schooled high school freshman. Academically, her interest is in music, with an emphasis on the piano, which she will study in Italy. She is the daughter of Michael and Audrey Kuklica.



Lochiatto

received \$500 toward her study abroad.

Christ Our Light Parish, Cambridge, was awarded \$1,000 by the Knights council, as was the Guernsey County Habitat for Humanity, Cambridge.

Father Paul E. Hrezo is pastor of Christ Our Light Parish.

Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope, its local website reads.

St. Benedict School, which educates elementary-aged students in Cambridge, received \$750 from the Knights. Jane Rush is principal of St. Benedict School, adjacent to St. Benedict Church, Christ Our Light Parish.

Money for the donations came from the Knights' campaign for charities, the spokesman explained. Each year, Knights statewide sell raffle tickets, and a portion of the ticket sales is returned to local councils, he explained. For 2016 fundraising, charity raffle ticket sales will begin in March, the spokesman added.



Welch

## Diocesan grads, Franciscan University bound, can apply for scholarship dollars

STEUBENVILLE — Members of the high school graduating Class of 2016 who plan to attend Franciscan University of Steubenville in the fall are eligible to make application for a scholarship that was set up by Bishop John King Mussio, first bishop of the Diocese of Steubenville, in memory of his parents, John and Blanche Mussio.

Paul D. Ward, director, diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools, announced that application for the nonrenewable scholarship must be made by 4 p.m., April 1. The applicant's application form and letter of recommendation from his or her parish pastor must be filed in the

diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools, 422 Washington St., Steubenville — mailing address, P.O. Box 969, Steubenville, OH 43952.

Applicants must reside in the diocese and be a member of the 2016 graduating class at a Catholic or public high school in the Diocese of Steubenville, a participating member of a diocesan parish and have a combined Scholastic Aptitude Test score of 1000 or a composite American College Test score of 21, as well as financial need, determined by the Franciscan University of Steubenville Office of Student Financial Services.

Applications are available from parish pastors, guidance counselors at parochial and public high schools in the diocese and

principals at St. John Central, Bellaire, St. Joseph Central, Ironton, and Catholic Central, Steubenville, high schools.

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# Bishop returns edified from Belarus, Poland

STEUBENVILLE — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe is effective.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton has returned from a third consecutive yearly trip to Belarus and Poland on behalf of the USCCB Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe convinced of the positives from the monetary awards and personal contacts.

Prior to the trip by Bishop Monforton, Archbishop of Chicago Blase J. Cupich, chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, said, "Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the countries of the former USSR have been struggling to create spaces for prayer and spiritual growth. Providing for all of the pastoral needs of those in that region can be a real challenge."

Grants from the USCCB subcommittee help such great need, Archbishop Cupich added.

As Bishop Monforton walked the streets of Minsk, he said he viewed a church built in five months on the city's tallest hill. The construction was able to be realized for \$250,000, he said.

"Faith is deep," Bishop Monforton observed of the residents of Belarus, where he said churches cannot be built quickly enough.

Fifteen percent of the country's residents are Catholics, he added. "They are using schools and activity centers in which to celebrate Masses."

The country is beautiful, but one of the poorest in Central and Eastern Europe, he reminded.

The USCCB Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe oversees the annual collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe and the allocation of grants as part of the USCCB Committee on National Collections. The next collection is scheduled to take place on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, in parishes in the Diocese of Steubenville. In 2015, \$13,576.62 was collected in the Steubenville Diocese for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, David A. Franklin, diocesan comptroller, tabulated.

Other members of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Central and Eastern Europe are Diocese of Jefferson City (Missouri) Bishop John R. Gaydos; Diocese of Savannah (Georgia) Bishop Gregory J. Hartmayer; Diocese of Albany (New York) Bishop Howard J. Hubbard; Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg of the Armenians (Glendale, California) Bishop Mikael Mouradian; Diocese of Knoxville (Tennessee) Bishop Richard F. Stika; and Diocese of Amarillo (Texas) Bishop Patrick J. Zurek.

Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop emeritus of Detroit; Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of Washington, D.C.; Cardinal Justin Rigali, archbishop emeritus of Philadelphia; Archbishop Stefan Soroka,

archbishop of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia (Ukrainian) and Jesuit Father Robert F. Taft serve the subcommittee as consultants.

Also, Bishop Monforton left Year of Mercy calendars – created through the Diocese of Steubenville Office of Christian Formation and Schools, Paul D. Ward, director – in Poland, where nearly 90 percent of the population is Catholic and where he said the church is strong, and Belarus.

Alyson M. Radford, catechetical consultant in the Steubenville diocesan office, collaborated with the Diocese of Syracuse, New York, to draw up the calendar, which encompasses 2016. The full-color, graphically illustrated, glossy calendar is designed so that each day has a certain significance throughout the year. Radford said the declarations provide users of the calendar with different ways to live out the works of mercy, practically.

Web access to the calendar and resources connected to it are available at [www.livemercy.org](http://www.livemercy.org).

During last year's visit to Belarus and Poland, Bishop Monforton carried materials for youth ministry, supplied by Father Mark A. Moore, pastor of the Athens Catholic community, home to Ohio University. As a result, Newman centers are off and running, Bishop Monforton said.

As is often the case with such trips, Bishop Monforton said he has come back with more than what he gave to the hope-filled communities. "It was an edifying visit."



Touring a new church with a bishop and pastor, visiting seminarians and gifting a Year of Mercy calendar – part of Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton's recent visit to Europe. (Photos provided)



## Bishop Monforton's Schedule

- Jan. 31 Mass, St. Mary Mission, Pine Grove, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 1 Mass, St. Joseph Church, Ironton, 8 a.m.  
School visit, St. Lawrence Central School, Ironton, 9 a.m.  
School visit, St. Joseph Central High School, Ironton, 10:30 a.m.  
Luncheon with priests, Ironton, 1 p.m.  
Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign, major gift dinner, Knights of Columbus Council 1405 hall, Ironton, 6:30 p.m.
- 2 Mass, St. Joseph Church, Ironton, 8 a.m.  
Luncheon with priests, Athens, noon  
Visit the Laurels of Athens, and Lindley Inn, The Plains, 1:30 p.m.  
DPSC major gift dinner, Ohio University Inn, Athens, 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Mass, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 7:45 a.m.  
Visit Brookdale Marietta, 10 a.m.  
Visit Harmar Place Rehabilitation and Extended Care, Marietta, 11 a.m.  
Visit Marietta Center, 11:30 a.m.  
Luncheon with priests, Marietta, 1 p.m.  
Visit Arbors at Marietta, 2:30 p.m.  
Visit Heartland of Marietta, 3:15 p.m.  
Visit Appletree Assisted Living, Beverly, 4 p.m.  
DPSC major gift dinner, Lafayette Hotel, Marietta, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Mass, Summit Acres Nursing Home, Caldwell, 10 a.m.  
Luncheon with priests, Caldwell, noon  
Visit Astoria Place of Barnesville, 2 p.m.  
Visit Emerald Pointe, Barnesville, 2:30 p.m.  
Visit Heartland-Lansing, Bridgeport, 3:30 p.m.  
DPSC major gift dinner, Undo's, St. Clairsville, 6:30 p.m.
- 5 Mass and visit to Country Club Retirement Campus, Bellaire, 10 a.m.  
Visit Shadyside Care Center, 11 a.m.  
Luncheon with priests, St. Clairsville, noon
- 6 Mass, Community of God's Love mini-conference, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Oratory, Steubenville, 10 a.m.
- 7 Installation Mass, Father Daniel Heusel, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Neffs, 9 a.m.
- 8 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 8:30 a.m.  
Luncheon with priests, Tiltonsville, noon  
DPSC major gift dinner, Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361 hall, Mingo Junction, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Mardi Gras with diocesan staff, Steubenville, noon  
Mass, Communion and Liberation group, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 5:15 p.m.
- 10 Ash Wednesday Mass, Catholic Central High School, Berkman Theater, Lanman Hall, Steubenville, 9:30 a.m.  
Ash Wednesday Mass, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 12:05 p.m.
- 11 Presbyteral Council meeting, St. Mary Church Marian Hall, St. Clairsville, 1 p.m.
- 12 Luncheon with priests, Carrollton, noon

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Baci Carpico, past state deputy and a member of the Ohio Knights of Columbus scholarship committee, presents a \$1,000 check to Daniela Gonzalez, a Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, senior, while her parents, Maria Cristina and Horacio Gonzalez, look on. They are joined at the recent presentation at the high school by Dolores Michnowicz, second from left, CCHS guidance counselor, and Rich Wilinski, third from right, Catholic Central's principal. Megan Riley, a student at St. Joseph Central High School, Ironton, also received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Ohio Knights. The students were rewarded for their outstanding involvement in school, church and community and their academic excellence, Carpico said. During the 2015-16 school year, the Knights presented 40 scholarships, totaling \$39,000. Since the inception of the Knights' scholarship program in 1997, the K of C has provided \$618,700 to outstanding students in Catholic high schools in Ohio. (Photo by DeFrancis)



## Initiative's design, Knights to work more closely with parishes, Anderson says

LEVITTOWN, Pa. (CNS) — The Knights of Columbus has announced an initiative designed to bring the Knights into closer cooperation with parishes.

