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News Briefs

Vatican questionnaire for youth online

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To involve young people in preparations for the Synod of Bishops on youth in 2018, the Vatican has released an online questionnaire to better understand the lives, attitudes and concerns of 16- to 29-year-olds around the world.

The questionnaire – available in English, Spanish, French and Italian – can be found on the synod’s official site: youth.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/it.html and is open to any young person, regardless of faith or religious belief.

The general secretariat of the synod launched the website June 14 to share information about the October 2018 synod on “Young people, faith and vocational discernment” and to link to an online, anonymous survey asking young people about their lives and expectations. The answers to the questionnaire, along with contributions from bishops, bishops’ conferences and other church bodies, “will provide the basis for the drafting of the ‘instrumentum laboris,’” or working document for the assembly, synod officials said in January.

Pope will visit Chile, Peru in January

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will travel to Colombia in September, and he will return to South America in January for a visit to Chile and Peru.

The pope will be in Chile Jan. 15-18, visiting the cities of Santiago, Temuco and Iquique, the Vatican press office announced.

He then will fly to Peru, and from Jan. 18-21, he will visit Lima, Puerto Maldonado and Trujillo.

The Vatican had announced in March that the pope would make a pastoral trip to Colombia Sept. 6-11. No mention was made of a possible trip to the pope’s homeland, Argentina. He has not returned to the country since he was elected pope in March 2013.

The Peru-Chile trip will be his fourth to South America. In July 2013, he visited Brazil for World Youth Day. In July 2015, he traveled to Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay. The September trip to Colombia would be his third to the continent.

Vatican bank reports \$40 million profit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Institute for the Works of Religion, often referred to as the Vatican bank, made a profit of 36 million euros (about \$40 million) in 2016, according to its annual report.

The institute held assets worth 5.7 billion euros at year’s end, which included deposits and investments from close to 15,000 clients – mostly Catholic religious orders around the world, Vatican offices and employees, and Catholic clergy.

Before the report’s release, the 2016 financial statements were audited by the firm Deloitte & Touche and were reviewed by the Commission of Cardinals overseeing the institute’s work. According to a statement from the bank, all of the profits will be turned over to the Holy See, with none being placed in the institute’s reserve account. According to the report, most of the institute’s clients “are active in missions or perform charitable works at institutions such as schools, hospitals or refugee camps.”



At the conclusion of Mass June 24 at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton stands before the diocesan pilgrim statue to pray the prayer reconsecrating the Diocese of Steubenville to its patroness, the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Father William D. Cross, diocesan judicial vicar, is visible at left. (Photo by DeFrancis) • Bishop Monforton’s homily/Page 7; reconsecration prayer/Page 11; additional reconsecration photos/Page 12 •



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton and Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon stand with diocesan priests – active and retired from active parish ministry, deacons – transitional and permanent, and seminarians at the Annual Priests’ Jubilee Celebration. Father Robert A. Gallagher, second row, second from left, celebrating 40 years of ordination to the priesthood, was the homilist (homily/Page 7). Other jubilarians at the June 19 celebration at St. Mary Church, St. Clairsville, are Father David J. Cornett, front, right, and Father David L. Gaydosik, second row, third from left, 30 years, and Father Chester J. Pabin, second row, fourth from left, 25 years. Other jubilarians include Msgr. Frederick A. Pasquinelli, 65 years, and Permanent Deacon Lawrence R. Meagher, 40 years. (Photo by Campbell)

After long service, two lay teachers, two Franciscans leave St. Benedict

CAMBRIDGE — Four teachers with decades of service have left St. Benedict School, for retirement, or relocation.

Jane M. Rush, St. Benedict principal, said of Barb Denniston and Teri Fitch and Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, Anna Maar and Carolee Vanness that they leave a legacy. That legacy, Rush said, "has helped shape and build our school in its ministry to the church.



Barb Denniston

"They will be dearly missed."

Born in Dover, Ohio, Denniston has been a resident of Cambridge since the age of 4. She attended college in central Indiana, met her husband Mike at Anderson College there and returned with him to Cambridge, where he joined her parents in an office supply business.

"I was blessed to get into teaching," Denniston said of her career, which began in the late 1970s.

In 1980, she said, she saw an ad for an education position, but she didn't know where it was. She responded to a post office box, got a telephone call and realized the position was in a Catholic school. "And, I am not Catholic," said Denniston, who called herself a strong Christian and a member of the Church of God. "What do I do?" she said she asked herself. Denniston was hired to teach first grade at St. Benedict School. After teaching for three years, she took time off to have children. In 1985, she was back as a part-time kindergarten teacher.

"It's been a wonderful experience," Denniston said. Her favorite things are singing and praying with the children and teaching them to read. She calculated that she has touched the lives — "and they have touched

mine" — of more than 500 children.

Widowed, Denniston expects to relocate to Indiana to be near family, including her children, Tim and Sarah, and their families.

Fitch, too, has worked in the Diocese of Steubenville for 35 years, beginning her career at Guernsey Catholic Central High School, Cambridge, in 1982. When it closed, she relocated to St. Benedict School, where she taught kindergarten through eighth-grade physical education.

At St. Benedict, Fitch said she started girls' volleyball and basketball. As well as serving as a coach for those teams, Fitch scheduled games, was a cheerleader adviser and an assistant track coach. "I even taught sign language to my students," Fitch said.

Presently, Fitch is a physical education teacher at Bishop Fenwick Elementary School, Zanesville, Ohio, and an educational aide for a deaf student.

A graduate of John Glenn High School and Muskingum College, both in New Concord, Ohio, Fitch is in the Hall of Fame for sports achievements.

Leaving St. Benedict was difficult, Fitch said, but she added that she is called to help the deaf student, since she and her family are deaf, too.

Born in Hungry, Sister Anna came to the United States with her father, mother and two brothers, after living in Germany for six years following World War II. She was a fourth-grader when they settled on a farm near Green Bay, Wisconsin.

After eighth-grade, Sister Anna said she



Teri Fitch

became an aspirant with the Franciscan Sisters in Manitowoc. "I was very independent," she said. "I felt the Lord's call," she added, and, therefore, she just went to the convent.

After high school, first as a novitiate with the Franciscan Sisters and then after her final profession with the religious order in 1966, Sister Anna obtained a bachelor's from Silver Lake College, Manitowoc. Sister Anna has a master's

from Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia, also, and has taught at schools in Wisconsin, Michigan, Arizona and Ohio, nine of those years at St. Benedict. There she was a teacher of math, science and religion.

Sister Anna returns to her religious order's motherhouse in Wisconsin as a seamstress. "It's been a good life," Sister Anna said of her vocation.

Sister Carolee will leave St. Benedict for another assignment. She will teach in the lower grades in a Michigan parochial school classroom.



Sister Anna



Sister Carolee

(Photos by DeFrancis/provided)

Born in Algoma, Wisconsin, she is the third oldest of nine children, whose oldest sister, Kathlyn, went to the convent after eighth-grade. As she became an eighth-grader herself, Sister Carolee said she began to think that there was something special there. The Franciscan Sisters had taught her in elementary school, also. She made her first profession in 1974 and her final one two years after she graduated from college in 1978.

