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# The Steubenville REGISTER

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OCT. 7, 2016

## News Briefs



Each year, October is designated as Respect Life Month by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and this year's theme is "Moved by Mercy." It draws on a quote from Pope Francis: "We are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us." The yearlong observance, begun in 1972, is said aimed at helping Catholics understand, value and become engaged with supporting the dignity of the human person, and therefore the gift of every person's life. (Scan)

Column, Page 7

### SOA Watch to demonstrate at border

PHOENIX (CNS) — A Catholic-founded human rights group that for decades has sought the closing of a U.S. military training school in Georgia has moved its main protest to the U.S.-Mexico border.

School of the Americas Watch supporters will gather Oct. 7-10 in Nogales, straddling the border between Arizona and Sonora to demonstrate against "militarization" of the border region and the "criminalization" of refugees and migrants, said SOA Watch national organizer Hendrik Voss. "We are in solidarity with people who have been incarcerated for no other reason than seeking a better life for themselves and their families," he said.



The Immaculate Heart of Mary statue, in parishes in the Steubenville Diocese during the Year of Reconsecration of the diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the initiation of diocesan Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, will stand in St. John Church, Bellaire, until Oct. 14, when it will be relocated to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta. (Photo by DeFrancis)

## When political choice is tough, pray, vote conscience

By Cindy Wooden

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM AZERBAIJAN (CNS) — Catholics facing difficult political choices must study the issues, pray about the election and then vote according to their consciences, Pope Francis said.

Flying back to Rome from Azerbaijan Oct. 2, the pope was asked by a reporter what U.S. Catholics should do in a presidential election where both candidates hold some positions contrary to church teaching.

(See Catholic Conference of Ohio/Pages 8/9).

Although he was in a relaxed mood and welcomed reporters' questions for almost an hour, Pope Francis said he would never comment on a specific electoral campaign.

"The people are sovereign," he said. "Study the proposals well, pray and choose in conscience."

Pope Francis also was asked when he would name new members to the College of Cardinals and what criteria he would use to choose them.

He said he still had not decided precisely when to announce the names or hold the consistory to create the new cardinals, but it would likely be at the end of this year or the beginning of 2017.

As for the choices, Pope Francis said, the list of worthy candidates is long, "but there are only 13 places" to reach the limit of 120 cardinals under the age of 80.



Pope Francis answers questions from journalists aboard his flight from Baku, Azerbaijan, to Rome Oct. 2. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

The selection process will aim for a geographic mix, he said. "I like it when one can see in the College of Cardinals the universality of the church, not just the European center, shall we say?"

Although he and the reporters traveling with him had not yet returned to Rome and already were set to go to Sweden Oct. 31-Nov. 1, a journalist asked the pope where he would be traveling in 2017. To Page 12

## Diocese complies with protecting children, young

STEUBENVILLE — The Diocese of Steubenville is compliant with the data collection requirements for the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton was notified of the compliance with the data collection requirements for the 2015-16 charter audit period.

StoneBridge Business Partners, Rochester, New York, wrote Bishop Monforton to advise him of the compliance, which comes after review of diocesan data, completed for the diocese's "Decree on Child Protection."

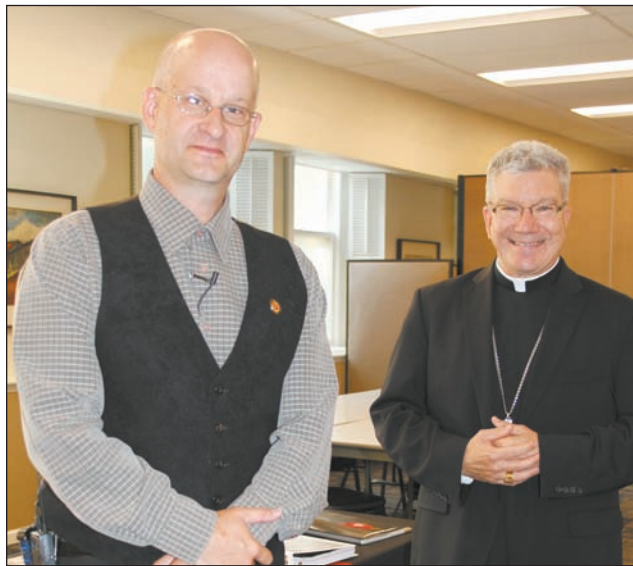
The documents will be forwarded to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Youth and Child Protection for use in the 2016 audit report.

Since 2004, the Diocese of Steubenville has been in full

compliance with the charter — drafted by the USCCB in response to sex abuse by some clergy, nationwide, said Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general.

The decree is in place to prevent the abuse of children and adolescents, as well as provide a system for handling incidents of abuse after they occur. Anyone who is a religious or in a paid or volunteer position who suspects child abuse is instructed to contact Msgr. Kemo and civilian authorities in their locale. Any victim harmed by a priest or anyone serving on behalf of the Catholic Church in the Steubenville Diocese is urged to contact diocesan and local secular authorities. Msgr. Kemo can be reached at the chancery in downtown Steubenville, telephone (740) 282-3631, or email [kkemo@diosteub.org](mailto:kkemo@diosteub.org).

## Couples challenged to think at enrichment day



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton welcomes Gregory D. Schutte, presenter at the Steubenville Diocese's annual Marriage Enrichment Day. (Photo by DeFrancis)

MARIETTA — "My goal is to be educational, but also to get you thinking," Gregory D. Schutte, director of Marriage Works! Ohio, said to couples as he opened the Diocese of Steubenville annual Marriage Enrichment Day.

Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton celebrated Mass with the couples Sept. 17 in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, and lunched with them in the basilica's undercroft.

During his homily, the bishop referenced his own parents and brothers, acknowledged that it is the moms and dads who form children and reflected on the hard work it is to be a parent.

"The image of God is the married couple," Bishop Monforton quoted Pope Francis.

Introduced by Joseph A. Schmidt, diocesan marriage ministry coordinator, Schutte, a more than 20-year therapist, husband and father of seven, interspersed his presentation with singing, while he played the guitar. He, too, is a member of a Catholic band ROMANS, host of a radio program and author of a marriage enrichment program.

"The world passes by way of the family," said Schutte To Page 3



St. Mary Central School, St. Clairsville, students, in front, from left, Blake Horan, Leah Butts, Sebastian Lewis, Marie Copeland, Brycen Vucelich, Rylie Carter and Karlie Glover, stand with Student Council officers, in back, from left, Kellen Weidman, treasurer; Mikayla Hendershot, vice president; Gavin Shields, president; Laina Anderson, representative; and Victoria Trouten, secretary, to display some of the items collected during a prayer service. The September food drive, initiated by Student Council, came when supplies at the local food pantry are low, said Nannette Kennedy, St. Mary Central principal. Students wore colors of their favorite sports teams and placed food items in soccer nets to symbolize reaching the goal. Also, the kindergarten- through eighth-grade students colored autumn pictures for residents of local nursing homes. (Photo provided)

## Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High science curriculum tops

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School, Steubenville, has been selected, once again, as one of 45 Ohio schools to receive Governor's Thomas Edison Awards for Excellence in STEM Education.

And, Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School teachers Susan Fischer, Chrissy DiMichele, JoAnna Ravasio, Meg Pirro, Mary DuBois, Sandy Morelli and Tina Politi are among 460 teachers in the state to receive the award for excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The accomplishments are for the 2015-16 school year.

Each school will receive a special Governor's Award certificate, and each teacher will receive a complementary membership to the Ohio Academy of Science.

The Technology Division of the Ohio Development Service Agency funded the program.

The criteria for the Thomas Edison Award for Excellence are: to conduct a local science fair with 20 or more students; qualify one or more of these students for one of the academy's 16 district science days; have students participate in at

least one more youth science opportunity beyond the classroom, such as State Science Day, visits to museums, mentorship programs and extended field trips; and convince external professionals from STEM business and industry, government and academia employers how and to what extent the school's program met the academy's definition of STEM education.

First established in 1985, the Governor's Thomas Edison Awards recognizes Ohio schools and teachers who stimulate student scientific research and technological design and extend opportunities beyond traditional classroom activities. "These schools and teachers push the boundaries of the traditional classroom by advising and mentoring student-originated research and other hands-on experiences," said Michael E. Woytek, the academy's interim-CEO.