Changes were noted in an address delivered by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson in November to a San Antonio meeting of state deputies and reprinted in the December issue of *Columbia*, the Knights' magazine. "We will use our resources of time, talent and money to strengthen parish-based and parish-sponsored programs," he wrote.

According to Anderson, the 1.9 million-member Catholic fraternal group, organized into over 15,000 councils operating in the United States and a number of other countries, will continue its focus on spirituality, charity, unity, brotherhood and patriotism. But it will strive to bring its activities into greater identification with parishes under the supervision of parish pastors, avoiding duplication or any perception of competition.

Among the changes involved, the Knights will not build or acquire any

new council halls. This change, where parish rather than separate facilities are used for meetings and activities, has already allowed the formation of councils that would not have been able to afford a building, and will avoid members having to devote too much time and effort to support the building by renting it for unrelated activities.

In another significant change, by the end of this year, the Knights of Columbus will no longer sponsor Scout groups. Instead, the group will work to support parish youth ministry programs, including parish-based Catholic Scouting.

The Knights, Anderson wrote, should strive to integrate the activities of their Squires Circles — affiliated groups of boys and young men ages 10 to 18 — with those of the parish youth ministry. He said councils and assemblies in the U.S. and Canada that do not currently have Squires groups should not begin new ones but instead should support existing parish-based youth ministry programs.

The Knights, Anderson wrote, are devoted

to building up the family as the domestic church and to evangelizing family life, a work that can be done most effectively by working in and with the parish.

Andrew T. Walther, vice president for communications and strategic planning of the Supreme Council, noted in an interview with Catholic News Service that it is important to remember that the Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 in a parish by a parish priest — Father Michael McGivney, recently declared venerable, whose sainthood cause has taken its first steps.

In re-emphasizing its focus on the parish, Walther said, the organization is going back to its roots.

"Most of our councils are based in parishes," Walther said, and Knights traditionally put themselves at the service of the parish. The group "really wants to focus in a very specific way on what we're doing in the parish," which includes prayer and the sacramental life, charitable works, and taking a holistic approach to being united with the parish. Different parishes

have different priorities, and the Knights of Columbus can be flexible to help with different needs, he noted.

Walther said the change in sponsorship of Scout groups is not intended to diminish the Knights' commitment to Catholic Scouting, but to bring it back to focus in the parish.

Asked whether the lack of a council hall would lessen the fellowship aspect of the Knights' interaction with each other, Walther said he didn't think that would be a problem. Members in current parish-based councils find ways to get together and experience fraternity, he said. "I don't think you need a separate building. I don't think you lose fraternity, and you gain a lot of unity with the parish."

The current initiative is designed to promote "the involvement of families within the parish. The parish is our home, and we should be working first and foremost through our parish." Making the parish and interaction with the parish the top priority is, he said, a reassertion of the model on which the Knights were founded.

## Priest who served in diocese celebrating 30 years of ordination to the priesthood

HARTFORD, Conn. — Father Will-Roger Malave, who served in the Diocese of Steubenville in the early 2000s, is celebrating his 30th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood at a 6 p.m., Feb. 20, Mass at Sacred Heart Church, 49 Winthrop St., Hartford, Connecticut.

Ordained to the priesthood Feb. 22,

1986, in Hartford, after having attended Holy Apostles College and Seminary, Cromwell, Connecticut, Father Malave ministered at parishes in Connecticut and West Virginia, prior to serving in the Diocese of Steubenville. He was a parochial vicar in Ironton (St. Joseph and St. Lawrence O'Toole parishes) and a parochial

administrator in Chesapeake (St. Ann Parish) and Amsterdam (St. Joseph Parish).

In 2004, Father Malave returned to

Connecticut, where he retired from active ministry in 2006, but continues to serve, when asked, he said.

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In Washington, D.C., parishioners from Athens, Belmont, Gallia, Guernsey, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Noble and Washington counties take to the sidewalk to March for Life, play games on a snow-stalled bus and view the trapped carrier. (Photos by Michael Stapleton)

## Diocese of Steubenville marchers made their own trek at March for Life

STEUBENVILLE — When Diocese of Steubenville parishioners from Athens, Belmont, Gallia, Guernsey, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Noble and Washington counties boarded buses in Gallipolis, Barnesville, Cambridge, Pomeroy, Little Hocking or Caldwell and began their ride to Washington, D.C., for the Jan. 22 annual March for Life, their plans did not include a long stoppage on the snow-covered Pennsylvania Turnpike.

John Spencer, a Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, parishioner, who has organized the buses that transport people, mostly from the southern end of the diocese, to the nation's capital for the Jan. 22 March for Life for five years, recounted the adventure for The Steubenville Register.

The first day of the trip went as programmed. The buses had deposited their passengers by early afternoon Jan. 21 at their Hyattsville, Maryland, lodgings, Spencer said. Later that day, the group traveled from the suburb near D.C. to the capital city for Mass.

After a night in the hotel, the following day the marchers returned to Washington for the annual March for Life. However, Spencer said that because of threats of a storm, expected to dump huge amounts of snow on Washington, D.C., and the surrounding area, it was decided that the approximate 70 people from the Diocese of Steubenville

would march early. This, Spencer said, would enable the buses to head back to Ohio earlier than originally planned.

The group walked the same path they would have taken with the other marchers, except they walked on the sidewalk. "We were noticed," Spencer said.

Before 3 p.m., Jan. 22, the men, women and children were on the buses "heading home, thinking we would beat the storm," Spencer said. The snow had just started. However, shortly after they left Hyattsville, they were delayed by an accident. "The storm had caught up to us. The roads were so bad," Spencer said. Not many miles later, they were stopped again. This time it became an overnight ordeal.

One bus carrying 32 passengers and another carrying 36 were in close proximity to one another. Passengers on the buses ranged in age from 4 to their 70s, Spencer said. Included were four Diocese of Steubenville priests, Father Thomas F. Hamm, pastor of St. Louis Parish, Gallipolis; Father Paul E. Hrezo, pastor of Christ Our Light Parish, Cambridge; Father Chester J. Pabin, parochial vicar to Father Wayne E. Morris, pastor of the Noble County Catholic community; and Father Jonas A. Shell, parochial vicar to Father Mark A. Moore, pastor of the Athens Catholic community.

To occupy the time, bus riders slept, played games, talked, watched movies, prayed and sang. Everyone,

Spencer said, was contented, happy and calm. "It was an amazing group."

And, after a night's sleep on the bus, Spencer said his three daughters ended up playing in the snow on the turnpike.

On departure from the diocese, bus riders had been supplied with lunches by the Catholic Woman's Club at the basilica. The packed lunches not eaten earlier stayed chilled overnight and came in handy for breakfast the following day, Spencer said. The snacks he packed for what he thought would be a normal March for Life trip were eaten, also.

In early evening Jan. 23 one bus deposited its riders back in Ohio, and approximately three hours later the other bus had been dug out of the snow and arrived. Everyone was back, unharmed, Spencer said.

He plans to organize the trip again next January. And, from this trip, he gathered more than a dozen volunteers to help him with the sign-ups, he said.

Some, expected to make the trip from the Diocese of Steubenville, canceled their ride, because of weather reports. However, buses pulled out from Franciscan University of Steubenville, and those students, staff, faculty and Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars, also, were stalled on the turnpike for hours, the university's Bulletin reads.

## March for Life marks 43rd anniversary of Roe decision legalizing abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic admonitions about inclusion were heard before the March of Life got underway Jan. 22 in Washington.

At a Jesuit-sponsored Mass for life at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church that morning, Father Paddy Gilger's homily reminded a small group of students that because Jesus made an effort to be inclusive when he chose his disciples, they,

too, should be respectful of others' opinions. "As we join in the fight against the scourge of abortion, our differences remain, and that's OK," he said.