Throughout the years, Sister Carolee has taught in Wisconsin, Nebraska, Arizona, Ohio and Michigan. She began teaching at St. Benedict School in 2009.

"There is something special about Ohio," she said. "The people are warm and friendly. Christ Our Light Parish (which supports St. Benedict School) is very welcoming."

Franciscan Sisters have served the Cambridge community for more than 100 years. Rush said that two will join three others at St. Benedict in the fall. They are Franciscan Sisters Jan Villemure, junior high math and religion, and June

Smith, elementary-level intervention. The others are Franciscan Sisters Carol Juckem, Helen Marie Paul and Sharon Paul.

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At convention, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women questioned on legacy

STEUBENVILLE — When the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women convened for a 72nd annual convention, members were asked what kind of world they want to leave by Emilia Alonso-Sameno, featured speaker, and challenged by Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton to return to their parishes and find ways to engage youth.

Dedicated to St. Teresa of Calcutta, the June 7 convention was held at Holy Family Church, Steubenville, and opened by Pamela Ambrose, DCCW president, who reiterated the organization's mission statement — to foster and encourage the spiritual development of members and support Catholic principles to social concerns, to instruct and motivate members to accept responsibility of bringing about God's kingdom in the world for his honor and glory, and to recognize and address the spiritual and temporal needs of the family, parish, community and world.

With the theme "Behold the Handmaid of the Lord," Order of the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary Sister Teresa Condit said the dedication of the convention to St. Teresa comes as the Steubenville Diocese is being reconsecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and apparitions of the Blessed Mother at Fatima are being celebrated, and on the eve of the renewal of the diocese, what she quoted Bishop Monforton as labeling a time of immense hope. The women of the diocese have a crucial role to play in the renewal, Sister Condit said, and listed Mother Teresa as a model for Catholic women. And, she added, "Mary always leads us to Jesus."

Father Timothy P. McGuire, DCCW moderator, suggested that the message of Fatima, deeply connected with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, is as valid today as it was in 1917. "Utilize the sacrament of penance and devoutly pray the rosary. Graces abound for those who do," Father McGuire, pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Colerain, wrote.

DeDe Kidder, DCCW treasurer, calculated 165 women reserved seats for the convention, where Alonso-Sameno shared comments on "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home."

A native of Spain, full professor of Spanish at Ohio University, Athens, Alonso-Sameno is a member of the

Steubenville Diocese's task force created in response to "Laudato Si'," Pope Francis' encyclical. The PhD, who is a member of the peace and justice ministry in the Athens Catholic community, as well as a missionary and mother, called it a privilege to stand before the women, whom she called to be people of action. The encyclical, Alonso-Sameno said, is an invitation to a change of heart, as well as mind and conscience.

Pope Francis' document is more than an encyclical about global warming and climate change, it is about how to develop right relationships, Alonso-Sameno said. It is a challenge on how to live differently. "He reminds us that all is not lost, but that there is much reason for hope and promise, ... of the ability to work together to build a common home."

With dialogue and action, Alonso-Sameno predicted there can be a healthy relationship with all creation. "It won't happen overnight," she said. "We need others."

Prior to morning Mass, celebrated by Bishop Monforton at Holy Family Church — Msgr. Gerald E. Calovini is parish pastor — the women memorialized their own. As is customary, members who died during the previous year were recognized at a memorial

Bishop Monforton called on the women to take the question back to their parishes and talk to parishioners to help determine what can be done about getting more young people in the pews.

"We have a healthy diocese," Bishop Monforton advised. He pointed to the parochial schools in the diocese, clergy and parishes. There are parochial schools in Jefferson, Belmont, Guernsey, Monroe, Washington and Lawrence counties, the bishop reminded. Seminarians are studying for the priesthood for the diocese, a diocesan Priests' Pension Fund is being shored up and in some parishes, a program is being introduced, Bishop Monforton said,

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Order of the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary Sister Teresa Condit dedicates the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women annual convention to St. Teresa of Kolkata. (Photo by DeFrancis)

service.

Bishop Monforton told the women, during his homily at Mass, that they are evangelizers and called them an arm of his pastoral outreach.

At lunch, which followed, he brought them up to date on movement at what is labeled Cathedral Square, location of Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville. At the site, property has been purchased to allow Fifth Street to be closed to traffic in front of the cathedral for creation of a piazza. Nearby properties have been purchased and buildings on some of the land demolished for parking, while a former church is being developed as a crises counseling center, Bishop Monforton said.

Meanwhile, he asked, "How do we reach out to the young people?"

Bishop Monforton's Schedule

June 30-July 3	U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' National Convocation on Evangelization, Orlando, Florida
July 4	Closing Mass, Fortnight for Freedom, Holy Family Church, Steubenville, 9 a.m.
14	Mass and luncheon, Apostolate for Family Consecration, Bloomingdale, noon
15	Mass, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 9 a.m. Seminar challenge breakfast, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption social hall, Marietta, 10 a.m. Installation of Father Timothy J. Kozak as pastor of St. Bernard Parish, Beverly, at St. Bernard Church, 7 p.m.

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At convention, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

From Page 3

to retool parishioners to be missionary disciples.

During the convention, June Lawrence, parish development officer for Cross Catholic Outreach, Boca Raton, Florida, congratulated the DCCW on its longevity and support to her organization, which she said delivers food, shelter and hope to the poorest of the poor. The DCCW has supported Cross Catholic Outreach since 2012.

Lawrence introduced a "Box of Joy" service project. Small boxes, provided by Cross Catholic Outreach, are filled with gifts for children, some of whom Lawrence said have nothing. In the past, she told the DCCW, its support has helped meet spiritual and physical needs of children, almost all who turn back to help the ministry themselves. "If we can make an impact, we can change the world," she said.

The women, also, were updated by Father Paul E. Hrezo, pastor of Christ Our Light Parish, Cambridge, on what has been done with DCCW monetary support in Peru, an outreach started by Steubenville Bishop Albert H. Ottenweller. A senior center has benefited by being able to turn the cash into new ovens, room renovations, building maintenance and agriculture development, Father Hrezo said.

Veronica Way, National Council of Catholic Women Cincinnati Province director, told the Steubenville DCCW she is proud of the work it does to improve the lives of others. "Great things happen when the women in your Catholic Woman's Club work and pray together," Way said.