The Ohio Academy of Science initiated this educational partnership program in cooperation with the Office of the Governor and the Technology Division of the Ohio Development Services Agency to recognize schools and teachers who stimulate student scientific and technological research and extend STEM education opportunities beyond traditional classroom

activities. The technology division of the Ohio Development Service Agency has supported this program since 1985 by grants to the Ohio Academy of Science.

Forty-three professionals representing STEM employers from business and industry, government and academia evaluated the applications in a blind review process.

Theresa Danaher, principal of Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary and Junior High schools, said of the 2015-16 awards to the junior high and its teachers: "I am most proud of our staff and the outstanding job they do in providing STEM education at our junior high school.

"New STEM additions to our curriculum include minicourses in bridge building as

well as robotics. Last year we instituted a cross-curricular event, 'The All School Olympics,' where students compete in critical thinking and problem-solving games in a whole day of academic competition and fun."

The school has received the award since its opening, and Morelli's receipt of the award predates the school. Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary and Junior High School were created after parochial schools in the city were merged. In 2008, the junior high school was opened in a wing of Catholic Central High School, Steubenville. The elementary school is located nearby, alongside Holy Rosary Church, Triumph of the Cross Parish.

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**Father Edward A. Maxfield Jr., chaplain at St. John Central High School, Bellaire, and parochial vicar to Father Thomas A. Chillog, pastor of St. Mary Parish, St. Clairsville, and Diocese of Steubenville episcopal vicar for pastoral planning and personnel, joins daily Mass attendees at St. Mary Church, St. Clairsville, who typically stay after the Mass to pray the rosary. The men and women – in front, from the left, Donna Shidell, Eleanor Gaynor, Mary D’Ambrosia, Kay Moyer, Lorraine Anderson and Tessie Johnson; center, from left, Jean Anne O’Malley, Charlotte Slavik, Louise Petrozzi, Doris Budinscak, Robin Kinney and Eileen Fasola; and, back, from left, Ron Marshall, John Budinscak, John Jeskey, Gilbert D’Ambrosia and Steve Breiding – are planning an annual rosary crusade, part of the nationwide Public Square Rosary Crusade. The crusade will be held at noon, Oct. 15, on the Belmont Courthouse Plaza, St. Clairsville. The crusade promoted by the St. Mary parishioners is in collaboration with others nationwide under the auspices of the America Needs Fatima campaign. For more information on the crusade, telephone Mary D’Ambrosia, (740) 695-2746. (Photo by DeFrancis)**

**Bishop Monforton’s Schedule**

**October**

- 8 Respect Life Mass and conference, St. Benedict Church, Cambridge, 11 a.m.  
Visit monastery, Order of St. Paul of the Cross, Cambridge, 1:30 p.m.
- 9 Mass, St. James Church, McConnelsville, 9 a.m.  
Mass and annual religious women celebration, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, noon
- 10 Small group meeting with pastors, 12:30 p.m.  
Small group meeting with pastors, 3:30 p.m.  
Mission Advancement Planning Advisory Task Force meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 11 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m.  
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 6 p.m.
- 14 Vocations Day Mass, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 12:05 p.m.
- 16 White Mass, Christ the King University Parish, Athens, 10 a.m.  
Marian procession, from St. Mary School, Marietta, to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 4 p.m.  
Mass, “Rise Up! Let Your Light Shine,” Diocese of Steubenville youth conference, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 5 p.m.
- 17 Small group meeting with pastors, 12:30 p.m.
- 18-20 Bishops’ symposium, Notre Dame, Indiana
- 21 Ministry of acolyte to seminarians, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, 7 p.m.
- 22 Mass, St. Matthias Mission, Freeport, 7 p.m.

**Couples challenged**

From Page 1

as he paraphrased St. John Paul II.

Schutte contended that there is a real crises in families – which reflect a 50 percent divorce rate; show 70 percent of couples live together prior to marriage; tally 40-41 percent single mothers; and point to an increase in domestic violence.

However, Schutte said, the good news is that more people are starting to see marriage is the cornerstone of the family.

To provide couples with a guidepost, Schutte said he developed a program based on three points.

People, he said, stop communicating, falling out of knowing each other.

St. Augustine once said, Schutte added, that the deepest desire of every human heart is to be seen and to see another in that same way.

“God’s every essence is love. When you have love in you, you have to share it,” Schutte said.

His second point for building eucharistic marriages is to feed each other and be thankful.

“Marriage,” Schutte added, “calls us to sacrifice.”

A third point of Schutte’s is to read and feed the need. “The first means a need for good communication,” he said. “You’ve got to know what your spouse is hungry for.

Most men and women want to feed each other, but don’t understand. ... Too often, we assume, and don’t take time to ask. ... We need to share. ...”

In 12 sessions, Schutte presents his “Discovering Our Deepest Desire,” a Catholic marriage enrichment program that he based off his years of couples’ therapy and research of St. John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body.” There are seven steps in the program – helping people understand, looking inside oneself, listening, giving and seeking forgiveness, resolving to change oneself, feeding the need and making sure you have time for each other and time for God.

“The best thing you can give kids – a strong and happy marriage,” Schutte said.

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**Joe Billante**

**Father Moore re-elected to council**

STEUBENVILLE — The results of the Nativity of Mary Deanery representative to Presbyteral Council have been tabulated, and Father Mark A. Moore has been re-elected for the 2017-20 term.

Father Thomas A. Chillog, episcopal vicar for pastoral planning and personnel for the Diocese of Steubenville and chairman of Presbyteral Council, announced the results.

Presbyteral Council is a body of priests who aid the bishop in the governance of the diocese.

Other deanery representatives are Father Bradley W. Greer, Mother of Hope; Father John F. Mucha, Presentation; and Father Thomas A. Nelson, Visitation.



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## Men interested in permanent diaconate on call; program changes announced

STEUBENVILLE — As five men move closer to being ordained permanent deacons for the Diocese of Steubenville, a call has been issued for men who are discerning the permanent diaconate.

And, an announcement has been made that formation of deacon candidates will be under the leadership of Permanent Deacons Richard G. Adams and Mark A. Erste and occur entirely in the Steubenville Diocese.

**Scott Carson, Thomas E. Graham, Edward G. Kovach, Charles J. “Chuck” Schneider and Paul D. Ward** expect to be ordained deacons by Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton Dec. 3.

Meanwhile, **Bishop Monforton has issued a call** to the permanent diaconate:

“Jesus poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet and dry them with a towel. ... After he washed their feet, ... he said to them, ... ‘If I washed your feet – I who am teacher and Lord – then you must wash each other’s feet’ (Jn 13:5-14).

“Every Christian is bound to follow the Lord’s example. But he has set among us those in the order of deacon who are special models of service. Deacons are intended to inspire and facilitate the service of their brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. That is their unique calling and charism.

“Any man who feels that he may be called to the diaconate and wishes to apply for admission at this time should, after consultation with his pastor, contact Deacon Erste to obtain information about the upcoming formation program and an application packet. He can be reached at (740) 512-4135 or at merste@diosteub.org.

“An official Year of Inquiry begins Jan. 1, 2017. Formal application to the program begins at this time with the completion of all application requirements due to the Office of Diaconal Ministry by Sept. 1, 2017.

“The task of discerning the call to the diaconate and then forming candidates is serious and arduous, both for the candidates and those who guide them. Prayer support from all the people of our diocese is essential to this important ministry. We invite you to keep all men discerning a vocation to the diaconate in your prayers.”

As Bishop Monforton expressed his gratitude to Father Wayne E. Morris for his leadership of the permanent diaconate program during the past seven years, he announced that effective Jan. 1, 2017, Deacons Erste and Adams will be co-directors of the diaconal program. Father Morris, pastor of Corpus Christi, Belle Valley, St. Stephen, Caldwell, St. Mary of

the Immaculate Conception, Fulda, and St. Michael, Carlisle, has been director of the program since its inception by Bishop R. Daniel Conlon, now bishop of the Diocese of Joliet in Illinois.

Deacon Erste will be director of diaconal ministries, and Deacon Adams will serve as director of diaconal formation.

The two deacons will report to Father Thomas A. Chillog, episcopal vicar for pastoral planning and personnel for the diocese.

At the same time, Bishop Monforton announced that, beginning in 2017, the entire **formation program** for deacons will take place within the Steubenville Diocese. “We have the necessary resources, credentialed individuals with the appropriate academic degrees and pastoral experience through our own Franciscan University of Steubenville, through which we will be able to tap into its rich resources,” he wrote to pastors. The men have studied at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio.

As the five men move closer to their ordination as deacons, they have reflected on their journey. Each of the men will be profiled in *The Steubenville Register*.