Father Gilger also told the students to combine prayer and penance to create a culture of life. "Our efforts are to be able to create the same amount of space for people to

change their hearts."

Later, the March for Life rally at the Washington To Page 8



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## St. John Paul II Jesus as Model (continued)

By Diocese of Steubenville  
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

St. John Paul II continues his reflection on Jesus as model, pointing out that the work of redemption “includes this aspect: he became the perfect model of man’s salvific transformation.” To avail ourselves of the work of Christ, we, ourselves, must be “transformed” into the kind of human beings that God intended us to be when he created us. What kind is that, one might ask? Answer: beings who place themselves completely in God’s hands and willingly obey his will in all things. This, by the way, is not for God’s benefit, but for our own! As has been pointed out, God created us out of love: He wanted to share with us not only existence, but *his own existence* – to the extent that such is possible for creatures. Jesus exemplified the life of a human being who did precisely that. “My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work,” he said (Jn 4:34). John Paul comments: “The true adorers are, first of all, those who imitate Christ in what he does, and he does everything in imitation of the Father.” It is only that way that we can achieve the happiness that God intended for us.

In a famous passage, St. Paul tells us; “You did not receive a spirit of slavery leading you back into fear, but a spirit of adoption, through which we cry out, ‘Abba!’ (that is, ‘Father’). The Spirit himself gives witness with our spirit that we are children of God. But if we are children, we are also heirs as well: heirs of God, heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so as to be glorified with him” (Rom 8:15-17). That passage sums up our spiritual life: We are to be one with God himself – to the extent that we imitate his Son, or as St. Paul puts it, “You must put on that new man created in God’s image whose justice and holiness are born of truth” (Eph 4:24).

Jesus showed that orientation to the Father in his prayer

life and bid us to do likewise. We are told that he spent much time in prayer, that is, in conversation with the Father. We certainly cannot converse with the Father as he did, but we can approach it by praying as Jesus himself taught us. When the disciples asked him to teach them to pray, he responded with the prayer that we all learned as children: “The Lord’s Prayer,” the “Our Father.” In it we pray first that God’s will be done, which is to establish his kingdom among mankind. Then we ask for our immediate needs, temporal and spiritual. Finally, we ask that we not be tempted to do otherwise beyond our strength. Those are to be our priorities. All too often, we tend to put our own needs (as we see them) first, and ask God to conform his will to ours!

*The essence of the love of Jesus to God the Father is love. It should be ours, also.*

The essence of the love of Jesus to God the Father is *love*. It should be ours, also. Love is characterized by *giving*: giving from self to another and of self to another. It was love that moved God to create in the first place. Yet, prior to creation, the intimate life of God was that of reciprocal giving between Father and Son. On earth, the Son of God, as man, centered his human life on the giving of himself to the Father, i.e., doing the Father’s will: “I am not seeking my own will, but the will of him who sent me” (Jn 5:30). If we are to imitate Jesus, we must choose likewise. Jesus made this clear when he formulated the first and greatest commandment: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind” (Mt 22:37).

The love of Jesus did not end with the Father. The rest of that formulation says: “The second (greatest commandment) is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Our Lord exemplified that in his acceptance of crucifixion and death – for the sake of mankind. “There is no greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (Jn 15:13). Our Lord’s love was characterized by this humble and unselfish desire to serve his fellow humans, and to do so with enduring love. It is the blueprint for our own spiritual life. “The Son of Man ... came, not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mk

10:45). He described himself as a “Good Shepherd, that, unlike a hired hand, gives his life for his flock (Jn 10:11). His supreme act of giving, his death on Calvary, he made possible for us to represent indefinitely through the Eucharist. St. Paul summarized it when he wrote: “We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block for the Jews and folly to Gentiles ... for God’s folly is wiser than men and his weakness more powerful than men” (1 Cor 1: 23-25).

St. John Paul, speaking of this love of Jesus, says: “In all his preaching, in all his actions, Jesus was guided by the deep awareness that he had concerning God’s designs ... with the certainty that they flowed from the Father’s eternal love for the world, and in particular, for humanity.” His horribly painful and shameful death was for *mankind’s sake*, not for God’s. When Peter objected to such a prospect, Jesus rebuked him: “You are not judging by God’s standards, but by man’s” (Mk 8:33). By the unjust action of men, the plan of God for mankind would unfold! So it is that “God draws straight with crooked lines.” John Paul comments: “We find ourselves, then, in the presence of a divine design which, even if it appears so obvious when considered in ... the Gospels, yet always remains a mystery that cannot be explained fully by human reason.” He continues: “Love remains the definitive explanation of the redemption through the cross.” God is “rich in mercy” (Eph 2:4) – for his human, weak, sinful creatures.

God wishes us, in turn, to act likewise. Pope John Paul, again: “Precisely through his merciful love, man is called to conquer evil and sin in himself and with regard to others. ... In this way God shows that he does not wish to be satisfied with the rigor of justice, which, on seeing evil, punishes it. He wishes to triumph otherwise over sin, that is, by giving the possibility to be free of it.” God not only forgives mankind, but makes him a partner in the victory of love over sin!



Bishop Sheldon

## ‘The Martian’ and Why Each Life Matters

By Bishop Robert Barron

Ridley Scott’s “The Martian” is a splendidly told tale of survival and pluck, reminiscent of the novel “Robinson Crusoe” and the films “Life of Pi” and “Castaway.” In this case, the hero is Mark Watney, an astronaut on a mission to Mars who is left behind by his crew mates when he is presumed dead after being lost during a devastating storm. Through sheer determination and an extraordinary application of his scientific know-how, Watney manages to survive. For example, realizing that his food supplies would run out long before a rescue mission could ever reach him, he endeavors to produce water and, through some creative fertilizing, grow an impressive crop of potatoes. At another critical juncture in the narrative, as his life hangs in the balance, Watney said, “I’ll just have to science the ... out of this!”

In time, NASA officials, through a careful observation of surveillance photos, realize that Watney is still alive and they attempt to contact him. Some of the most thrill-

ing and emotionally moving scenes in the film have to do with these initial communications across tens of millions of miles. Eventually, the crew who left him behind discovers that he is alive and they contrive, with all of their strength and intelligence, to get him back. The film ends (spoiler alert!), with the now somewhat grizzled Watney back on earth, lecturing a class of prospective astronauts on the indispensability of practical scientific intelligence: “You solve one problem and then another and then another; and if you solve enough of them, you get to come home.” This summary speech communicates what appears to be the central theme of the movie: the beauty and power of the technical knowledge the sciences provide.

But, I would like to explore another theme that is implicit throughout the film, namely, the inviolable dignity of the individual human being. The circumstances are certainly unique and Watney himself is undoubtedly an impressive person, but it remains nevertheless strange that people would move heaven and earth, spend millions of dollars, and in the case of the original crew, risk their lives in order

to rescue this one man. If a clever, friendly and exquisitely trained dog had been left behind on Mars, everyone would  
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### 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

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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

## Pray for Life; Let Calendar Aid Your Acts of Mercy

By Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

*“And the king said to them in reply, ‘Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine you did for me’” (Mt 25: 40).*

### 2016 March for Life

As you read this article, we would already have celebrated the 42nd annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Tens of thousands of marchers braved the early hours of the approaching East Coast blizzard in order to promote the dignity of life. The participants again demonstrated to our nation’s citizens, especially our country’s public officials, that we are capable of doing better at respecting *all human life*.

What always is edifying is the predominant number of young people, such as the students from Franciscan University of Steubenville, coming together to progress our country in a consistent respect for the dignity of life. We are thankful that they all returned safely to Steubenville after enduring a two-day journey, complicated by terrible road

conditions. Instead of buses, perhaps next year the organizers will need to invest in a sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.

While I was unable to participate this year due to the fact I was on my U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops subcommittee visits, I closely followed the prayer vigil and the march at our nation’s capital. Of course, we are all too aware of the troubling news concerning certain “so-called” health care organizations, which promote the abortion of our unborn, aided by federal funds. Nevertheless, you and I must remain undaunted in promoting the culture of life, even in the midst of this culture of death. Only through our common effort may we successfully recalibrate our nation’s moral GPS to a consistent life ethic that disrespects no one.

Please join me in prayer as we support our various local pro-life organizations, such as AIM. May you and I, through both word and action, promote the dignity of all human life in order that our beloved nation can truly say that it promotes “justice for all.”