As the convention neared its end, par-

ishes' Catholic Woman's clubs were recognized for projects. Awards were handed out to the **Mother of Hope Deanery** for its annual "Day with the Bishop," which includes lunch and a question and answer session, after which money raised by each unit is given to the bishop for seminarians; the **Catholic Woman's Club of Harrison County**, spiritual and financial assistance to a seminarian for a visit to the Holy Land; **Holy Family CWC**, support of missionary parishioners who work at home and abroad; **Our Lady of Lourdes, Wintersville**, weekly baking of nut and pumpkin rolls that are sold in support of items for the church; **St. Agnes, Mingo Junction**, outreach to new members of the parish for membership in the organization; **St. Francis Xavier, Malvern**, presents Bibles to newly married, crucifixes to confirmandi, gifts for first communicants and prayer books for newly widowed and works with **St. Gabriel Parish, Minerva**, for a joint parish picnic in the summer and Epiphany party in January; St. Gabriel, sponsored ice cream social for the community, which honored first responders and veterans, after a memorial service on the 15th anniversary of 9/11; **St. John Fisher, Richmond**, worked with youth of the parish to collect "Change with Change" for Cusco to educate them about the Peruvian archdiocese and serving others; **St. Peter, Steubenville**, enlists parishioners in annual toy drive at Christmas, which provides nearly 150 gifts yearly; **St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph, Toronto**, recognized 79 women of the parishes who are involved in various ministries, such as baking, visit-

ing shut-ins, lecturing, cantoring, serving as extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, quilting, providing meals after funerals, praying and supporting the parish school of religion; **St. Joseph, Bridgeport**, ministers to the aging and homebound by sending cards, providing prizes for games at nursing homes, delivering gifts at Christmas and Easter to shut-ins, supporting a Mass of anointing in the spring and fall and delivering Communion to the homebound; **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Barnesville**, participated in local pumpkin festival with proceeds from food sales used for parish projects and events; **St. Casimir, Adena**, bakes rolls for sale at Christmas with proceeds used for parish needs; **St. Frances Cabrini**, held party for children in the parish in October; **St. Mary, Shadyside**, prepared and served funeral luncheons, worked Friday fish fries and prepared and served food at annual church festival; **Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta**, supports and assists Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, to fight homelessness and poor housing in Appalachia; **Christ Our Light**, increases awareness of vocations with potluck dinners, Holy Hours and recitation of the rosary during some weekend Masses; **Corpus Christi, Belle Valley**, holds soup lunch in March with proceeds used for fuel cards for college students, as well as families in need and other community organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity; **St. Ambrose, Little Hocking**, helped a parish couple, missionaries in Chimbote, Peru, with costs of medical supplies, food and personal items

for hospice patients and with price of material for repair of a school roof; **Our Lady of Mercy, Lowell**, works weekly with area Daily Bread Kitchen to prepare meals to eat in or take home by those in need in the Marietta area; **St. Henry, Harriettsville**, helps with sack lunch program in the summer and backpack program during school year to feed area youth; **St. James, McConnelsville**, holds a priests' appreciation breakfast in October and collects nonperishable food for the Morgan County United Ministries Food Bank, Malta, Ohio; **St. John the Baptist, Miltonsburg**, participates in the adopt-a-seminarian; **St. Stephen, Caldwell**, provides food for Noble County Habitat for Humanity and donates to a Noble County program for abused and neglected children; **St. John the Baptist, Churchtown**, provided funds for St. John Central School, Churchtown, students for bus expenses for field trip; **St. Sylvester, Woodsfield**, gave funds for St. Sylvester Central School, Woodsfield, students to attend dance and music events in Marietta and Moundsville, West Virginia.

Other DCCW officers include Nancy Doerr, vice president; Joanne Kolancki, secretary; Elizabeth Duche, auditor; Carolyn Estadt, historian; Diana R. Vargo, spirituality commission; Camille Recznik and Kidder, service commission; Eileen Ackerman, leadership commission; Nina Huffman, public relations; Kidder, publicity, communications and website; and Donna Turner, editor, The Spirit.

Deanery presidents are Vargo, Mother of Hope; Ambrose, Presentation; and Donna Archer, Visitation. (Pictures/Page 5)



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Primary Duties and Responsibilities:

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- prepares and oversees the management and coordination of all fiscal reporting activities;
- develops and maintains systems of internal controls to safeguard financial assets of the diocese and oversees federal awards and programs;
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Joanne Kolanski, left, and Eileen Ackerman attach the banner to open the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women memorial service June 7 at Holy Family Church, Steubenville, while Marilyn Holbert places a rose in memory of a deceased DCCW member. After the service, Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton begins Mass, along with, from left, Father Timothy P. McGuire, DCCW moderator; Transitional Deacon Joshua D. Erickson; Permanent Deacon Richard G. Adams; and Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general. Seminarian Nicholas Ward is visible in back.

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in convention



Lunch is served at the DCCW convention, which includes Father David J. Cornett, pastor of parishes in Barnesville and Temperanceville.



Past DCCW presidents at the annual convention are, from left, Nina Huffman, Joanne Raha, Gladys Evans, Veronica Way and DeDe Kidder. (Photos by DeFrancis)





Pamela Ambrose, DCCW president, greets Emilia Alonso-Sameno, featured speaker at the DCCW convention. An Ohio University, Athens, professor, and active in her parish, St. Paul, Athens, and the diocese, she discussed "Ladato Si", Pope Francis' encyclical.

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St. John Paul II The Spirit and the Incarnation

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

Pope St. John Paul next reflects on the work of the Holy Spirit as it is revealed to us in the life of Christ. Again, we must go to the infancy narratives of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, but especially that of Luke, to see the Holy Spirit accomplishing his most significant work: the incarnation of the Son of God as a human being. The account of the annunciation in Luke's Gospel might be considered the preface to the story of God walking this earth with us as man.

We speak of the Holy Spirit's relationship to the Christian as an "indwelling," meaning that the Spirit literally *resides* within the soul of a person. How this can be is, of course, beyond our comprehension. We know little enough about the soul itself, the nonmaterial, noncorporeal component of our being. How that component can be intimately associated with God is something entirely over our heads. Nevertheless, as we will see from divine revelation, that it is a fact – that it does take place. But how a human person could be united with God in his divine nature itself is completely off the chart! Yet, the Gospels tell us that it was and is a fact. In John Paul's words: "a still higher and more perfect indwelling."

Consider again the account of the Annunciation: Mary is told by the angel: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Lk 1:35). The Spirit is at work on two persons here: Mary and Jesus. Mary was the recipient of at least two actions: the

strength to accept the plan of God as proposed by the angel, and her conception at that moment of a human being without the usual union of ovum with male sperm. Regarding the former, she was prepared for her role since her own birth: her Immaculate Conception without the original sin that marks the rest of her fellow humans. The pope explains that it happened "in view of Christ, her Son, in the extratemporal sphere of the mystery of the incarna-

'The conception and birth of Jesus Christ are in fact the greatest work accomplished by the Holy Spirit in the history of creation and salvation. ...'

tion. For her, the Immaculate Conception constituted, in advance, a participation in the benefits of the Incarnation and redemption. ... And that is accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit." Her decision was one of free will – aided by the help of the Spirit – "an answer given by grace and in grace." It should be pointed out that the term "Immaculate Conception" refers to the origin of Mary herself, while the miraculous conception of Jesus without the need of the usual male contribution is designated the "Virgin Birth." The Holy Spirit was at work in both, as he would be in the subsequent miracles of Jesus later in the Gospels. We must keep in mind that Jesus would be acting in his human nature as man, not in his divine nature as God. To do what is impossible, humanly speaking, requires outside assistance. If it is for good, that assistance is from the Holy Spirit.