**Carson** is a resident of Athens. He grew up in Stow, Ohio, and Kent, Ohio, and earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and Classics at Kent State University, Kent. He relocated to North Carolina and earned a Master of Arts and doctorate in classical philology from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

After teaching classics at Rutgers (New Jersey) and the University of Richmond (Virginia), he returned to Chapel Hill and earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from Duke University.

For the past 20 years, Carson has taught in the Philosophy Department at Ohio University, Athens.

Carson has a wife, Lisa, to whom he has been married for 28 years. They have two children, Michael, 22, and Olivia, 15.

Carson and his wife converted to Ca-

tholicism in 1983, while in graduate school together at Chapel Hill.

The diaconate candidate, also, has a sister, Sylvia Johnson, who is a resident of Brecksville, Ohio.

When asked by the Register what made him decide that he wanted to study for the diaconate, Carson replied: “I’ve

been interested in diaconal ministry since I entered the church in 1983. At the time, though, I was living in North Carolina, which did not have a permanent diaconate program. When I came to Athens in 1996, there was no program here, either, but I did write a letter to Bishop Conlon to inquire whether there ever would be one – that was about 10 years ago, and he did indicate that something was in the

works. I confess that my motivations have fluctuated over the years. In the early days I simply loved the liturgies of the church and wanted to enter into a deeper service of that kind, but just prior to applying for the program I went through a number of medical emergencies that brought into very high relief for me just how much we all depend upon each other for all kinds of service, and I was deeply moved not only by how well I was helped by the medical community but also by how transformative it was for me to receive that help, and it became clear to me that if I wanted to serve Christ and his people, it had to include serving them in a way that would be equally transformative. Suffering and service go together – if there were no suffering in the world, there would be little need for service, so service is clearly a part of God’s providence – it is the good that we can bring out of pain and suffering, and it means that no suffering is meaningless. I want to be part of God’s plan, I want to cooperate with him in helping to transform the lives of his people.”

As men become permanent deacons, their wives, too, become part of the ministry. Carson said of his wife: “Lisa has always been very supportive of me, and she

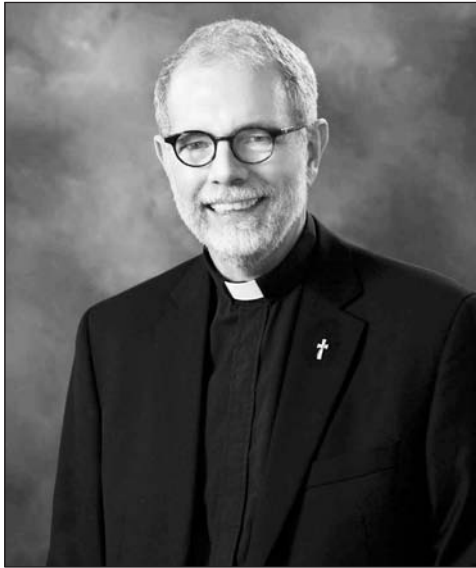
shares my love of theology and the church, so we always have a lot to talk about. She knows that some parts of our lives will be changing after ordination, but she is very strong and is not afraid of new challenges.”

At the same time, Carson said that his fellow parishioners, at St. Paul, Athens, have been encouraging to his becoming a deacon. “I have been very moved by all the support I have received. People sometimes just come up to me after Mass – sometimes I don’t even know who they are – and tell me that they are praying for me and my family. I am very grateful to everyone who has been praying for me and supporting me in other ways – I know that the Holy Spirit is present in his people.”

Father Morris has explained that a deacon is ordained for service. Deacon in Greek, “diakonia,” refers to one called to service. “This comes to us from the Sixth Chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, where seven men were called to service.”

Ordained permanent deacons may work full or part time, as volunteers or for some compensation. A permanent deacon assists the bishop and priests during liturgical actions, administers baptism, distributes the Eucharist, assists at and blesses marriages, administers sacramental and officiates at funeral and burial services, reads Scripture, presides at worship and prayer services when a priest is not present, directs the Liturgy of the Word, carries out the duties of charity and of administration, as well as works for social assistance.

When Carson was asked as he had studied for the diaconate, if there was any ministry that he saw himself serving in, more than others, he replied: “I still love the church’s liturgies, especially the Mass, but my professional life (I teach philosophy at Ohio University) attracts me to a ministry in which teaching and formation play a large role, especially RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), study groups, conferences, but also ministering to and advising the young people I come across every day on the job, and my fellow university employees. The permanent deacon, ideally, should model the life of the Christian by standing as an icon of Christ the Servant, both in the church and in the world. You can’t do this and hide your light under a bushel, so I hope to live up to this calling by bringing whatever talents I may have to bear on whatever job(s) the bishop or my pastor (Father Mark A. Moore) may give me – with God’s help!”



Scott Carson (Photo by George)

### FULL-TIME HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT

**The Diocese of Steubenville** is seeking a full-time human resources assistant.

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**Qualifications and experience:** bachelor’s degree in human resources or business administration is preferred; must have previous human resources experience; must also have experience with Microsoft Office, Word and Excel; experience with Microsoft Access is preferred; must be able to work well with others in a Catholic diocesan, school or parish setting; must demonstrate professional ethical standards.

Professional and personal references must be made available upon request.

Resumes and salary requirements of qualified applicants must be received by **Oct. 31**; reply to: **James G. Piazza, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Diocese of Steubenville, P.O. Box 969, Steubenville, OH 43952.**

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**Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton gathers with members of the legal profession, whom he acknowledged with his celebration of a Red Mass Sept. 25 at Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville. Among those at the Mass was Attorney Thomas S. Wilson, in back, at right, second from bishop, who in the diocesan Office of Civil Law handles and coordinates all diocesan and parish legal matters. Steubenville Mayor Domenick Mucci Jr., third from right, also attended. During his homily, Bishop Monforton reminded Triumph of the Cross parishioners, "How you and I live our lives matters." He concluded with a quote from St. Teresa of Kolkata: "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." Father Thomas R. Nau is pastor of Triumph of the Cross Parish, which celebrates Masses at Holy Rosary Church. He, too, is rector of Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville. (Photo by DeFrancis)**



## Scholars in Athens Catholic community receive St. Paul scholarship awards

ATHENS — Four applicants for the 2016 St. Paul Parish, Athens, scholarships have been given awards, it was announced.

Lillian Bohuslawsky, Claire DeBruin, Sarah Denhart and Meghan Trout were the scholarship recipients.

The university students each received \$1,000.

The students demonstrated through their academic records, participation in high school and community programs and participation in church activities the levels necessary to be awarded the scholarships, it was stated.

Bohuslawsky is the daughter of John Bohuslawsky and Deb Richter. Lillian is attending Ohio University, Athens, College of Health Sciences and Professions. In Athens, Lillian is a St. Paul parishioner.

DeBruin is the daughter of Trent and Patty DeBruin. Claire is attending the University of Akron (Ohio) and

focusing on political science and business. In Athens, Claire is a Christ the King University Parish parishioner. Denhart is the daughter of Dan and Nancy Denhart.



Lillian Bohuslawsky



Claire DeBruin



Sarah Denhart

Sarah is attending Xavier University, Cincinnati. She is in the nursing program there. Sarah is a St. Paul parishioner.

Trout is the daughter of Mike and Kim Trout, and she is attending Ohio University's College of Arts and Sciences. Meghan is majoring in biological sciences. She is a Christ the King University parishioner.

The St. Paul Scholarship Fund was established in 2008, after the church received a generous donation from the estate of Daniel Skinner, it was pointed out. To date, \$30,000 in scholarship money has been made available to 25 St. Paul or Christ the King University parishes' high school students.

The scholarship fund was established to assist graduating high school seniors who have been admitted to two- or four-year colleges, universities, technical schools or performing arts schools with expenses related to their studies, it was stated.

High school seniors submit an application to demonstrate his or her outstanding academic performance; commitment to the community through service and high school activities; and participation in parish life through involvement in parish services, programs and functions.

Father Mark A. Moore is pastor of St. Paul Parish and Christ the King University Parish.