### Lent Approaches

This year Ash Wednesday comes early and brings with it the penitential season of Lent. While some may still be in the process of removing their Christmas lights, the reality is that we are less than two weeks away from beginning our Lenten penances. What have you planned to do, or not



**Bishop Monforton**

do, as each one of us journeys with Jesus this coming season?

You may consider following our diocesan Year of Mercy calendar ([livemercy.org](http://livemercy.org)) which provides an act of mercy each day of the week. You can even schedule to receive the daily suggestions via email, Twitter or Facebook.

*May God bless you and your family as we approach the holy season of Lent.*

## On Bowing and Raising Our Heads

By Father Ron Rolheiser

At the end of every Roman Catholic liturgy, there is an invitation given to the people to receive a blessing. That invitation is worded this way: *Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing*. The idea behind that, obviously, is that a blessing can only truly be received in reverence, in humility, with head bowed, with pride and arrogance subjugated and silent.

A bowed head is a sign of humility and is understood, almost universally, as our proper spiritual posture. Spiritual writers have rarely questioned or felt the need to nuance the notion that spiritual health means a head bowed in humility. But is it really that simple?

Admittedly there is a lot of wisdom in that. A head bowed in reverence is a sign of humility. Moreover, pride heads the list of deadly sins. Human pride is congenital, deep, and impossible to uproot. It can be redeemed and it can be crushed, but it always remains in us, necessarily so. There is no health without pride, but pride can also derail health. There is something inside of human nature, inherent in our very individuality and freedom, which does not like to bend the knee before what is higher and superior. We guard our pride fiercely and it is no accident that the archetypal image of resistance to God is expressed in Lucifer’s inflexible, pride-anchored statement: *I will not serve!*

Moreover, we do not like to admit weakness, finitude, dependence and interdependence. Thus, all of us have to grow and mature to a place where we are no longer naive and arrogant enough to believe that we do not need God’s blessing. All spirituality is predicated on humility. Maturity, human and spiritual, is most evident in someone whom you see on his or her knees praying.

But, while pride can be bad, sometimes pride and ar-

rogance are not the problem. Rather, our struggle is with a wounded and broken spirit that no longer knows how to stand upright. It is one thing to be young, healthy, strong, arrogant, and unaware of how fragile and finite we are (and that illusion can survive and stay with us into old age); but it is quite another thing to have one’s heart broken, one’s spirit crushed, and one’s pride taken away. When that happens, and it happens to all of us if we are half-sensitive and live long enough, wounded pride does some very negative things in us, it cripples us so that we can no longer truly get off our knees, stand upright, raise our heads, and receive love and blessing.

I remember as a child, growing up on a farm, watching something that was then called “breaking a horse.” The men would catch a young colt, which had until then run completely free, and they would, through a rather brutal process, force the young colt to submit to halter, saddle and human commands. When the process was finished, the colt was now compliant to human commands. But, the process of breaking the horse’s freedom and spirit was far from gentle, and, thus, yielded a mixed result. The horse was now compliant, but part of its spirit was broken.

That’s an apt image for the journey, both human and spiritual. Life, in ways that are far from gentle, eventually breaks our spirit, for good and for bad, and we end up humble, but we also end up somewhat wounded and unable to (metaphorically) stand upright. Conscripted humility has a double effect: On the one hand, we find that we more naturally genuflect before what is higher; but, on the other hand, because the pain of our brokenness, as is so often the case with pain, we focus more upon ourselves than on others and we end up handicapped. Bruised and fragile, we are unable to properly give and receive and are stuttering and reticent in sharing the goodness and depth

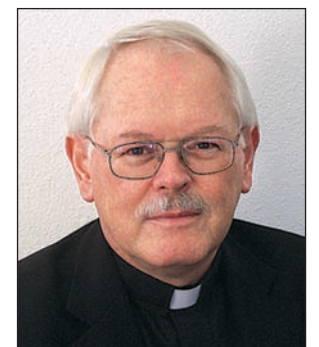
of our own persons.

Spirituality and religion have, for the most part, been too one-sided on this. They have perennially been vigilant about pride and arrogance (and, admittedly, these are real and are forever the deadly sins). But spirituality and religion have been too slow to lift up the fallen. We all know the dictum that the task of spirituality is to afflict the comforted and comfort the afflicted. Historically, religion and spirituality, while not always being very successful with the former, have been too negligent of the latter.

Pride and arrogance are the deadliest of all vices. However, wounded pride and a broken spirit can equally derail us.

So, perhaps when the church blesses its congregation at the end of a liturgy, it might, instead of saying: *Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing*, say instead: *Those of you who think you are not in need of this blessing: Please bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. Meanwhile, those of you who feel beaten, broken, and unworthy of this blessing: Raise your heads to receive a love and gift that you have long despaired of ever again receiving.*

**Father Rolheiser is a missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate priest, president of the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, lecturer, author, retreat master and newspaper columnist. His website is [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).**



**Father Rolheiser**

## March for Life

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Monument, was attended by nearly 50,000. There, a group of Little Sisters of the Poor who work at the order's nursing home in Washington drew a sustained ovation when they were introduced. The Denver-based order is fighting a mandate from the Department of Health and Human Services that requires employers, including most religious employers, to provide contraceptive coverage to its employees under the Affordable Health Care Act even if they have moral objections to doing so.

Their Supreme Court case, of *Zubik v. Burwell*, will be heard in March. The order is facing \$70 million in fines per year if it does not comply.

Patrick Kelly, the Knights of Columbus vice president for public policy, said opponents of the pro-life movement, "insist on dividing and bullying those who disagree with them by speaking of a fictional war on women. Our movement, the movement

to protect human life, is different. It is built by you, the grass roots. We come here to show that we cannot be intimidated."

The rally was the evangelical community's first formal involvement in the annual March for Life, which is held on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, which legalized abortion virtually on demand in the U.S.

"We are grateful for your leadership on the culture of life," said Jim Daly, president of Focus on the Family. "It's taken us time to come to the party, but we are here with you!"

Daly also was headlining the first major pro-life conference for evangelicals to be held in conjunction with the March for Life. He was joined at the conference and the rally by Russell Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In the days leading up to the March for Life as forecasters announced the im-

pending blizzard headed for Washington, organizers of the annual event said it would not be canceled.

It drew "what appeared to be tens of thousands" of participants, according to an estimate from Jeanne Monahan-Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund.

"The world may think that we're a little bit crazy to be here on a day like today, but those that are standing here know that there is no sacrifice too great to fight the human rights abuse of abortion," Monahan-Mancini told the crowd.

After the rally, participants marched up Constitution Avenue to the U.S. Supreme Court as snow began to fall – the beginning of what turned into a major blizzard and left more than 2 feet of snow in Washington, with outer suburbs receiving even more.

Among those headed to the court were Little Sisters of the Poor, wearing buttons that read: "Life, Liberty and Loving Ser-

vice," and a reference to the government mandate: "We will have nun of it."

Over the years, pro-lifers participating in the March for Life have endured freezing rain, snow and sub-zero temperatures and there might have been more than one blizzard that swept through the nation's capital on or around the *Roe* anniversary.

But 19 years ago, the circumstances Jan. 22 were a carbon copy of what marchers faced this year. CNS reported that a blinding snowstorm "whited out the view of the U.S. Capitol" and "sent federal employees home from work before noon."

In California, tens of thousands of people rallied in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza Jan. 23 and then walked down Market Street for the 12th annual Walk for Life West Coast, undaunted by intermittent rain, abortion protesters who briefly disrupted one of the speakers, or by traffic congestion related to the upcoming Super Bowl, Catholic News Service reported.

## Pope's challenge is to expand vision of mercy during year

WASHINGTON (CNS) — During this Year of Mercy, one of the biggest challenges Pope Francis has thrown at us is to expand our vision of mercy.

That's the message Father David Garcia delivered during a Jan. 24 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering presentation about how to actively live out the Year of Mercy and what that means.

Father Garcia, a senior adviser for clergy outreach with Catholic Relief Services, said the pope "doesn't want us to sit around the church and look at each other and say, 'OK, let's have mercy on each other inside the church.'" Instead, the pope is saying that "he wants this mercy taken out" of the church, and diffused among those who need it most, in our midst, but especially around the world.

In particular, the pope wants to combat two things: the culture of waste and the culture of indifference, Father Garcia said. Both go back to Scripture and to Jewish roots. In a holy year, or jubilee year, the Bible says in Leviticus 25, that the land shall rest and its fruits given to the poor, debts are to be forgiven, slaves liberated,

neighbors dealt with fairly and family members cared for.