John Paul quotes his own words in his earlier encyclical on the Holy Spirit ("Dominum et Vivificantem," 1986): "The conception and birth of Jesus Christ are in fact the greatest work accomplished by the Holy Spirit in the history of creation and salvation: the supreme grace – 'the grace of union,' source of every other grace. ... For the 'fullness of time' is matched by particular fullness of the self-communication of the triune God in the Holy Spirit. By the power of the Holy Spirit the 'hypostatic union' is brought about – that is, the union of the divine nature and the human nature, of divinity and humanity in the one Person of the Word-Son." Such a thing was beyond the scope of even the prophets of the Old Testament.

A question may be raised here regarding the prophecy of Isaiah that Matthew's Gospel quotes: "Behold the virgin shall be with child and bear a son and they shall call him 'Emmanuel' which means 'God is with us'" (Mt 1:22-23). These words of Isaiah were made to a king, supposedly as a sign to him. Who the virgin was and when this was to take place is not clear. "Virgin" in this context could simply mean a young woman of marriageable age. That the woman in question would continue to be a virgin when conceiving a child is not necessarily implied. Therefore, we cannot point to it as a foretelling of the birth of Christ. Obviously, if it referred to Christ, it could hardly have been a sign to the king some 700 years earlier! The pope

surmises that "the oracle is incomplete and therefore lent itself to many interpretations."

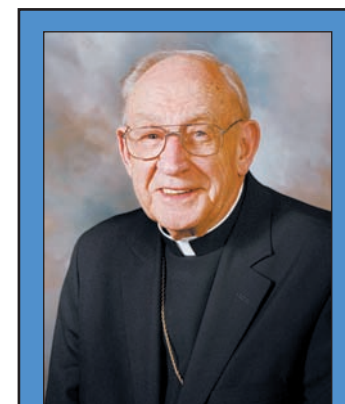
Coming back to our discussion, "The virginal conception therefore is an integral part of the mystery of the Incarnation," John Paul says. "The body of Jesus conceived in a virginal fashion by Mary, belongs to the person of the eternal word of

God. The Spirit ... brings it about that the man ... whom she conceived is the true Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, one in substance with the Father, for whom the Father is the only Father. While being born of Mary as a man, he continues to be the Son of the same Father of whom he is eternally begotten. See how, in a special way, the virginity of Mary stresses the fact that the Son she conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit is the Son of God. God is alone his Father."

The pope refers in this connection to traditional artwork that usually depicts Mary with Jesus in her arms, but without Joseph in the scene. This is unlike the usual infant portraits of a child with both parents. He points out that Byzantine art emphasizes this most effectively, being rooted in the earliest theological tradition which flourished in the eastern Roman or "Byzantine" world.

The notion of "spirit," as we have seen, includes that of wind or breath. Genesis tells how God the Creator formed man from the dust of the ground and "blew into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living being" (Gn 2:7). The Holy Spirit breathed again at the conception of Jesus, and the Son of God became a living (human) being!

The science of anthropology is the study of man himself. It borrows from many other sciences and sources of knowledge, e.g., sociology, history, psychology, economics. It is not complete, however, until it also incorporates knowledge derived from divine revelation about mankind. That would necessarily relate it to Christ and hence make it "Christian anthropology!"

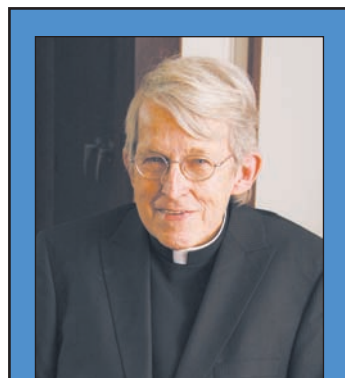


Bishop Sheldon

Things Hidden (14th Ordinary Sunday, Cycle A)

By Father Paul J. Walker

This 14th Sunday's (July 9) Gospel is, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible. Jesus allows us a deep look into his innermost heart. He opens his heart and shows what moves him. Although Jesus' teaching is being rejected by the "wise and learned" (the religious elite) it is being accepted by those who are not as sophisticated or as learned. Jesus and his teachings do not appeal to important people. Instead of lamenting this situation,



Father Walker

Jesus praises the Father who is at work in these situations. He praises his heavenly Father – the mysteries of God's reign (announced by the prophet) have been hidden from the wise and the learned and revealed to the "little ones." This does not mean just children, but all who are powerless, marginalized, denied

rights and privileges others have. As Bob Dylan sings, one example: small children; "misused, abused, strung-out ones and worse." Love stories – they are open to the wonder and image often found there! The Gospel stories draw us, they tug at our hearts with cords of wonder and delight, but also with terror and danger. We are fashioned to hear this Gospel message, but sometimes we lose the ability to believe, to dream, to imagine it can be true. The heart, the imagination is the home of the Gospel, not the head!

This mystery of God's reign that is "caught" by "little ones" will be served up over upcoming Sundays in parables told by Jesus – stories, images, metaphors. They are takes of transformation; they show us what the learned and clever come by only with difficulty (if ever), but what "little ones" catch with delight, which is "...my yoke is easy, and my burden light." His yoke is the cross in all its forms (the narrow way, the steep path).

It is not that all our burdens which "yoke" us or weigh us down will go away or that we will sail through them with little or no effort. "Yoked" together with Jesus Christ, we are reminded that at every difficult turn of the road of life, another walks with us, holds us and supports us – helps carry what weighs us down.

God's reign, his life, his grace are free! We do not earn them or deserve them. We are challenged to do what "little To Page 8

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Closing of the Diocesan Year of Reconsecration on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

*(Isaiah, Chapter 61, Verses 9-11)
(Luke, Chapter 2, Verses 41-51)*

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Before I begin, a short note: Nearly a year ago, as we made preparation for the closing of this Year of Reconsecration, a potential major difficulty came to light: today, June 24, 2017, is the Universal Church Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist. In the Roman Missal, this universal solemnity enjoys priority over our diocesan solemnity of our patroness, the Immaculate Heart of Mary. As your bishop, I do not possess the ability to alter the liturgical calendar whenever I desire. Our faith is not the result of arbitrary decision-making. We are members of the Body of Christ, and we are in union with the Vicar of Christ, our Holy Father Pope Francis.

I am pleased to say that the response from the Holy See from my petition to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, this day in our diocesan Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, was granted. Yes, we embrace the humility and docility of Mary in every facet of our lives and trust in Jesus. Thankfully, my petition for a plenary indulgence was also responded to in the affirmative. Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we celebrate our patroness, the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

I thank all who prepared our solemn procession through the city of Marietta with the Immaculate Heart of Mary statue. This Marian statue has traveled our beloved diocese from parish-to-parish as a sign of our gratitude to Our Lady for her maternal care of the Church and, to remind each parish community that its shared mission is crucial to the effective missionary outreach of the entire diocese. Yes, we all are called to be missionary disciples.