Meghan Trout

(Photos provided)



Baci Carpico, past state deputy, Ohio Knights of Columbus, and current member of the Ohio Charity Foundation, presents a check for \$6,386.30 to Michele A. Santin, director, Diocese of Steubenville Office of Family and Social Concerns (Catholic Charities). Ruth Ann Turner, diocesan social service coordinator, looks on. Carpico said the money comes from the Ohio Catholic Social Services Endowed Pooled Trust, established by the Ohio State Charity Foundation, Knights of Columbus. The funds, a first such donation, are for special needs in Ohio dioceses, Carpico said. (Photo by DeFrancis)

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## St. John Paul II The Spirit and Truth

By Diocese of Steubenville  
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

Our Lord told the apostles at the Last Supper: "I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you always, the Spirit of truth ..." (Jn 14:16, also 15:26). Note also, in his final commission to the apostles, Jesus told them: "Go, make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:1-20). Pope St. John Paul comments: "To remain in the truth and to act in the truth is the essential task of Christ's apostles and disciples, both in the early times and in all succeeding generations of the church down through the centuries. From this point of view the announcement of the Spirit of truth has a key importance. Jesus said ... 'I have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now, but when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth'" (Jn 16:12-13).

It is estimated that there are literally thousands of denominations, sects and individual congregations in the world that call themselves "Christian," and claim to offer the teaching of Jesus and his gospel. Yet they differ in what they believe and practice. That is understandable with human nature. Without a sure and certain guide, people disagree, they differ, they separate themselves. We can see the pattern of this proliferation of religious groups in the familiar colonial story of Roger Williams, a clergyman in the colony of Massachusetts. Williams disagreed with the tenets and authority system of its Puritan leaders, so he broke away and founded his own church and his own colony as Massachusetts Bay Colony, later to become the state of Rhode Island. It is but one example among many in which dissident members of a religious group refuse to accept the doctrine or practice of the original group, so they take their marbles and go their own way.

Our Lord's words to the apostles show us that he foresaw that possibility and provided for it in the form of the guidance of the Holy Spirit. But we must note that it was to the *apostles* that this guidance was promised. This is a clear contradiction to the view of some that each individual Christian is guided by the Spirit in matters of faith. The Holy Spirit does indeed have a part, as we will see, in the distribution of God's graces to each individual, but in matters of faith, that guidance is directed *immediately* to the apostles and their successors, and through them to all the disciples of Christ, past and present. (More will be said about this when we consider the church and its "mark" of *apostolicity* as an identifying note of the church founded by Christ.)

The pope elaborates: "The promise is not limited to the

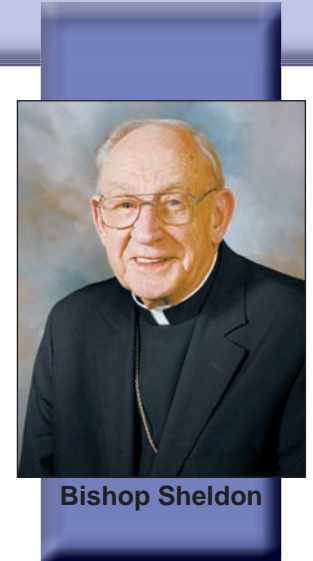
apostles and their immediate companions in evangelization. It extends to the future generations of disciples and confessors of Christ. The gospel is destined for all nations and all the successive generations which will arise in the context of the diverse cultures, and of the manifold progress of human civilization."

What the Holy Spirit accords the church is not something of his own, but that of Christ. Jesus told the apostles at the Last Supper: "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you" (Jn 16:12-14). Jesus said that "they cannot bear it now." The pope explains: "The shadow of the cross was looming up before these poor men. A profound intervention was needed to make their minds and hearts capable of discerning 'the glory of the redemption,' which was accomplished precisely in the cross. A divine intervention was required to convince and transform interiorly each one of them, in preparation especially for the day of Pentecost, and then for the apostolic mission in the world."

Jesus also said that the Spirit "will declare to you the things that are coming." Again, John Paul explains the meaning of this "prophetic and eschatological projection": "In it, Jesus placed under the ray of the Holy Spirit the entire future of the church, the entire historical journey it is called upon to carry out down the centuries. It means going to meet the glorious Christ toward whom it reached out as expressed in the invocation, ... 'Come, Lord Jesus' (Rev 22:17). The Holy Spirit leads the church toward a constant progress in (the) understanding of revealed truth. He stirs up and guides the development of all that serves the knowledge and spread of the truth, particularly in scriptural exegesis (the understanding of sacred Scripture) and theological research. These can never be separated from the guidance of the Spirit of truth nor from the magisterium (teaching function) of the church, in which the Spirit is always at work."

In his encyclical on the Holy Spirit, "Domimnum et Vivificantem," Pope John Paul pointed out that everything that occurs in or through faith is by the action of the Holy Spirit. It is by faith that we accept and understand Christ and his redemptive work, as well as the things he has revealed to us. Among those things are the knowledge of the destiny that God planned for us in creation, and the means by which we are to attain that destiny. We saw a great deal of this when we discussed Jesus as Son and savior, the previous section of this series, and will expand on it further when we take up the section on the church.

Our Lord told the apostles, as quoted above, that the Holy Spirit would guide them to all truth. What was true of the apostles is true of all of us who accept the apostolic teaching handed on to us through them down through the centuries. It is thus that faith enables us to understand the real meaning of human history, "salvation history." Salvation history is the history behind the scene, much like the right side of a tapestry that gives sense and meaning to the jumble of colors and threads on the reverse side!



Bishop Sheldon

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Pat DeFrancis  
Editor

## Jubilee of Mercy Part 10

By Msgr. Thomas C. Petronek

Catholics worldwide have been keeping the Jubilee of Mercy since Dec. 8th of last year. One of the most recent highlights was the canonization of Mother Teresa on Sept. 4. Pope Francis wanted Mother Teresa's canonization to be part of the Year of Mercy, and so it was.

Now, a month after the canonization, does anyone not still relish seeing the many pictures of Mother Teresa in the media - her smile as she cradled an emaciated child, her tender embrace of a dying beggar?

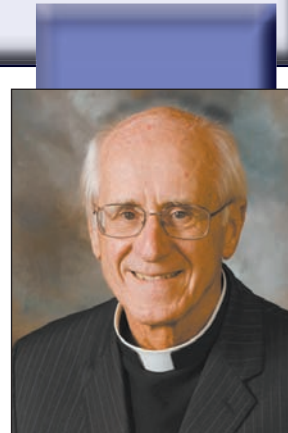
Mother Teresa would look into the face of someone in dire need or near death and see the face of Jesus. Those she comforted looked at her smiling face and saw the face of Jesus. Mother Teresa - icon of the mercy of Jesus!

Jesus is "the face of the Father's mercy," as Pope Francis wrote when he inaugurated the Jubilee of Mercy.

Beginning last December, this series of articles has featured the multifaceted way that mercy is woven into the Jesus-story as told by St. Luke.

- Luke, Chapter 6, Verse 36 - "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful";

To Page 12



Msgr. Petronek

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jward@diosteub.org

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## Bishop Urges Respect Life, Announces Deacon Formation

By Diocese of Steubenville  
Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

*“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the First Commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:36-39).*

### October is Respect Life Month

The above quote from Jesus defines who we are as brothers and sisters created in God’s image and likeness. God has entrusted us with one another, all of us, and we share the common dignity as fellow members of the human family.

Acts of mercy shape our very ability to love one another. Respect and dignity should be afforded all, from each young tiny child waiting to be born to other individuals who are approaching death. God’s mercy defines who we are and, in fact, we are to live out that very mercy with all whom we encounter. As fellow believers, we are charged to address the contemporary issues of abortion, concern for persons with disabilities, end-of-life issues and the death penalty, to name a few. Pope Francis warns us of being seduced by a “throwaway culture” and he underscores the fact this is not limited to material

resources, but to human beings as well. We cannot permit ourselves to be governed by a utilitarian mindset in which one’s dignity is defined by one’s usefulness.

This mercy extends to all without prejudice: from the couple suffering after an abortion, to a couple hoping to conceive a child, to all who find themselves in deep despair or on the margins of society. Our compassion and love extends to each and every one of our sisters and brothers.

As we approach next month’s election, it is imperative we approach the polls with a mindset that human life deserves respect at every stage and in every circumstance. A truly progressive and civilized society is one that shares mercy and compassion to all, especially the most vulnerable.

### Permanent Diaconate Formation Program

Effective January 2017, our entire permanent diaconate formation program will occur within the Steubenville Diocese. I am grateful for all of the care and thorough work which the Diocese of Columbus has provided our permanent diaconate program. It seems to me that it is time to “knock off the training wheels” and be able to effectively form our future permanent deacons within the diocese. We have the necessary resources, credentialed individuals with the appropriate academic degrees and pastoral experience, especially through our own Franciscan University of Steubenville.