In other words, Father Garcia said, God tells us: "The way you will show me you love me is the way you treat each other and the way you love creation."

Father Garcia showed a cartoon of a man watching TV, falling asleep as news of over 4,000 dead in Africa is announced over the television, but later the same person is alarmed and in panic over one person dying in Dallas.

Though we should be generous with those around us, we have to be brothers and sisters to people in Latin America, Asia, Africa, in all parts of the world, Father Garcia said, and not just be concerned with those we consider "our own."

"Otherwise, you're not Catholic," said Father Garcia, a San Antonio archdiocesan priest. "He's just asking us to be Catholic. That's about as simple as it can be."

To heed that call in Philadelphia, the city's St. Aquinas Center is hosting "days of encounter and mercy," said Bethany Welch, its director, who attended the Jan. 23-26 social ministry gathering in Wash-

ington. Recently, the center hosted an event in which a woman, a refugee from Eritrea, was invited to cook and to share her story with others. She was paid for her services, providing her with the dignity of work. In turn, the event also provided others the experience of learning about the plight of refugees from that part of the world, Welch said.

Father Garcia said there are three ways of showing mercy this year: sacramentally – through the sacrament of reconciliation; an extra sacramental way – through our works of mercy; and by making a pilgrimage.

The Catholic Social Ministry Gathering is organized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development in collaboration with several other USCCB departments and 16 national Catholic organizations, including CRS, Catholic Charities USA, the Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators and the Catholic Labor Network.

### Ritual not limited to men

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Following a request by Pope Francis, the Vatican issued a decree specifying that the Holy Thursday foot-washing ritual can include "all members of the people of God," including women – a practice already observed by the pope and many priests around the world.

In a letter dated December 2014 and addressed to Cardinal Robert Sarah, the head of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, the pope said the rubric of the Roman Missal, which mentions only men as participants in the foot-washing rite, should be changed so that priests can choose from all members of the church.

The pope said the change would help express the full meaning of Jesus' gesture at the Last Supper, his "giving himself 'to the end' for the salvation of the world" and his endless charity. However, the pope insisted those chosen be given "an adequate explanation of the meaning of the rite itself."

## 'The Martian'

From Page 6

have felt bad, but no one, I think it's fair to say, would have endeavored to go back for it. Now why is this the case? Much hinges upon how one answers that question.

The classical Christian tradition, with its roots in the Bible, would argue that there is a qualitative and not merely quantitative difference between human beings and other animals, that a human being is decidedly not simply an extremely clever ape. Unlike anything else in the material creation, we have been made, the Scriptures hold, according to God's image and likeness, and this imaging has been construed by most of the masters of the theological tradition as a function of our properly spiritual capacities of mind and will.

With "The Martian" in mind, let me focus on the first of these. Like other

animals, humans can take in the material world through sense experience, and they can hold those images in memory. But, unlike any other animals, even the most intelligent, humans can engage in properly abstract thinking. In other words, they can think, not only about this or that particular state of affairs, but about fundamental patterns – what the medieval called "forms" – that make things what they are. The sciences – both theoretical and practical – depend upon and flow from precisely this kind of cogitation. But truly abstract thinking, which goes beyond any particularity grounded in matter, demonstrates that the principle of such reflection is not reducible to matter, that it has an immaterial or spiritual quality. And this implies that the mind or the soul survives the dissolution of the body, that it links us to the dimension

of God. Plato showed this in a simple but compelling manner. When the minds entertain an abstract truth, say that two plus three equals five, it has in a very real way left behind the world of shifting impressions and evanescent memories; it has, to use his still haunting metaphor, slipped free of the cave and entered a realm of light. And, this explains why the very science so celebrated by "The Martian" is also the solution to the moral puzzle at the heart of the film. We will go to the ends of the universe to save an endangered person,



Bishop Barron

precisely because we realize, inchoately or otherwise, that there is something uniquely precious about him or her. We know in our bones that in regard to a human being something eternal is at stake.

In the context of what Pope Francis has called our "throw-away culture," where the individual human being is often treated as a means to an end, or worse, as an embarrassment or any annoyance to be disposed of, this is a lesson worth relearning.

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



## Papal envoy opens eucharistic congress by declaring war on poverty

By Simone Orendain

CEBU, Philippines (CNS) — The 51st International Eucharistic Congress kicked off with Pope Francis' representative, Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon, Myanmar, declaring war on poverty.

"The Eucharist calls for ... a third world war against poverty," said Cardinal Bo, "a third world war against the cruelty of dogs getting fed with sumptuous, organic food, while poor children scramble for scraps from the table."

Tens of thousands of people waited at least an hour under a punishing sun to attend the Jan. 24 opening Mass led by Cardinal Bo at the Plaza Independencia in Cebu. He opened his homily with a plea for the crowd to "be patient with the heat."

"Soon it will be all right. The moon is too hot in Cebu," the cardinal quipped, as the sun was just minutes from setting.

For a couple of hours, until the seats were opened up to the public, Lermalyn Otida, an office worker from Cebu, stood outside of the fenced-off area that enclosed seating for delegates.

"You see the people around still coming over, they don't mind if it's very hot," Otida told Catholic News Service afterward. "They don't mind if no seats (are) available.

They don't mind if (it's) too much traffic. No. That's faith. It's the faith that comes up in everyone."

With greetings in the Visaya dialect and the national language of Tagalog, Cardinal Bo told the faithful that Pope Francis loved them "very much."

He called Filipinos the "beacon of Catholicism" to the world, saying that having a Philippine presence in any country means there will be Catholicism. Close to 10 million Filipinos live and work outside the Philippines, with most practicing their Catholic faith, often in countries that do not have majority Christian populations.

Cardinal Bo remarked on the Philippine church and its people being "the only church in the world that welcomed" priests from his country, which he said was a "suffering church" for more than five decades under military rule.

"You have shared the bread of hospitality, the bread of knowledge, the bread of your love."

Cardinal Bo said the Eucharist strips the faithful of their social status, as people of all walks of life take Communion.

"The Eucharist calls us to justice. No other religion elevates justice to this level. No other religion elevates the poor to this level," he said. He called it the major challenge in a world that "kills children in the womb" and "spends more on arms than on food."

The cardinal emphasized that the mystery of the Eucharist is twofold: presence and mission. The Eucharist is the true presence of Jesus, while it was the mission of the faithful to share that presence with others.

"From eucharistic celebration to eucharistic commitment: mission," he said.

Cardinal Bo said being devoted to eucharistic adoration was good and so was being devoted to Santo Nino, the child Jesus, a strong devotion in Cebu.

"Christ is calling us to be disciples, to carry his cross," he said. "The Mass of the devotee ends in an hour, but the Mass of the disciple is unending. The Eucharist of the devotee is confined to the clean altars of the church. The Eucharist of the disciple continues with the streets as altar."

Once the sun had fully set and Mass ended, fireworks exploded in one section of the sky above the plaza.

Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma welcomed Cardinal Bo at the start of the opening Mass with a reference to the Congress' theme. He said, "Indeed it is perhaps symbolic that we open this 51st International Eucharistic Congress here at Plaza Independencia as we proclaim true independence by acknowledging our total dependence on Christ, recognizing that Christ crucified and risen is truly in us, our hope of glory."

## Pope Francis to migrants: Do not be robbed of hope, joy of living

By Junno Arocho Esteves

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Welcoming thousands of migrants and refugees to the Vatican for their own Year of Mercy celebration, Pope Francis urged them to resist everything that would rob them of hope and joy.

"Each of you is the bearer of a history, culture and precious values and, unfortunately, also often of experiences of poverty, oppression and fear," the pope said Jan. 17. But gathering in St. Peter's Square for the Holy Year "is a sign of hope in God. Don't allow yourselves to be robbed of hope and the joy of living, which spring from the experience of divine mercy, also thanks to the people who welcomed and helped you."

The pope prayed that passing through the Holy Door and attending a special jubilee Mass "will fill

your hearts with peace." He also thanked the inmates of a maximum security prison in Milan who prepared the hosts consecrated at the Mass.

According to the Italian news agency, ANSA, an estimated 7,000 migrants from 30 countries were present. The group passed through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, following a 9-foot tall, 3-foot wide wooden cross made out of the wreckage of boats carrying migrants from northern Africa to Lampedusa, Italy's southernmost island.

The Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Antonio Maria Veglio, president of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, who said in his homily that the cross was "an expressive symbol" of the tragic circumstances facing migrants who risk their lives seeking a better future.

The World Day of Migrants and Refugees, he said, was "a fitting occasion to remember that the church has always contemplated in migrants the image of Christ. Moreover, in the Year of Mercy, we are challenged to rediscover the

works of mercy where, among the corporal works, there is the call to welcome the stranger."

The presence of migrants is a visible sign of the universality of the church and the integration of newcomers is not about "assimilation" but an opportunity to recognize "the cultural patrimony of migrants" for the good of the universal church.

"Everyone has something new and beautiful to contribute, but the source and steward is the Spirit," he said. "No one should feel superior to the other, but all must realize the need to collaborate and contribute to the good of the sole family of God."

Recalling Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Cardinal Veglio compared the plight of migrants to the Holy Family exiled in Egypt, which serves as a reminder that the "welcoming of the stranger means welcoming God himself."

## Dialogue, remembrance, peace highlighted as pope visits synagogue

By Cindy Wooden

ROME (CNS) — While the Catholic Church affirms that salvation comes through Jesus, it also recognizes that God is faithful and has not revoked his covenant with the Jewish people, Pope Francis said.

Interrupted repeatedly with applause at Rome's main synagogue Jan. 17, the pope said the church "recognizes the irrevocability of the Old Covenant and the constant and faithful love of God for Israel."

The statement, which he already had made in his 2013 exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel," was repeated in a recent document by the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. The document reaffirmed Pope Benedict XVI's teaching that the church "neither conducts nor supports" any institutional missionary initiative directed toward Jews.

While frigid winter temperatures finally arrived in Rome, Pope Francis received the warmest of welcomes at the synagogue.

The visit featured an exchange of standing ovations. Members of the Jewish community greeted the pope on their feet applauding and bid him farewell the same way; he stood and applauded with the congregation when honor was paid to the handful of survivors of the Nazi Holocaust who were present for the event.

"Their sufferings, anguish and tears must never be forgotten," the pope said.

"And the past must be a lesson to us for the present and the future. The Shoah teaches us that maximum vigilance is always needed in order to intervene quickly in defense of human dignity and peace."

Pope Francis was the third pope to visit the Rome synagogue and Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni, the chief rabbi of Rome, said that in Jewish tradition "an act repeated three times becomes 'chazaqa,' a fixed tradition."

The pope, the rabbi, the president of the Rome Jewish community and the president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities all recalled the visits of St. John Paul II in 1986 and of Pope Benedict XVI in 2010. And they all spoke of the "new era" in Catholic-Jewish relations that began with the Second Vatican Council and its declaration "Nostra Aetate" on relations with non-Christian religions.

But continued violence in the Middle East and the specter of terrorism also were on the hearts and minds of all the speakers.

"Conflicts, wars, violence and injustice open profound wounds in humanity and call us to reinforce our commitment to peace and justice," the pope said.

"The violence of man against man is in contradiction with every religion worthy of the name and, particularly, with the three monotheistic religions" of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Human life is a sacred gift of God, Pope Francis said. "God is the God of life and always wants to promote and defend it; and we, created in his image and likeness, are

obliged to do the same."

The pope continued that Catholics and Jews must pray intensely that God would help bring peace, reconciliation, forgiveness and life to the Holy Land, the Middle East and all places where conflict and terrorism are sowing death and destruction.

Interreligious dialogue, he said, must be based on a recognition that all people are children of the same God, who calls them to praise him and to work together for the good of all.

However, he said, the relationship between Christians and Jews is unique because of Christianity's Jewish roots. "Therefore, Christians and Jews must see themselves as brothers and sisters united by the same God and by a rich, common spiritual heritage."

In his speech, Rabbi Di Segni said the Rome Jewish community was welcoming the pope "to reaffirm that religious differences, which should be maintained and respected, must not however be a justification for hatred and violence."

"The Near East, Europe and many other parts of the world are besieged by wars and terrorism," the rabbi said. After decades in which Nazism, communism and other totalitarian ideologies led to such suffering, now "violence has come back and it is fed and justified by fanatic visions inspired by religion."

Dialogue and respect are the answer, he said, and the pope's visit to the synagogue is a sign of that.

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**Barnesville** — The 100th anniversary celebration of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church will conclude with a covered-dish meal Jan. 31, following the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass, at the church.

**Bellaire** — St. John Central (Grade) School will hold Lenten fish fries from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., beginning Feb. 10, and continuing every Friday during Lent, until March 18, at St. John Church hall. Sandwiches cost \$4; dinners, \$7; desserts, \$1. Carryout orders and free delivery will be available. For additional information or to place an order, telephone (740) 676-0051 or (740) 579-6154.

**Buchtel** — “Beyond the Mask,” a Christian historical film that takes place during the American Revolution, will be shown at 7 p.m., Jan. 29, at St. Mary of the Hills Church hall.

**Carlisle** — To purchase a copy of the St. Michael Parish CWC hardback cookbook, which contains 200 recipes, telephone the parish office at (740) 732-4576. Cookbooks cost \$10 each.

**Churchtown** — A “Super Bowl” sub sale, sponsored by St. John Central School, will be held Feb. 6 and Feb. 7, following Masses at St. Bernard Church, Beverly. Proceeds will benefit the school’s field trips. To preorder or for additional information, telephone the school office at (740) 896-2697.

**Gallipolis** — St. Louis Parish will sponsor Lenten fish fries from 4:30-7 p.m., Feb. 12 through March 18, at St. John Paul II Parish Center. Cost for adults to eat is \$9; children, up to the age of 12, eat for \$4.50; children, under 3 years of age, eat for free.

**Ironton** — Fall and Christmas decorations are being accepted by the Ironton Catholic community CWC for a future craft sale. Donations can be taken to St. Joseph Church undercroft.

**Little Hocking** — Lenten devotions will be held at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., Feb. 12, at St. Ambrose Church.

A Red Cross blood drive will be held from 1-6 p.m., Feb. 17, at St. Ambrose Church.

**Marietta** — Doors will open at 6 p.m., Feb. 6, for the St. Mary School Foundation dinner and drawing, which will be held at the Msgr. Edward Kakascik Parish Center, located at the school, 320 Marion St. Tickets are available by telephoning the St. Mary School office at (740) 374-8181 or the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption rectory, (740) 373-3643. Proceeds will support the foundation and the integral projects it assists the school with.

St. Mary School will sponsor Lenten fish fries from 5-7 p.m., Feb. 12 through March 18, at the school, which is located at 320 Marion St.

“The Footprints of God,” a video series created and hosted by Steve Ray, internationally recognized convert to the Catholic faith, will be shown at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption social hall, Thursday mornings, from 10-11:30 a.m., and Thursday evenings, from 7-8:30 p.m., Feb. 18 through March 17. The series will explore the lives of key figures in salvation history by going on location to places where they lived in the Holy Land and surrounding areas. It can also be viewed via computer or tablet through a web-based service called FORMED.org. For additional information, contact Joseph A. Schmidt, director of religious education at the basilica, by telephoning (740) 373-3643, or emailing basilicadre@gmail.com.

**Martins Ferry** — St. Mary Central School will hold a quarter frenzy Jan. 31. Doors for the event will open at the school, 24 N. Fourth St., at 11:30 a.m., for shopping and a soup and sandwich lunch. The auction will begin at 1 p.m. There will be vendors, door prizes, a Chinese raffle and a 50/50 drawing at the event. Admission is \$5 for the first paddle; additional paddles cost \$1. Tickets can be purchased at the school office or at the door on the day of the event.

The Ladies of St. Mary’s will sponsor a “Grandma’s Homemade Gnocchi” sale. Cost is \$5 per pound. To place an order, telephone (740) 633-1416, prior to March 5; orders must be paid by March 12.



**Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, pastor of Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes, Wintersville, announces the seventh annual St. Vincent de Paul Ministry Valentine’s Craft Extravaganza. Linda Freed, left, and Elane Renzelli, right, announce that the extravaganza will be held from noon until 3 p.m., Feb. 7, at Blessed Sacrament Parish’s Sargus Hall, 852 Main St., Wintersville. The event has local artisans selling baked goods, candles and a variety of handcrafted jewelry and decorative items, says Freed and Debra Latynski, event coordinators. Many vendors, also, will have samples of their products and will hold drawings for their custom-crafted goods. For additional information on the extravaganza, telephone Freed at (740) 264-6539 or email her at dolcepizzelles@aol.com. Renzelli, director of the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry, said the extravaganza is the only annual fundraiser for the ministry that is a combined effort of Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes. The ministry operates a food pantry and distributes free food to qualified households in the Wintersville and Bloomingdale areas. The money raised at the extravaganza is used to purchase food for the ministry, which provides 21 meals for each person who calls for the distribution the third week of each month. In 2015, the ministry distributed more than 45,000 well-balanced meals and Easter food baskets and candy, Thanksgiving food baskets and Christmas food baskets and children’s Christmas gifts, Renzelli said. Information on the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry is available by telephoning (740) 264-9547. (Photo by Ward)**

Pickup will be March 19, from 10 a.m. to noon, in St. Mary Central School auditorium, 24 N. Fourth St. Proceeds from the sale will benefit St. Mary Church projects.

**McConsville** — St. James Parish will hold a “chilly” chili and game night beginning at 5:30 p.m., Feb. 6, at the church. Those attending can bring their favorite version of chili and a favorite game to play.

**Pomeroy** — Mass will be celebrated in Spanish at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 14, at Sacred Heart Church. A meal will follow in the church undercroft.

**St. Clairsville** — Engaged couples planning to marry in a Catholic church in the Diocese of Steubenville are invited to a marriage preparation workshop from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., March 19, at St. Mary Church Marian Hall. At the close of the workshop, the couple’s engagement will be blessed. The workshop fulfills the diocesan marriage preparation. For additional information or to register for the day, call Michael Zabrecky, director of religious education at St. Mary Parish, at (740) 695-9993.

The next gathering of the St. Mary Parish Saturday Book Club will begin Feb. 20, at 11 a.m., in the parish offices. The first five stories of “Father Brown: The Essential Tales,” written by G. K. Chesterton, will be discussed. For additional information or to order the book, telephone the parish offices at (740) 695-9993.

**Steubenville** — Stations of the Cross will be

prayed at 6 p.m., every Friday during Lent, at St. Peter Church.

A history of St. Peter Parish is being compiled by Nancy Givens, a St. Peter parishioner. Anyone having pictures, or other parish memorabilia they would like to donate to the project, can call her at (740) 424-3674. A PDF version of the text of the book “Upon This Rock,” which is no longer published, but contains details of the history of St. Peter’s, can be downloaded or read online at St. Peter’s website, www.stpetersteub.com.

**Wintersville** — Throughout the “Jubilee Year of Mercy,” confessions will be heard Tuesdays, from 7-7:50 a.m. and from 9-10 p.m., and Thursdays, from noon-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m., at Blessed Sacrament Church. Confessions are also heard Saturdays, from 3:30-4:20 p.m., at the church.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish will sponsor an annual “Souper Bowl” soup sale following the 9:30 a.m. Mass, Feb. 7, at the church. Featured will be wedding, green pepper, bean, potato, sausage, Italian vegetable soups and chili, for \$5 a quart; desserts will also be sold.

Beginning Feb. 10, and continuing on Wednesdays throughout Lent, frozen pierogi will be sold from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., at Blessed Sacrament Church Sargus Hall. Potato onion, prune, potato kraut and potato cheese will be available for \$7.50 per dozen. Gnocchi will be sold for \$4 per 16-ounce bag. Meatless sauce will cost \$1.75 per pint; \$3.50 per quart. Sales will not be held during Holy Week.

## Around and About

**Athens** — Endow will hold a discussion on St. Pope John Paul II's teaching on the "Christian Meaning of Human Suffering" from 9-10:30 a.m., Feb. 3 through March 30, at Holy Family Center, located at Christ the King University Parish, 75 Stewart St. According to a parish bulletin, Endow is a Catholic educational program that brings women together to discover their God-given dignity and to understand their role in humanizing and transforming society. For additional information on Endow or to register for the study group, telephone Eileen Sirois at (910) 545-8783.

**Athens** — The Ohio University Nutrition Treatment Program is accepting clients for the spring semester. The program consists of three one-on-one nutritional counseling sessions with a senior dietetic student, supervised by a registered dietitian. Counseling includes nutritional analyses and nutritional education. For additional information, telephone Jana Hovland at (740) 593-2875 or email, hovland@ohio.edu. Counseling services are free of charge.

**Barnesville** — Campbell-Plumly-Milburn Funeral Home will host an annual "Widows' Valentine Luncheon" Feb. 12, at noon, at the Barnesville Library Annex, 611 N. Chestnut St.

**Hopedale** — On the first Sunday of each month, in observance of the "Jubilee Year of Mercy," the chaplet of mercy will be recited at 3 p.m., at the Order of the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary, 48765 Annapolis Road. The day will also include silent eucharistic adoration until 5

p.m.; confessions will be available during that time. Weekly Saturday Mass is celebrated at 11 a.m. For additional information, telephone (740) 946-9000.

**Marietta** — Knights of Columbus Council 478 will sponsor a cornhole tournament at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 21, at the council hall, 312 Franklin St.

**Steubenville** — A solemn candle Mass, to close the "Year of Consecrated Life," will be celebrated at 6 p.m., Feb. 2, at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Oratory, 700 Lovers Lane. The main celebrant for Mass will be Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, and Diocese of Steubenville Delegate for Religious.

**Steubenville** — Knights of Columbus Father Bigelow Assembly 472 will sponsor a free throw competition Jan. 30 at Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary gymnasium. Boys and girls ages 9-14 can participate in the event. Registration will begin at 1 p.m.; competition at 1:30 p.m. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For additional information, contact Bill Lamantia by phone at (740) 266-6727, email, blama1229@yahoo.com, or telephone Rich Gulan, (740) 264-0729.

**Steubenville** — The Jefferson County Fourth Street Health Center Board will host a "Jazzy Jeans and Jewels" fundraiser from 6-10 p.m., Feb. 6, at Blessed Sacrament Church Sargus Hall, 852 Main St., Wintersville. Cost to attend is \$35 per person. For additional information, telephone (740) 632-1144.

**Steubenville** — Heartland 2016 will be held from 6 a.m.-3 p.m., Feb. 18, at the Fort Steuben Mall, 100 Mall Drive. Included in the day will be a community blood analysis, which tests participants' blood for more than 30 different screens. Cost for the blood screening is \$35. The HBA1c screening, which monitors the glucose control of diabetics, will also be available for \$15.

**Steubenville** — A Creighton Fertility-Care seminar day will be held from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Feb. 27, at Franciscan University of Steubenville, in St. Joseph Center. Cost for couples to attend is \$75; singles can attend for \$40; students with ID and religious can attend for \$35. All prices include a continental breakfast and lunch. To register for the event, email Nicole Nelson, nhuffer001@gmail.com; put "Creighton Seminar" on subject line. For questions, telephone Mary Nelson at (740) 944-1337.

**Steubenville** — A natural family planning class will be offered by Natural Family Planning International Feb. 28, at St. Peter Church, 425 N. Fourth St. For additional information or to register, telephone Steve or Ann Craig at (740) 457-9663. An online course is also available; visit www.nfpandmore.org.

**Toronto** — A charismatic Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m., Feb. 11, in the Father of Mercy Chapel at the motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother, 369 Little Church Road. Franciscan Father Dave Pivonka, internationally known

speaker and author, will celebrate Mass; prayer for healing or other needs will follow. Refreshments will be served that evening, also.

**Wheeling, W.Va.** — A spaghetti dinner is planned from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 7, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church hall, 4136 Jacob St. Dinners cost \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children, and include spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert, coffee or tea. Carryout orders will be available by telephoning (304) 232-1777.

**Wheeling, W.Va.** — An annual world marriage day celebration will take place Feb. 13, at St. Vincent de Paul Marist Center, 2244 Marshall Ave. Mass will be celebrated at St. Vincent de Paul Church at 5 p.m. A candlelight dinner will follow at the Marist Center. The evening will conclude with cake and coffee being served. Cost for the evening is \$45 a couple; reservations are due by Feb. 10. For additional information or reservations, telephone (304) 242-2012 or (304) 242-8156.

**Woodfield** — Lenten fish fries, sponsored by Knights of Columbus St. Joseph of Monroe County Council 5009, will be held Feb. 12, Feb. 26 and March 11, at St. Sylvester Central School, 119 E. Wayne St.

**Zanesville, Ohio** — Family information night will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Feb. 17, at Bishop Rosecrans High School, 1040 E. Main St. Families can tour the buildings, meet teachers and students, obtain registration information and inquire about tuition assistance. For more information, telephone the school office at (740) 452-7504.