More than a year ago, on June 4, 2016, we began the Year of Reconsecration of the Diocese of Steubenville dedicating ourselves to Mary, as we endeavored to discover ultimate peace in her Son Jesus the Christ.

We hear in the Gospel today that in the midst of Mary and Joseph searching for Jesus, Jesus' true identity is evident, made manifest, as he was doing his Father's work in his Father's house. The wonder pouring forth

from Mary's heart these first 12 years of Jesus' life was without parallel. Mary's journey as a faithful disciple filled her heart from the moment the angel announced the salvation of the human race coming through Jesus' arrival into this world, and that Mary would be his mother. We continue with the Blessed Virgin's visit with her kinswoman Elizabeth, a holy and joyful visit between a mother carrying the New Testament prophet who will introduce Jesus to the surrounding countryside, and the Mother of God, pregnant with the lone hope for humanity.

In the most sublime of moments, Mary's heart will echo the angels' herald hymns at the Nativity, the birth of Jesus Christ. Days later Jesus will be presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph as a family presents their first-born in conformity with the Old Testament law, a law which Jesus brings to completion in his very person. Mary will continue to witness Jesus' identity as a contradiction to this world in the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, only to have them to return as Jesus continued to progress in wisdom in preparation for his ministry among us as our Savior.

How can one heart contain all of these sacred events? The Immaculate Heart of Mary does. The Immaculate Heart of Mary, in her sinless and pure state of grace, provides her the ability without hesitation to ponder all in her heart, the very heart which will be pierced by a sword at her Son's suffering and death. The very trajectory of Mary's heart will play out in sorrow at the foot of the cross, only to come to the joyful culmination of the news of her Son's Resurrection.

The very growth of which we hear in our first reading today by the Prophet Isaiah is fulfilled through Mary's "Yes" to God. Mary's heart participates in the promises offered her ancestors centuries earlier through Isaiah's words of encouragement, to a people preparing to return home from exile to the Holy Land. Mary's heart, however, ponders greater things: a promise of eternal life in the person of her Son Jesus Christ.

As I continue that which was begun by my predecessor, Bishop John King Mussio in 1945, to Reconsecrate the Diocese of Steubenville to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our diocesan patroness, I do so with all hope in Jesus Christ himself. The Mother of God did not succumb to despair, but instead permitted her heart to be filled with that very same immense hope in her Son.

You see, today is *more a beginning than a conclusion*. A beginning. What do you mean by that, bishop? Thanks for



Bishop Monforton

asking! As the Immaculate Heart of Mary manifested the true identity of her Son with unfathomable hope, so, too, we can go out into the world with hearts full of the immaculate joy indicative of one who keeps Jesus close to one's heart. In the ancient world the heart was considered the center, the very nucleus of a person. It is no different now for us: fellow Christians.

The conclusion of this Year of Reconsecration is a charge to go out into the world. Today, we do not simply imitate Mary, we seek her maternal care each day of our lives, as we ponder the good Jesus has bestowed on our lives, and the treasury of blessings he will share with us today and in the future.

His mother kept all these things in her heart. We do the same.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Immaculate Heart of Mary. Pray for us. Amen.

Bishop Monforton delivered this homily at the June 24 reconsecration Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta.

Jubilarian reflects on 40 years of ministering the Gospel

By Father Robert A. Gallagher

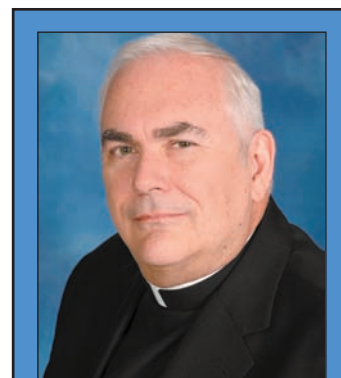
A while back I jokingly told Deacon Josh (Erickson) that I wasn't feeling very inspired about this sermon, so, maybe, I'll just talk about motorcycles. The longer I thought about that the more it seemed like a good idea.

One day, about six years ago, I was out shopping for a motorcycle. I was dressed casually, not in clerics. A salesman came over and began his pitch. He talked about speed, acceleration, excitement, the thrill of riding in the open air. He talked about how all the cute chicks are attracted to guys who ride bikes! At that point, I mentioned that I was a Catholic priest, so his last selling point was sort of wasted on me. Immediately, he changed his language and, even, his tone of voice. He spoke quietly and talked about good mileage and high visibility – what a "practical" vehicle this could be.

Now think about that experience – lawn mower salesmen are not surprised to find clergy looking at their products. Motorcycle salesmen are. Why? Does this tell us something about the popular image of clergy, and of the church? Lawn mowers are slow, safe, practical and middle class. Motorcycles are fast, a little dangerous, wild, thrilling. So,

today we should ask ourselves if being a minister of the Gospel is more like mowing the lawn or like riding a motorcycle? Is our ministry safe and practical, or adventurous and exciting? My guess, today, is that the common image of the Catholic priest is pure lawn mower – slow, deliberate, plodding. On the other hand, I would like to suggest that our task is to take the church out on the open road, give it the gas, and see what the old girl will do!

In our first reading today, (see, 2 Corinthians, Chapter 6, Verses 1-10) Paul is talking to problem children down in Corinth, and he isn't being slow, safe and practical. He starts out, "Look guys I have done everything I could to help you and nothing to make you stumble. I never took the easy way out even if it provoked riots as response to the Gospel, or I ended up beaten and thrown into jail. Clement of Rome wrote that Paul was imprisoned at least seven times. Paul doesn't mention any of that for sympathy, but it shows how much his ministry meant to him and how much God was at his side.



Father Gallagher

Then Paul turns away from the trials and tribulations to the virtues with which God has endowed him and that he has demonstrated in his ministry. No matter what our theological leaning, without the qualities listed as these virtues, we won't be living as the body of Christ.

He begins his list of virtues with purity, but unlike our use of the word, he wasn't talking just about sexual conduct. Purity here talks of someone who exhibits a connection with God in their approach to life and to themselves, people who show a genuine concern for the good of all. That

is what people should see in us.

Patience is also mentioned in this list. But, again, we have to be careful. This isn't an excuse to sit around and do nothing. We tend to say, "It's in God's hands now," and God is saying, "Hey, don't pass the buck to me. You are the people who are supposed to be doing the Lord's work and even greater." Here is how I see patience. Over the years, I have made a lot of mistakes, especially in the

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In lieu of visit, pope makes major donation to South Sudan charities

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With a trip to South Sudan postponed indefinitely, Pope Francis is sending close to a half-million dollars to help two hospitals, a teacher training center and farming projects for families as a way to show the people there his solidarity and support.

Because a planned trip with Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury couldn't happen this year as hoped, Pope Francis "wants to make tangible the presence and closeness of the church with the suffering people through this initiative 'The Pope for South Sudan,'" Cardinal Peter Turkson told reporters at a Vatican news conference June 21.