We treasure our deacons, who are sacramental signs of the Church and to the world. They are visible servants in a servant-Church. Among the many ministries in which a



Bishop Monforton

deacon participates is to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism, to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony, to preach and to proclaim the Word of God, to visit the sick and homebound, to lead the faithful in prayer, and to conduct wake and funeral services. From the earliest days of the Church, deacons were present to share Jesus Christ with others.

*As we continue our autumn pilgrimage may the pageantry of colors remind us of the deep beauty of God’s mercy. God bless you and your family.*

## Persistently Praying (29th Ordinary Sunday, Cycle C)

By Father Paul J. Walker

The Gospel for the 29th Sunday, Oct. 16, shows us Jesus telling his disciples a parable on the necessity of praying always, and never losing heart. Prayer is a vast topic. There must be tens of thousands of books, articles, monographs, dissertations, etc., that address the experience of praying. I will limit my remarks to the parable Jesus offers.

I remember the catechism definition I learned as a child: “Prayer is the lifting up of minds and hearts to God” (Question 475 in the Baltimore Catechism, No. 2, Pages 226-229, Lesson 37). The topic of prayer is given in articles 475-489, which I memorized and assumed that I had a pretty good grasp of the subject. Now, the current Catechism of the Catholic Church allots one entire section (out of four) to the topic of “Christian Prayer” – that takes in Paragraphs 2558 to 2865, Pages 613-688 – a much more thorough treatment that takes in the whole Jewish and Christian experience as well as the 2,000-year history of the church. The catechism wanted to examine the experience of God’s people and how the church has reflected on and taught about that *experience* – from Genesis through Revelation: from St. Peter to Pope Francis. As I mentioned before, no small task!

The portion of Luke’s Gospel the liturgy sets before us (Chapter 18, Verses 1-8) wants to look at the necessity of persistence on the part of all who engage the Holy One through the path of prayer. The judge spoken of in Jesus’ story was one of the paid magistrates appointed either by Herod or by the Romans. They were notorious for demanding a bribe in return for a favorable verdict. Unless you had influence and money to do so, you had little or no hope of receiving such a verdict and getting your case settled. The common folk called them “robber judges.”

The widow in the story serves as a symbol of all who are poor and defenseless. It was obvious that she, without

resource of any kind, had no hope of ever getting justice from such a judge. However, she did have one “weapon” – her persistence! The judge may even have feared physical violence; but whatever, her persistence finally got her a hearing; and from there, justice. Now the parable is not trying to say God operates like an unjust judge, but it does seem to contrast him to such a person. It seems Jesus is saying, “if, in the end, such a hardhearted character as this judge can be wearied into giving a poor widow due justice: how much more will God, who is a loving Father, give his children what they need when they ask?” In other words, if a crooked judge will respond to incessant and confident asking, then surely God, the Just Judge, will hear and answer such a plea. Thus, prayer is not the wearing down and overcoming of a reluctant God, but rather an address to a God who always hears and responds.

However, my own experience, and that of countless others, is that often God’s response is divine silence. Perhaps “answer” is not the best word that describes what is taking place between God and the one who prays. Prayer is not an action that forces God’s hand, but it is a loving attention that opens us to the ever present love of God, always there, always listening. But often, the picture from my side is: asking, never receiving; seeking, never finding; knocking, never admitted, etc. A pattern that shows itself in both Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, though not loudly or overpoweringly, but more quietly and subtly, is the picture of God, not as someone who gives or does not give those things for which we continually ask, but *always* gives *himself*.

The story of Job, for example, gives us a God who, after all the questions, admonitions and accusations of Job and his so-called friends, presents no answers – only several hundred questions of his own. God’s “answer” is himself – holy presence. God does not micromanage the universe nor the lives of people within it. But he “answers” people’s

needs, questions, concerns, requests, outcries with the response of holy presence – himself, one who does not always grant all people’s requests with the need(s) presented, but always gives himself – shares himself as the God whom St. Augustine reminds us is closer to us than we are to ourselves. We too often are focused on the gift, not the giver, and we miss that offer of himself

which never fails to gift and grace us. We never carry any burden, want or suffering alone!

Perhaps, from our side, God sometimes seems slow to “answer” our prayers. What we perceive as delay is sometimes a space that allows for the deepening of our love and the growth of our faith. Perhaps God does defer the granting of the kind of gift we are expecting so that we may pay more attention to the Giver than the gift. Maybe the gift we most need is an awareness of the need to pray persistently and with regularity – not just in times of crisis, catastrophe or disaster. It could be that the gift we all most need is a habit of prayer so that praying may be as natural to us as breathing.

**Father Walker is a Diocese of Steubenville priest, retired from active parish ministry, who was a director of the diocesan Office of Worship. In retirement, he continues to reside in his hometown, McConnellsville, where he celebrates Masses and writes a regular column for The Steubenville Register.**



Father Walker



## MAKING MORAL CHOICES IN VOTING

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue. The responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience.

As bishops, we do not intend to tell Catholics for whom or against whom to vote. Our purpose is to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with God's truth". (#7 *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*)

**Catholic voters are called to properly form their consciences in preparation for voting and for the continued advocacy for just laws and policies required after voting.** This process should focus on moral principles, the defense of life, the needs of the weak, and the pursuit of the common good. It requires constant prayer, understanding of Church teaching, and discernment that goes beyond campaign rhetoric and partisan politics.

This discernment should focus on a candidate's consistency with moral principles, sincerity, integrity and the ability to effect the policies that he or she promotes. It should also include seeking and verifying background information regarding a candidate's stance on policy issues, and a consideration of those who would be directly impacted by such policies.

**FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP:  
A CALL TO POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF THE UNITED STATES  
PARAGRAPHS 34-37**

Catholics often face difficult choices about how to vote. This is why it is so important to vote according to a well-formed conscience that perceives the proper relationship among moral goods. A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who favors a policy promoting an intrinsically evil act, such as abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, deliberately subjecting workers or the poor to subhuman living conditions, redefining marriage in ways that violate its essential meaning, or racist behavior, if the voter's intent is to support that position. In such cases, a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. At the same time, a voter should not use a candidate's opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues involving human life and dignity.

There may be times when a Catholic who rejects a candidate's unacceptable position even on policies promoting an intrinsically evil act may reasonably decide to vote for that candidate for other morally grave reasons. Voting in this way would be permissible only for truly grave moral reasons, not to advance narrow interests or partisan preferences or to ignore a fundamental moral evil.

When all candidates hold a position that promotes an intrinsically evil act, the conscientious voter faces a dilemma. The voter may decide to take the extraordinary step of not voting for any candidate or, after careful deliberation, may decide to vote for the candidate deemed less likely to advance such a morally flawed position and more likely to pursue other authentic human goods.

In making these decisions, it is essential for Catholics to be guided by a well-formed conscience that recognizes that all issues do not carry the same moral weight and that the moral obligation to oppose policies promoting intrinsically evil acts has a special claim on our consciences and our actions. These decisions should take into account a candidate's commitments, character, integrity, and ability to influence a given issue. In the end, this is a decision to be made by each Catholic guided by a conscience formed by Catholic moral teaching.

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• **Deadline to register to vote Oct. 11.**

*(The Catholic Conference of Ohio is the official representative of the Catholic Church in public matters affecting the church and the general welfare of the citizens of Ohio.)*





## REFLECTIONS ON CHOOSING POLITICAL CANDIDATES

### WALKING WITH GOD

“We take up the task of serving the common good with joy and hope, confident that God, who “so loved the world that he gave his only Son,” walks with us and strengthens us on the way (Jn 3:16). God is love, and he desires that we help to build a “civilization of love”—one in which all human beings have the freedom and opportunity to experience the love of God and live out that love by making a free gift of themselves to one another.” *Introduction, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*

### RESPECTFUL, THOUGHTFUL AND CIVIL DIALOGUE

“We who follow Christ must not only speak the truth but must do so in love (Eph 4:15). It is not enough that we know or believe something to be true. We must express that truth in charity with respect for others so that the bonds between us can be strengthened in building up the body of Christ.” *Civil Discourse: Speaking Truth in Love*, Cardinal Wuerl

### PRUDENTIAL DISCERNMENT

“The Church’s teaching is clear that a good end does not justify an immoral means. As we all seek to advance the common good—by defending the inviolable sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death, by promoting religious freedom, by defending marriage, by feeding the hungry and housing the homeless, by welcoming the immigrant and protecting the environment—it is important to recognize that not all possible courses of action are morally acceptable. We have a responsibility to discern carefully which public policies are morally sound. Catholics may choose different ways to respond to compelling social problems, but we cannot differ on our moral obligation to help build a more just and peaceful world through morally acceptable means, so that the weak and vulnerable are protected and human rights and dignity are defended.” #20 *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*

**W**hat is the candidate’s commitment to protect all human life, from conception to natural death?

**W**hat is the candidate’s commitment to addressing threats to marriage and family, as understood by the Church, as well as other serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism and other unjust discrimination, the use of the death penalty, resorting to unjust war, the use of torture, war crimes, the failure to respond to those who are suffering from hunger or a lack of health care, or an unjust immigration policy?