Children look for the contents of a pinata at a St. Ann Parish, Chesapeake, Epiphany dinner. More than 100 attended the festivity, sponsored by the parish's social committee. (Photo by Mark Majorowski)

## Lenten adult discussion announced

LITTLE HOCKING — During the Lenten season, five adult discussion classes will take place at St. Ambrose Church.

A DVD presentation by Father Ron Rolheiser titled "The Incarnation: Keeping God in the Flesh," Part 1, will take place Feb. 17. Father Rolheiser is president of the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, a lecturer, writer and retreat master. "The Incarnation: Keeping God in the Flesh," Part 2, will be presented Feb. 24.

"Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility," from the U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops, is a book discussion, which encourages voters to carefully study and prayerfully consider their voting choices, prior to voting. It will be the topic of discussion Feb. 29. Copies of the book will be available in the gathering area of the church prior to the session.

The March 9 DVD presentation, "A History of the Mass," is from the Archdiocese of Chicago.

"Keeping Incarnate the Paschal Mystery," by Father Rolheiser, will conclude the discussions March 16.

All sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m.

## SEARCH weekend dates announced

IRONTON — The March SEARCH "Search for Christian Maturity" weekend will be held at St. Joseph Central High School, 912 S. Sixth St., this year.

Open to all junior and senior high school students of all faiths, the event will begin March 11 and conclude March 13; cost is \$45.

SEARCH is an official youth program of the Catholic Church, and the weekends are designed to help youth recognize Christ in their everyday interactions.

For additional information or to obtain an application, telephone the St. Joseph Church office at (740) 532-0712.

## Obituaries

**Eva K. Boykin**, 86, 1203 S. Seventh St., Ironton, St. Lawrence O'Toole, Oct. 22, 2015.

**Julie M. Castner**, 84, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Jan. 10.

**Gloria Chester**, 71, Athens, Christ the King University Parish, Jan. 13.

**Constance Brooker Delancy**, 45, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Jan. 7.

**Marie-Dominique Rouff Forro**, 65, Dillonvale, St. Adalbert, Jan. 8.

**Maria Quattrone Hayes**, 75, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Jan. 13.

**Earl "Gene" Jones**, 88, Ironton, St. Joseph, Nov. 13, 2015.

**Stella Balis Malisiak**, 96, Adena, St. Casimir, Jan. 19.

**Antoinette L. Matuska**, 64, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Dec. 23, 2015.

**Stella W. Drop Pempek**, 88, 502 Orchid Drive, Martins Ferry, St. Mary, Jan. 18.

**Albert "Archie" Petrella**, 91, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Dec. 26, 2015.

**James Pollack**, 83, Smithfield, St. Adalbert, Dillonvale, Jan. 18.

**Warren K. Robinson**, 75, 102 Auburn Ave., South Point, St. Joseph, Ironton, Nov. 26, 2015.

**Patricia Sayers**, 69, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Jan. 9.

**Clara Sherrin**, 81, Steubenville, Holy Family, Jan. 16.

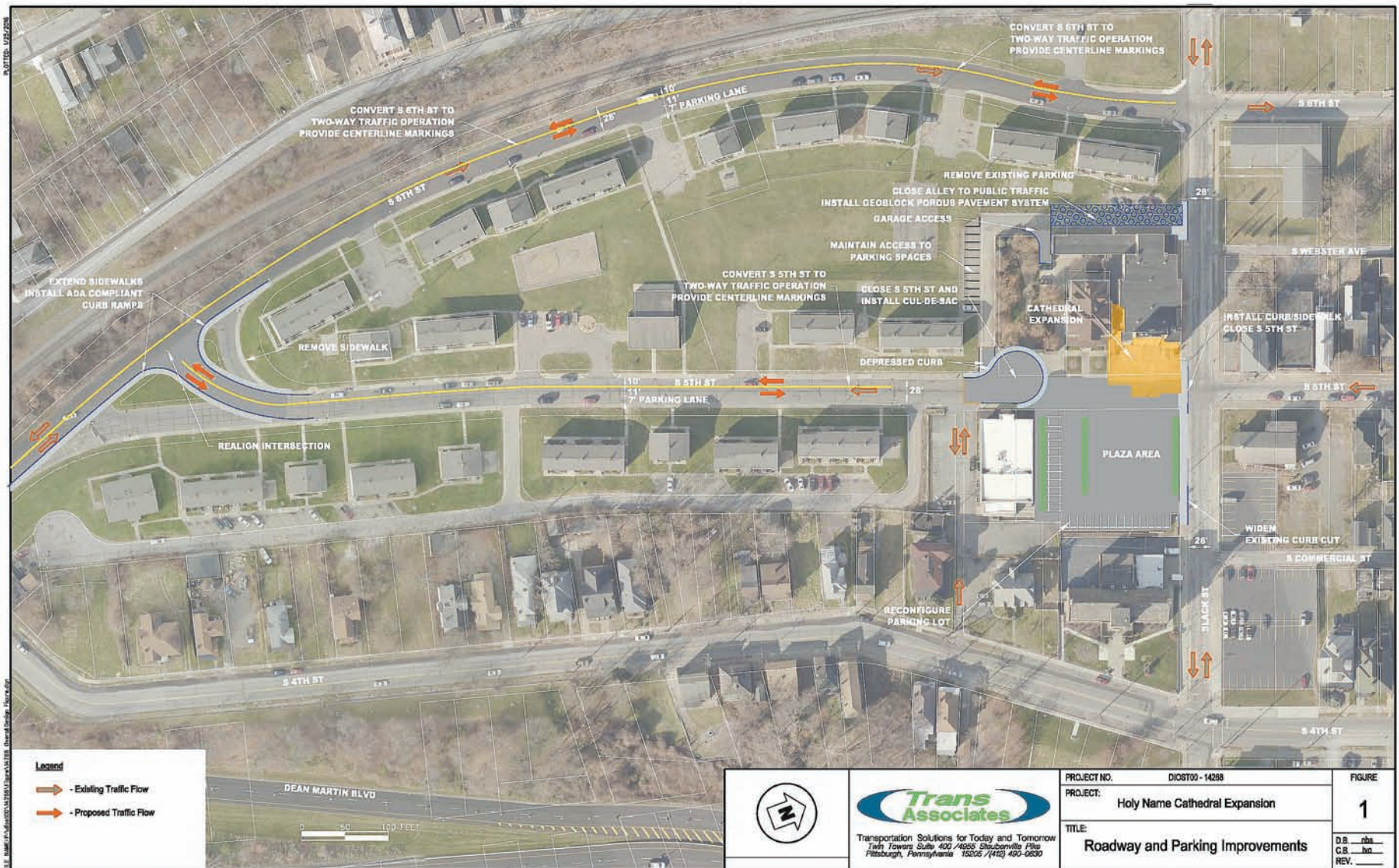
**Catherine J. Sweeney**, 88, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Dec. 29, 2015.

**Elvira A. Talamonti**, 86, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Jan. 16.

**Joseph C. Tassone**, 88, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Dec. 21, 2015.

**Nancy A. Tedeschi**, 73, Steubenville, Holy Family, Jan. 14.

**Gary L. Willis**, 78, 417 Wyanoke St., Ironton, St. Joseph, Nov. 23, 2015.



The rendering, top, shows the site plan for a renovated, restored and renewed Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville. As detailed by James G. Piazza, executive assistant to Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, the abandonment of South Fifth Street in front of Holy Name Cathedral will appropriate the space for a bell tower, pedestrian-friendly plaza and handicap-accessible parking. It, also, will allow for installation of a cul-de-sac, south of the church. Traffic flow will be converted from one-way. South Sixth Street in the vicinity of the cathedral, also, will be converted to two-way traffic, north to Slack Street. Work begins with demolition of the cathedral parking lot, removal of the Youth Center facade on cathedral grounds and upgrades to water lines in the front and back of the cathedral. Webster Alley, behind Holy Name Cathedral, will be vacated and used for heating and ventilation equipment. Steubenville Mayor Domenick Mucci Jr., above left, joins Bishop Monforton and Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general, right, Jan. 26 as James White Construction Co., Weirton, West Virginia, begins work on the project. Also, Bishop Monforton tries out the construction company's equipment, as it was moved to South Fifth Street, and stands on the steps of the soon-to-be renovated, restored and renewed cathedral. Diocesan and construction representatives urge drivers to use caution when traveling in the construction area, and avoid it, when driving, if possible. (Site plan scanned and photos by DeFrancis)