"He fervently hopes to be able to go there

as soon as possible on an official visit to the nation; the church does not shut hope out of such an afflicted area," said the cardinal, who is prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

An official visit was meant to draw the world's attention to a silent tragedy, give voice to those suffering and encourage conflicting parties to make renewed and greater efforts in finding a peaceful solution to the conflict, the cardinal said.

Already in March, Pope Francis had expressed doubts about the possibility of making the trip, saying in an interview with Germany's *Die Zeit* newspaper, that visiting South Sudan would be "important," but that "I don't believe that it is possible." The pope approved the project funding in April, a month before the Vatican announced the trip's delay.

Things Hidden

From Page 6

ones" do with gifts and offerings: welcome and receive them with delight!

So, Jesus calls out to people: "Come to me all who labored and are heavy laden." He promises what he alone can do. With him, my heart finds rest, more than can be found in any wellness or fitness center with all they can contribute to my physical health and well-being. Only Jesus Christ can lift the burdens that weigh heavily on my soul.

Compared with the troubles and difficulties we are ready to take on for health and success, his yoke is indeed easy and his burden light.

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

The initiative is meant to supplement, support and encourage the ongoing work of religious congregations, Catholic organizations and international aid groups on

the ground that "generously and tirelessly" help the people and promote peace and development, the cardinal said.

South Sudan became independent from Sudan in 2011 after decades of war. But just two years after independence, political tensions erupted into violence and abuses. The fighting, displacement, insecurity and drought have led to large-scale hunger and malnutrition across the country. It's estimated that 3.8 million people have been displaced and at least 28 million are in need of food aid.

A papal donation of about \$200,000 will support a program run by Caritas South Sudan, providing fast-growing seeds and farming tools for 2,500 families in areas where it is still possible to grow food.

Some \$112,000 will go to fund Solidarity With South Sudan, an international Catholic network, supporting 16 scholarships and a training program for primary school teachers. The teacher training center takes in

students from every ethnic group so they can learn and later teach values of tolerance and reconciliation along with basic education.

A contribution of \$150,000 will go to fund two hospitals run by the Comboni Missionary Sisters. Comboni Sister Laura Gemignani told reporters that they have extremely few resources to support their small staff and numerous patients.

She said their hospital in Wau sees 300 patients a day — 40,000 a year — but there is only one doctor, who comes in every day and responds to every emergency.

"It's hard to pay his salary," she said, but he, the nurses and other staff stay on despite the insecurity and danger.

When they were told to evacuate because of intensified fighting, she said the staff said that as long as they had even just one patient to attend to, they would never leave.

Cardinal Turkson said, "The Holy Father does not forget the unheard and silent victims of this bloody and inhumane conflict, does not forget all those people who are forced to flee from their homes because of abuses of power, injustice and war. He holds all of them in his prayers and his heart."



Pope Francis greets Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, as he celebrates Mass with about 50 cardinals in the Pauline Chapel of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican June 27. The Mass marked the pope's 25th anniversary of his ordination as a bishop. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

Jubilarian

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early years, because I had an anxiety — a mistaken belief that I had to have answers for everybody's problems and questions.

And over the years, I've come to learn that I don't have that many answers. But, I can listen, and I can help others interpret their experience, so that they can discern God's movement in their lives and find their answers. In that process, patience is what helps avoid rushing to give an answer without having really listened.

Then Paul mentions the twin virtues of kindness and love, the foundation blocks of any ministry. But our world too often equates kindness and love with permissiveness and softness. Nothing could be further from our tradition. Permissiveness has to do with a tyrannical individualism and disengagement, not with loving. Loving requires engagement and discipline and a genuine concern for the welfare of the other. Maybe our calling isn't always "tough love," but it is certainly love with a gospel purpose.

Paul then shifts to a series of contrasts: "as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything." It is an invitation to the Corinthians to consider their lives, to consider their orientation toward the world, to consider who they are, and who God is. Paul is not placing the emphasis so much on their eternal fate. Rather, he is asking them to reconsider their lives on a daily basis. The message of the Gospel is not just about life after death — it is also about life before death. It is a plea for us to see a world that is full of life, full of struggles, but, also, full of loving possibilities.

Years ago, a priest was assigned to a parish in a run-down area on the wrong side of town. It was not a desirable assignment. Often he would go to the YMCA to play handball.

There he met a young boy whom he

called "Butch." They became good friends, so, periodically, he would invite Butch to church, but Butch would always think of some excuse. Then, one Sunday, just as the priest was beginning his sermon, the door of the church opened and in walked Butch. He sat down quietly on the back pew and listened. When the service was over, he remained in his seat until all the other people had left. Then he came down front to talk with his friend. He started with, "Who is this Jesus you were talking about?" The priest was stunned that a teenager could grow up in a major city and not know anything about Jesus. But, patiently, for about 45 minutes, he told Butch about Jesus. Butch seemed satisfied and got up to leave. He got as far as the door, but there he paused, and then turned around with a puzzled look on his face. He called the full length of the church and said, "These people who follow Jesus — they're called Christians?" "That's right, Butch," he said. And then the question: "Then tell me, how am I gonna know 'em when I see 'em?" Butch, and far too many like him, probably won't recognize them among people just mowing the lawn.

Of course, all of our ministries will have at least some lawn mowing moments and all have their own unique story. My 40 years of priesthood aren't exactly like most of yours. I taught high school for five years and actually enjoyed it. I spent a total of four years at Catholic University — a very intellectual climate, and I loved it. I was back here for three years as a high school principal — a job I have always considered a punishment for some early transgression. Then I joined the Air Force: I have been all over the planet, shot at, lived in places you would not live.

My best friends were southern Baptists, a conservative rabbi and a very liberal Episcopalian and a Christian Scientist. I have had Mass for a couple soldiers on the hood of a jeep; I was pastor of the Air Force's

largest parish — serving a couple thousand parishioners. I have a military master's degree and a dean's citation that prove I was very good at knowing how to, as the unofficial Air Force motto says, "Blow things up and kill people." After 20 years, I retired, mostly due to health issues, and returned to the diocese, where I became a pastor of a civilian parish for the first time in my priesthood. And, I ride a motorcycle.

My life shaped me to be adaptable, tolerant and respectful of a wide range of beliefs and personalities. My studies have led me to appreciate the grandeur of a universe where God surely does not care about the small stuff, and my experience says that most of it is small stuff, not unimportant, but just not worth the frustration and the obsession we sometimes grant it.

St. Ambrose Church sits on about 28 acres, so believe me I do know that the grass does need to be mowed, bills need paid, we have lots of inherited stuff to maintain for the good of the people. On the other hand, I think Paul reminds that we need to embrace stepping outside our comfort zones, so that our lives are recognizable to people like Butch, as concerned for the good of others, not focused on our own pet projects; patient with those who struggle and discern; loving, but always holding up the vision of a better life and union with the Lord.

You don't need to buy a motorcycle, but wouldn't it be nice if you could look at one without people being shocked to see you because they could sense that you were alive to greater possibilities and maybe just a bit adventurous.