**H**ow does the candidate measure up in both words and actions with the totality of Catholic Social Teaching?

**W**hat would be morally grave reasons to support and/or oppose a candidate? (Please refer to the U.S. Bishops document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, paragraphs 34 through 37).

**W**hat is my assessment of the candidate’s personal integrity, governing philosophy, performance and ability to influence a given issue?

**H**as the candidate demonstrated sufficient competency to hold such an elected position?

*Examining party platforms in light of Catholic teaching may be a helpful consideration, especially when a voter faces a dilemma in a voting choice.*

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**Athens** — The Athens Catholic community study group will meet Tuesdays, at 1:30 p.m., in Holy Family Center, which is located at Christ the King University Parish, to discuss Pope Francis' book "The Holy Year of Mercy."

Father Mark A. Moore, pastor of the Athens Catholic community, will bless pets at 12:30 p.m., Oct. 9, on the lawn in front of Christ the King University Parish; pets should be on leashes.

**Bellaire** — St. John Central High School will hold an "alumni football game" Oct. 15 at the Irish Youth Sports Complex, just off Ohio Route 7. Any football player, cheerleader or band alumni interested in participating can telephone the school office at (740) 676-4932, as soon as possible. The day will include a parade, at 11 a.m.; pregame activities, 11:45 a.m.; Quarter 1 flag football, noon; band performance, 12:30 p.m.; Quarter 2 flag football, 1 p.m.; crowning of homecoming queen, 1:30 p.m.; Quarter 3 flag football, 2 p.m. and postgame activities, 2:30 p.m.

**Beverly** — "Learn About Your Faith" Sunday morning sessions, for adults and confirmed high school students, will be held from 10:40-11:45 a.m., in St. Bernard Church basement. Discussions will be on the saints and church history; any topic will be considered.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesdays, at St. Bernard Church, in the St. Teresa room.

St. Bernard Parish will host an adult faith formation seminar on prayer Oct. 29 in the church hall. The day will begin with the celebration of Mass at 9 a.m.; breakfast at 9:45 a.m. The first talk will be presented at 10:15 a.m., the second at 11:30 a.m. Carolyn Crabtree, a catechetical consultant with the Diocese of Steubenville Christian Formation and Schools office, and Petroc Willey, from Franciscan University of Steubenville, will be speakers at the event.

**Cambridge** — An autumn salad luncheon will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Oct. 28, at St. Benedict Church social hall. Cost is \$7 per person; containers will be available for takeout.

**Cambridge** — The annual St. Benedict School spaghetti dinner will be held from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Oct. 13, at St. Benedict Church social hall. Cost for the dinner, which includes spaghetti with meat or marinara sauce, tossed salad, rolls, desserts and beverages, is \$7 for adults; \$4 for children under the age of 12; free for children under the age of 5. For takeouts, telephone (740) 432-6751, extension 127.

**Chesapeake** — Recently elected to St. Ann Parish Council were Jeanne Burdette, David Compton, Roger Crump and Sue Pfaffenberger.

**Gallipolis** — A 24-part DVD Bible study on "Matthew: the King and His Kingdom," featuring Jeff Cavins, will begin Oct. 12, from 6:15-8 p.m., in St. Louis Church, at St. John Paul II Center Lourdes Hall. Cost is \$28.29. For additional information, telephone the parish office at (740) 446-0669.

**Harriettsville** — St. Henry Parish will hold a health fair from 8-10 a.m., Oct. 29, at the Lower Salem Community Hall, Ohio Route 821. To register for any tests, which include multiphasic testing of sugar, cholesterol, liver, etc., a cholesterol profile, AIC blood sugar, prostate screening or blood glucose, telephone (740) 568-5232, prior to Oct. 24; participants must fast 12 hours before screenings. Flu and pneumonia vaccines, which are covered by Medicare and Medicaid, will be available. For additional information, telephone Carol White at (740) 585-2425 or email carol\_white@frontier.com.

**Ironton** — As part of senior Christian service, the senior class of St. Joseph Central High School will host an American Red Cross blood drive from 1-6:30 p.m., Oct. 21, in the school gymnasium, 912 S. Sixth St. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and enter St-Joe\_Ironton, or telephone the school office, (740) 532-0485.

**Little Hocking** — Rite of Christian Initiation of



Plans have been finalized for the annual St. Anthony of Padua turkey dinner, say Father John F. Mucha, parish pastor, center, and Dick Riley and Debbie Koshenka, parishioners. The dinner will be held from noon to 3 p.m., Oct. 9, in the St. Anthony School hall, 630 Main St., Bridgeport. Shuttle service will be available to and from the church parking lots the day of the dinner. The dinner menu includes turkey, dressing, mashed and sweet potatoes, gravy, green beans, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, rolls, beverages and desserts. Adults can eat dinner for \$10; children, under 12, \$5. Takeouts will be available in St. Anthony Center, located under the rectory, near the school hall. Tickets for the dinner and raffles will be available the day of the dinner. Proceeds from the fundraiser are used for upkeep of the parish. Father Mucha is pastor of nearby St. Joseph Parish, also. (Photo by DeFrancis)

Adults classes will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesdays, at St. Ambrose Church.

An adult discussion session on St. Francis of Assisi will be held at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 12, in St. Ambrose Church hall.

**Marietta** — The "Parvuli Dei" (Children of God) program, for Cub Scouts 8-10 years of age, will be held Nov. 5, Nov. 12 and Nov. 19, from 4-5:30 p.m., at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption social hall. Scouts and their parents also have the option of completing the workbook on their own, if there is a conflict with session dates. Following the final session, participants and families will attend the 5:30 p.m. Mass at the basilica for an awards ceremony. For information or to register, telephone Kelly Faires at (740) 336-297.

**McConelsville** — An annual priest appreciation day/pancake breakfast will be held following the celebration of the 9 a.m. Mass, by Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, Oct. 9, at St. James Church.

**Mingo Junction** — Beginning Oct. 19, at 7 p.m., and continuing for nine consecutive Wednesdays, until Dec. 14, St. Agnes Parish will have a novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The novena will include the recitation of the rosary, litany, the prayer of reconsecration to the Diocese of Steubenville, and will conclude with adoration and Benediction.

**Morges** — St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Ladies of Mercy will have a quilt raffle. To purchase a ticket, which costs \$1 each or six for \$5, telephone the parish office at (330) 866-9718.

**Pomeroy** — A pancake breakfast will be held Oct. 9, at 10:30 a.m., at Sacred Heart Church hall. The parish social committee will be selling large loaves of homemade banana bread for \$7, also.

**St. Clairsville** — Mass will be celebrated in Spanish at 2:30 p.m., Oct. 16, at St. Mary Church. The sacrament of reconciliation will precede Mass at 2 p.m.

The St. Mary Parish St. Francis Society will meet at noon, Oct. 19, in Marian Hall. Lunch, consisting of baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, baby lima beans

and dessert, can be purchased for \$6.50. Flu shots will be administered from 10:30 a.m. until noon; no payment if enrolled in Medicare. Required reservations, by Oct. 17, can be made by telephoning Kay Mayer, (740) 695-4419 or Lydia Mick, (740) 695-0177.

**St. Clairsville** — Boscov's is hosting "Friends Helping Friends Day" Oct. 18. Shopping passes are available for \$5 at St. Mary Central School, 226 W. Main St., and provide a 25 percent discount on all purchases made the day of the event.

**Steubenville** — A "Day With Bishop Monforton," sponsored by Mother of Hope Deanery, will be held Oct. 25 at Holy Family Church. The rosary will be recited at 10:30 a.m.; Mass will be celebrated by Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton at 11 a.m. A luncheon and discussion with Bishop Monforton will follow. The event will conclude by 3:30 p.m. To make a reservation, prior to Oct. 18, telephone Cindy Hoerchler at (740) 314-9009 or Holy Family Church rectory, (740) 264-2825.