Father Gallagher is the pastor of St. Ambrose Parish, Little Hocking. This is the homily that he delivered at the Annual Priests' Jubilee Celebration June 19 at St. Mary Church, St. Clairsville. He celebrates 40 years of ordination to the priesthood.

Bishops approve revisions to the guidelines of sacraments for the disabled

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops overwhelmingly approved revisions to the guidelines governing the celebration of sacraments for people with disabilities that take into account medical and technological developments.

Approved 180-1 during the bishops' spring general assembly June 14, the revisions in the "Guidelines for the Celebration of Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities" updates a document that was adopted in 1995.

The guidelines were developed as a tool to improve access to the sacraments by persons with disabilities and reduce

inconsistencies in pastoral practice. The document followed the Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities in 1978 and a 1989 revision.

The 1995 document was the first issued by the bishops on the topic at a national level. Bishop leaders at the time said the document would allow the church to better minister to and be ministered to by people with disabilities.

Among the issues the document addresses is physical access to worship to give people with disabilities "full, active and conscious participation, according to their capacity."

It also promotes a welcoming attitude

in parishes and the inclusion of qualified people with disabilities in liturgical and pastoral ministries; catechetical and sacramental preparation programs to prepare people with mental disabilities for those sacraments, to which they have a right; and consultation with those with disabilities to help determine their needs regarding parish facilities, programs, policies and ministries.

In other votes, the bishops voted to approve a new translation of the "Order of Blessing the Oil of Catechumens and of the Sick and of Consecrating the Chrism," 178-3. The ritual is used each year at diocesan chrism Masses.

It will be sent to the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments for its "recognitio," or final approval.

However, the bishops' approval of a collection of blessings in Spanish for use in the United States that complement English texts included in the "Book of Blessings" fell one vote short of reaching the threshold necessary to send it to the Vatican congregation for the "recognitio."

The vote on the "Bendicional: Sexta Parte" (Part VI) was 171-2, with two abstentions. Voting will be completed by mail ballot with the Latin-rite bishops who did not attend the assembly.

Bishop says world must move past indifference to solidarity with refugees

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It is important the world moves from indifference about the plight of the world's refugees to solidarity with them, Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington said June 19.

He made the comments at the National Press Club during an event held a day ahead of World Refugee Day and hosted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services.

With 22.5 million refugees worldwide, Bishop Dorsonville noted, "the size and scope of the problem might beckon us to give up and question our work," but it is

"important that we not throw our hands up in despair and retreat to the quiet of our homes ... and in doing so ignore the tragedy of the global displacement."

Bishop Dorsonville noted that refugees are made in the image of God, and are children, husbands, wives, young and old, rich and poor.

"Each one has a story to tell ... if they are only given the opportunity to do so," he told the government, church and nonprofit leaders gathered at the press club. "It is for the child who cries itself to sleep in the shadows of a refugee camp who we seek to bring justice ... who our advocacy, prayers

and good intention intend to support."

By assisting just one refugee, "we can take confidence in the fact we have responded to Jesus' commandment to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, and clothe the naked," the bishop added.

Bishop Dorsonville, who himself is an immigrant from Colombia, recalled the difficulty of saying goodbye to his homeland and people. Nevertheless, he said he is grateful to be in this country and for the people who welcomed him and showed him a "culture of love."

"I was thirsty and I found someone who gave me something to drink," he said. "I

have seen so many thirsty faces that remind me of myself and in them I see Jesus."

Refugees often face trauma when being forced from their homes and into urban camps with lots of exploitation, Bishop Dorsonville noted, and "it is our moral obligation and responsibility to assist people who find themselves in such situations."

The Catholic Church teaches that individuals have a right to migrate and live in their own countries in a way that sustains family life, said Bishop Dorsonville.

The USCCB has assisted more than 1 million refugees in resettling in the United States.

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Convocation of Catholic leaders will be historic event, bishops told

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — During their spring meeting in Indianapolis, U.S. bishops were reminded that the upcoming Convocation of Catholic Leaders — a gathering they began talking about years ago — is right around the corner.

It will be an historic event, Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, told the bishops June 15 about the July 1-4 "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America" in Orlando, Florida.

He also noted that it will be the largest gathering sponsored by U.S. bishops and will be a time to show the unity of the church.

The convocation, an invitation-only event, is meant to give the 3,000 participants expected to attend a better understanding of what it means to be missionary disciples in today's world through workshop presentations, keynote addresses and prayer.

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

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

Bishop Malone thanked the bishops for supporting the convocation dedicated to forming missionary disciples who can then go out and form others, following the call of Pope Francis. He urged the bishops to make use of their time in conversations with diocesan delegates during the convocation to walk and pray with them. On a practical note, he also suggested that they wear comfortable shoes.

Contingent from Steubenville Diocese, including bishop, at July convocation

STEUBENVILLE — The Diocese of Steubenville will be represented at the July 1-4 "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America" in Orlando, Florida.

Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton will attend the convocation.

Paul D. Ward, director, diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools, will attend the event, he said, along with consultants in his office, Carolyn A. Crabtree and Alyson M. Radford.

As well, Father Edward A. Maxfield Jr., a diocesan priest, and Sister Mary Brigid Callan, director, stewardship and development for the diocese, will attend.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops grant money will help defray the cost for Steubenville Diocese staff to attend the convocation, Ward said.

Several presenters at the convocation are residents of the Steubenville Diocese, most of whom are affiliated with Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Diocese of Steubenville priest dies

CINCINNATI — Father Martin D. Smith-Soucier — a priest of the Diocese of Steubenville — died June 19.

Born Aug. 9, 1947, in Cincinnati, the 69-year-old was the son of Harold and Esther Smith.

He obtained his early education in Cincinnati, first at St. Joseph's parish school there and Elder High School, graduating from Aiken High School. He earned a bachelor's degree from Christian Brothers College, Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1976, he came to the Diocese of Steubenville from St. Mary Seminary, Baltimore, to study at St. John Vianney Seminary, Bloomington. Later, he received a Master of Divinity from the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio.

Ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Steubenville June 9, 1979, by then Bishop Albert H. Ottenweller, Father Smith-Soucier served at St. Agnes Church, Mingo Junction; St. Mary Church, Martins Ferry, and St. Pius X Church, Steubenville. He, too, served as diocesan director of vocations and as the diocese's youth director.

In 1985, Father Smith-Soucier left the Steubenville Diocese and in 1987 was granted leave to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati where he began his ministry as chaplain at Deaconess Hospital and administrator of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. For the next 11 years, he was administrator of Practical Family Living Center Inc., a charity founded and staffed by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

He was sacramental priest at two parishes, St. Joseph and St. Pius; served as director of adult formation for St. Agnes and St. Mary churches; and conducted parish retreats and

days of renewal throughout the Cincinnati Archdiocese. He served as chaplain for the local St. Martin De Porres Council and Southern District of Ohio, Knights of Columbus.