**Steubenville** — There will be a blessing and investiture ceremony with the Miraculous Medal at 5:15 p.m., Oct. 17, at Holy Rosary Church. Benediction and novena prayers will follow. Miraculous Medals will be available, without charge, for anyone wanting to be invested.

A blessing of a child in the womb will take place at 1 p.m., Oct. 16, at Holy Rosary Church. No registration is necessary.

**Steubenville** — The second annual "Crusader 5K Run/Walk," featuring a fall fest, will be held Oct. 15 at the Catholic Central High School Athletic Complex, 2103 St. Charles Drive. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., near the soccer fields; the race will begin at 9 a.m.; the fall fest will be held from 9-11 a.m. A \$5 admission includes childrens' games, crafts, and entry into the 400 meter "Little Saints Sprint," which will begin at 10 a.m. Participants can register online at [www.runtheday.com/race/crusader5K](http://www.runtheday.com/race/crusader5K) or telephone the junior high school office at (740) 264-5538. All proceeds from the race benefit the Catholic schools in Steubenville.

## Around and About

**Athens** — A Habitat for Humanity annual fall rummage sale will be held from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Oct. 29, at Holy Family Center, which is located at Christ the King University Parish, 75 Stewart St.

The fall scrap metal collection is scheduled from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov. 5, at the Athens County Fairgrounds, 286 W. Union St.

The "Taste of Southeast Ohio" will be held Oct. 22, at 6 p.m., at Hocking College, 3301 Hocking Parkway, Nelsonville. For tickets, visit [habitatseo.org](http://habitatseo.org) or telephone George Bain, (740) 592-3828 or email him at [gbain45701@yahoo.com](mailto:gbain45701@yahoo.com).

**Columbus, Ohio** — The Pontifical College Josephinum is hosting a "Come and See" Oct. 20-22 for male juniors and seniors in high school and college students interested in knowing more about seminary life. To register, contact Father Michael W. Gossett, Diocese of Steubenville vocations director, by telephoning (740) 264-0868 or emailing [mgossett@diosteub.org](mailto:mgossett@diosteub.org).

**Gallipolis** — A hog roast and half-chicken dinner, prepared by Knights of Columbus Council 3335, will be held from 2-8 p.m., Oct. 22, at St. Louis Church, in Lourdes Hall. Live music will be provided by Paul "Bub" Williams from 4-6 p.m. There will be a brown bag auction at 7 p.m. and a split the pot raffle. The football game will be televised. Cost is \$10. Proceeds from the event will be used for the church electrical project.

**Lore City** — The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women biannual meeting will be held Oct. 22, at 10 a.m., at Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory. Cost of \$6 includes lunch. For reservations, prior to Oct. 19, telephone DeDe Kidder at (740) 544-5925 or (740) 632-3018 or by email at [dkidder@brdband.com](mailto:dkidder@brdband.com).

**Marriottsville, Md.** — The Sisters of Bon Secours will host a "Come and See Vocation Weekend" Oct. 14-16 at the Bon Secours Provincial House, 1525 Marriottsville Road. For additional information, telephone (877) 742-0277.

**Parkersburg, W.Va.** — The Women's Care Center will sponsor a "2016 Walk For Life" Oct. 9 at Parkersburg City Park, 1920 Park Ave. Registration and lunch will begin at 12:30 p.m.; walk activities at 1:15 p.m. For additional information, telephone the center at (800) 595-7113.

**Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.** — The Sisters of Providence will host a Nov. 18-20 retreat for single, Catholic women between the ages of 18-42. There is no cost to attend and housing and meals will be provided. For additional information register online at [ListeningRetreat.Sister-sofProvidence.org](http://ListeningRetreat.Sister-sofProvidence.org); email, [eben@spsmw.org](mailto:eben@spsmw.org); or telephone (812) 230-4771.

**Steubenville** — Sofia Starnes, poetry editor and poetry book reviewer of "The Anglican Theological Review," will present a paper titled "Inhabiting a Poem: A Call and Answer" Oct. 11, and give a poetry reading Oct. 12. Both events will take place at 7 p.m., in Classroom A, St. Joseph Center, at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Franciscan University of Steubenville will host a symposium titled "Pope Francis' Vision for the Renewal of the Church" Nov. 10-12. For a schedule and registration information, visit <http://www.franciscan.edu/henkels/pope-francis-symposium> or email Joan McGlone, [jmcglone@franciscan.edu](mailto:jmcglone@franciscan.edu).

George J. Marlin, chairman of the international charitable organization Aid to the Church in Need, will speak on "The Tragedy of Christian Persecutions in the Middle East" at 7 p.m., Oct. 11, during the Poverello Medal ceremony, at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Prior to his presentation, Marlin will accept the Poverello Medal, the university's highest nonacademic award, on behalf of the organization.

Franciscan University of Steubenville's annual Vocations Awareness Day will be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Oct. 14, at Finnegan Field House. Anyone considering a call to the priesthood or religious life can

meet with vocations directors from around the country.

**Steubenville** — A public square rosary rally, to pray for peace in our world, will take place at noon, Oct. 15, at Third and Market streets.

**Torch** — The annual "Sisters on the River Retreat" will be held at Sacred Heart Retreat House Oct. 22-23. Theme for this year's

retreat is "Saints." For more information, telephone Judy Graf, (740) 985-3601.

**Weirton, W.Va.** — Sacred Heart of Mary Parish will host a candlelight eucharistic rosary procession at 7 p.m., Oct. 9, at 200 Preston Ave. The evening of devotion will include hymns, Scripture readings, a reflection and Benediction. An ice cream social will follow in the church hall.



**St. Agnes Catholic Women's Club members** — from the left, Paula Robson, Barbara Crugnale, Clara Sue Milewsky, Jackie Parks, Joanne Raha, Denise Galownia and Pat Cramblett — are readying the pumpkin rolls the club has become known for, in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The cost of each pumpkin roll is \$9 and can be ordered by telephoning St. Agnes Church, Mingo Junction, hall (740) 535-0098; Raha (740) 282-1612 or Crugnale (740) 535-0174. The pumpkin rolls may be ordered and picked up in the St. Agnes Parish hall, 204 St. Clair Ave., Mingo Junction, Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. until noon and between 5-6:30 p.m. All orders should be picked up within two days of ordering. The last day to order the pumpkin rolls is Oct. 24. All orders must be picked up by noon, Nov. 2. (Photo by Father Dunfee)

## Life Line Screening Oct. 19 in Steubenville

STEUBENVILLE — Residents living in and around Steubenville can learn about their potential to contract cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic serious conditions through Life Line Screening, Independence, Ohio.

American Legion Post 557, 1212 Two Ridge Road, will host the event Oct. 19, announced a spokeswoman for Life Line Screening, labeled "the power of prevention."

Screenings will check for the level of plaque buildup on arteries, which is re-

lated to heart disease, stroke and overall vascular health; cholesterol levels; diabetes risk; bone density, as well as kidney and thyroid functions. Cost of the screening begins at \$149, but consultants will assist in determining screenings needed, based on a person's age and risk factors, the Life Line Screening spokeswoman said.

Free parking is available at the screening site, also wheelchair accessible.

To preregister, which is required, telephone (877) 237-1287 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com).

## Obituaries

**Sister Irene Dobson**, a Franciscan Sister of the Congregation of Our Lady of Lourdes, Rochester, Minnesota, has died.

Born Aug. 4, 1924, in Ironton, a daughter of Samuel and Mary Ann Werne Dobson, she entered the Sisters of St. Francis in 1942 from St. Joseph Parish, Ironton, made her first vows in 1945 and perpetual vows in 1948.

Sister Irene received bachelor's and master's from Minnesota institutions in the 1950s and 1960s.

For 30 years, Sister Irene taught primary and junior high school students, including ones in parochial schools in Ironton. Throughout her ministry, she, also, was a pianist and organist and served as a hospital chaplain.

Sister Irene is survived by her Franciscan Sisters, as well as her sister Beatrice Gannon of Ironton, and many nieces and nephews and great- and great-great nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 21 in the Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes, Assisi Heights, Rochester. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Rochester.

**Emilia T. Gazda**, 92, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Sept. 15.

**Gary E. Gotschall**, 82, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Sept. 22.

**Alvina A. Saunders**, 83, Mingo Junction, St. Agnes, Sept. 24.

**Carrie R. Zarych**, 75, Mingo Junction, St. Agnes, Sept. 30.



**The Catholic Daughters Court 367, Bellaire**, held a baby shower and collected an assortment of gifts, including handmade afghans, diapers, clothing and other necessities needed for babies, said, from the left, Laurie Heizel, secretary of the organization; Irene Bickmeier, regent of the Catholic Daughters court; Susan Stewart; Margaret Paolucci, vice regent of the Bellaire court; and Mary Lindquist. The supplies for infants will be given to the Miracle of Life Support Group, St. Mary Parish, St. Clairsville. Miracle of Life Support Group provides assistance to Belmont County women during and after a pregnancy. (Photo provided)

## When political choice is tough

From Page 1

A trip to Fatima, Portugal, is definite, he said. He intends to go May 13 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima.

Also on the calendar, the pope said, is a trip to India and Bangladesh and another

trip to Africa, although the specific nation or nations has not been decided.

Asked about his promise to visit Colombia after peace was established in the country, Pope Francis said the peace agreement signed in September between the government and rebels was important,

but the people of Colombia still have to begin the real work of living in peace.

In addition, Pope Francis confirmed that he had spoken with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, about setting aside the usual five-year waiting period to allow the

collection of eyewitness testimony regarding the murder in July of French Father Jacques Hamel as he celebrated Mass.

"It is very important not to lose the testimonies," the pope said. "With time, someone may die, another forgets something."

## Gay, transgender people deserve attentive pastoral care, Pope Francis says

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM AZERBAIJAN (CNS) — Catholics who are homosexual, confused about their sexuality or convinced they were born in the wrong body deserve the same attentive pastoral care as anyone else, Pope Francis said.

Flying back to Rome Oct. 2 after a visit to Georgia and Azerbaijan, the pope was asked, given his criticism Oct. 1 of "gender theory" and of what he describes as "ideological colonization," how he would provide pastoral care to a person who felt his or her sexuality did not correspond to his or her biology.

Pope Francis began responding to the reporter's question by saying that as a priest, a bishop and even as pope he has "accompanied people with homosexual tendencies and even homosexual activity. I accompanied them; I helped them draw closer to the Lord, although some couldn't. But I never abandoned them."

"People must be accompanied like Jesus would accompany them," he said. "When a person who has this situation arrives before Jesus, Jesus certainly will not say, 'Go away because you are homosexual.' No."

Pope Francis said what he was condemning was "indoctrination of gender theory," teaching small children that no matter their biological sex, they can choose their gender. He said a Spanish father told him he had asked his son what he wanted to be when he grew up and the boy replied, "A girl." The father realized the child was taught in school that gender is a choice "and this is against nature."

"It is one thing for a person to have this tendency, this option and even to have a sex change, but it is another thing to teach this in schools in order to change mentalities. This I call ideological colonization," the pope said.

The pope also told the story of a Spanish husband and wife whom he invited to the

Vatican. The husband was born a girl, but always felt like a boy. When she was in her 20s, she told her mother she wanted a sex change operation, but the mother begged her not to do it as long as she was alive. When her mother died, she had the surgery, the pope said.

A Spanish bishop, "a good bishop," spent time, a lot of time "to accompany this man," who later married, the pope said. They asked to come to the Vatican "and I received them and they were very happy."

In the town where the man lived, he said, a new priest, "when he would see him would shout at him from the sidewalk, 'You will go to hell!' But when he'd meet his old priest, he would say to him, 'How long has it been since you've confessed? Come on, confess so you can take Communion.'"

## Pope focuses day on sharing hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a world where so much bad news can anesthetize people or lead them to despair, the media cannot and should not ignore "good news" stories, stories which Christians see as a reflection of the greater news that God is a loving father, a Vatican office said.

For World Communications Day 2017, Pope Francis has chosen the theme: "'Fear not, for I am with you.' Communicating hope and trust in our time."

The Vatican announced the theme Sept. 26. Most dioceses will mark World Communications Day May 28, the Sunday before Pentecost.

The full message was expected to be released, Jan. 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists.

"Do you understand?" the pope asked the journalists. "Life is life and you must take things as they come. Sin is sin. And tendencies or hormonal imbalances" create problems "and you cannot say, 'it's all the same, let's throw a party.' No."

Welcome the person, study the situation, accompany the person and integrate him or her into the life of the community, the pope said. "This is what Jesus would do today."

"Please," the pope told reporters, "Don't say, 'The pope will bless transgender people,' OK?"

"I want to be clear. It is a moral problem. It is a problem. A human problem," the pope said. "And it must be resolved the best one can — always with the mercy of God, with the truth" and "always with an open heart."

The words from the Book of Isaiah, "Fear not, for I am with you," are words believers hear whispered in the midst of the world's tumult, said a statement from the Vatican Secretariat for Communications explaining the theme.

The words encourage people to search for and identify the ways God is working in the world, the statement said.

The pope's choice of a theme, the secretariat wrote, "is an invitation to tell the story of the world and the stories of men and women in accordance with the logic of the 'good news' that reminds us that God never ceases to be a father" to all people and in all situations.

"Let us learn to communicate trust and hope for history."

## Jubilee of Mercy

From Page 6

- Luke, Chapter 7, Verses 36-50 — Jesus' mercy for the penitent woman;
- Luke, Chapter 10, Verses 25-37 — the story of the Good Samaritan;
- Luke, Chapter 15, Verses 1-7 — the parable of the lost sheep;
- Luke, Chapter 15, Verses 8-10 — the parable of the lost coin;
- Luke, Chapter 15, Verses 11-32 — the parable of the prodigal son and merciful father;
- Luke, Chapter 16, Verses 19-31 — the story of the rich man and Lazarus;
- Luke, Chapter 18, Verses 9-14 — the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector.

(Note — almost all the Lucan citations are stories or parables unique to Luke's Gospel — except for the parable of the lost sheep — and thus point clearly to the emphasis on mercy in that Gospel. One notes especially the three parables in Chapter 15 just about in the center of the entire Gospel making mercy pivotal to this Gospel.)

There are many other indications of the importance of the theme of mercy in Luke's Gospel. Let us turn our attention to two of these — the canticle of Mary (Luke, Chapter 1, Verses 39-56) and the canticle of Zechariah (Luke, Chapter 1, Verses 57-80).

One of the most treasured canticles in the Bible is Mary's Song of Praise. It is prayed daily at evening prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours.

At just about the center of that canticle we find: "And his *mercy* is on those who fear him from generation to generation."

In the second to the last verse the canticle once again references God's mercy: "He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his *mercy*. ..."

All God's wonderful gifts showered upon Mary and Israel can be best appreci-

ated as manifestations of God's gracious mercy.

The other canticle in Chapter 1 of Luke's Gospel is the canticle of Zechariah. It is part of morning prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours. It, too, references God's mercy as the key attribute that carries out God's plan for his people. "... to perform the *mercy* promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant."

Zechariah recounts God's wonderful deeds in the past and prophesies how his son, John the Baptist, will live out God's plan to redeem the chosen people and all peoples.

Both canticles are found in the first chapter of the Gospel. Thus, the theme of mercy is introduced at the very beginning of the Gospel inviting us to hear and see God's mercy play itself out in the Gospel's events and stories.

In a very real sense these early references to mercy will be further elaborated on in the passages cited above as Jesus goes about his works of mercy — forgiving sins and seeing to the needs of those who encounter him.

The theme of mercy is introduced in St. Luke's Gospel in two prayer-canticles that have been part of the church's daily prayer for centuries. That in itself serves as an indication that Jesus' practice of mercy and Luke's recounting that practice can best be appreciated at prayer.

**Msgr. Petronek is a Diocese of Steubenville priest, retired from active parish ministry. The former two-time director of the diocesan Office of Worship and missionary priest, resides in Wheeling, West Virginia, where he continues to celebrate Masses and writes a regular column for The Steubenville Register.**

### Mother's Pilgrims Pilgrimage to Medjugorje



**April 24 - May 3, 2017**  
**Trip: Fellow Pilgrim**  
**Rev. Daniel T. Straughn**

"Thank you for responding to My call. If you knew how much I love you, you'd cry of joy."  
**Hostesses: Cathy Howe & Medjugorje Visionary Mirjana Soldo**

**Our Lady is Waiting just for you.**  
**If you Hear Her Call, let Nothing stand in Your way.**

For more information  
**412-278-4673 or 412-366-7200**  
[www.mothershope.org](http://www.mothershope.org)