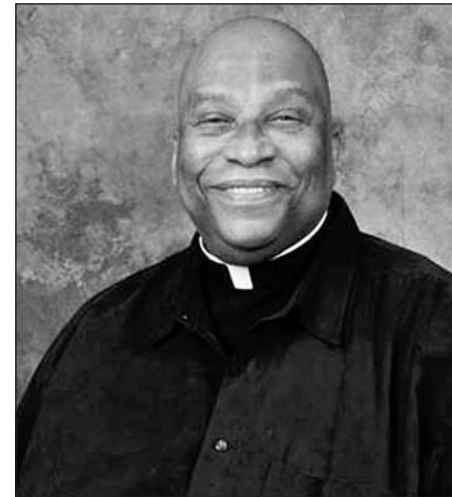
In November 2003, Father Smith-Soucier was released by Steubenville's bishop, R. Daniel Conlon, for

service with the Military Archdiocese. He served as chaplain for Veterans Administration hospitals in Bath and Canandaigua, New York. At the time of his death, Father Smith-Soucier was chief of chaplain services for the Cincinnati Department of Veterans Administration Medical Center, Cincinnati, and president of the National Association of Catholic Priests for the Military Archdiocese, Washington, D.C.

A funeral Mass was celebrated June 29 at St. Joseph Church, Cincinnati, with Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton as celebrant. Burial of Father Smith-Soucier followed in St. Mary Cemetery, Cincinnati.

Father Smith-Soucier was a member of the "Pactum Marianum." Members agree to celebrate three Masses for the soul of the deceased priest.

Father Smith-Soucier is survived by a sister Judy and brothers Leon and Jack, as well as other relatives and friends.



(Photo provided)

Father Smith-Soucier

Prayer of Reconsecration

As Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton knelt before the diocesan pilgrim statue June 24 at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, (Page 1) he prayed the prayer reconsecrating the Diocese of Steubenville to its patroness, the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Most Holy Virgin Mary, tender Mother, to fulfill the desires of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we consecrate the Diocese of Steubenville and ourselves to your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, O Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and we recommend to you all the people of our country and all the world.

Please accept our consecration, dearest Mother, and use us as you wish to accomplish your designs in the world.

O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary and Queen of the world, rule over us, together with the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, our King. Save us from the spreading flood of modern paganism; kindle in our hearts, homes, parishes, communities and diocese the love of purity, the practice of a virtuous life, an ardent zeal of souls, and a desire to pray the rosary more faithfully.

We come with confidence to you, O Throne of Grace and Mother of Fair Love. In flame us with the same Divine Fire which has inflamed your own Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. Make our hearts, homes, parishes and this diocese your shrine, and through us, make the Heart of Jesus, together with your rule, triumph in every heart and home.

Amen.

• based on a solemn Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Venerable Pope Pius XII, said Father Bradley W. Greer, master of ceremonies to Bishop Monforton.

Faith formation seminars planned

STEUBENVILLE — Catechists and Catholic school teachers in the Diocese of Steubenville can earn credit toward their catechist's certification and Catholic identity contact hours during an Aug. 16-17 faith formation seminar.

The seminar will occur at St. John Church, 3745 Tallman Ave., Bellaire. Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. both days before the seminar.

On the first day of the seminar, Aug. 16, "What's My Role?" will be presented from 9-11 a.m. by Permanent Deacon Paul D. Ward, director of the diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools. The role Catholic school teachers and catechists will have on the next generation will be discussed.

It will be followed by "Baptism: Doorway to Heaven," which will be presented from 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. by Carolyn A. Crabtree, catechetical consultant, diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools. Crabtree will be speaking of the importance of baptism and how it is the

foundation of the entire Christian life.

The second day of the seminar, Aug. 17, "The Eucharist: Bread of Heaven" will be presented from 9-11 a.m. by Father Edward A. Maxfield Jr., parochial vicar to Father Thomas A. Chillog, pastor at St. Mary Parish, St. Clairsville. Father Maxfield will speak about what the Eucharist is meant to be in the lives of Catholics.

Following that session is "The Church: Heavenly Jerusalem," which will be presented from 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. by Alan Schreck, professor of theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Schreck will speak about the renewed vision of the church, received from the Second Vatican Council.

Seminars are planned for St. Joseph Church, Ironton, Oct. 21; the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Nov. 11; and at Blessed Sacrament Church, Wintersville, Dec. 9.

For more information or to register for the August seminar, email Crabtree, ccrabtree@diosteub.org.

Year of Reconsecration of the Diocese of Steubenville concludes June 24



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton begins the procession to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, June 24, flanked by Father Michael W. Gossett, front, and Transitional Deacon Joshua D. Erickson and followed by the Immaculate Heart of Mary statue.

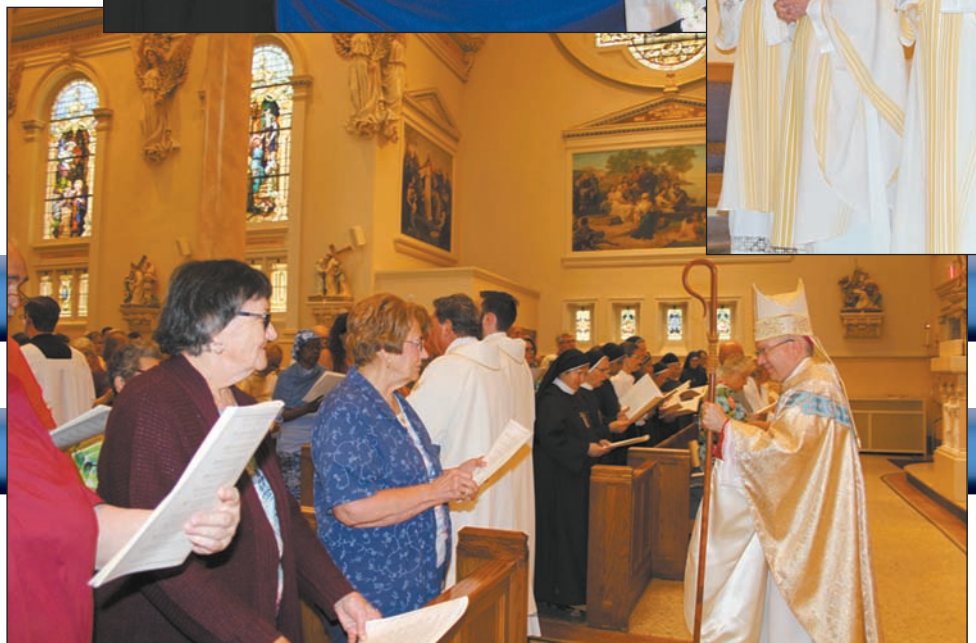


The Marian procession arrives at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Fourth Street, Marietta, where Msgr. John Michael Campbell is rector. Fourth-degree Knights of Columbus lead the contingent into the basilica for a noon Mass.

Diocesan seminarians arrange the Immaculate Heart of Mary statue in the front of the basilica.



Marchers move down Fourth Street in Marietta.



The Year of Reconsecration Mass concludes as Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton and Steubenville Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon, flanked by Permanent Deacons Paul D. Ward, left, and Richard G. Adams, leave Mass. (Photos by DeFrancis)