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News Briefs

The family is the answer, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The family is the answer to the two extremes facing the world – fragmentation and “homogenization,” in which everything is forced to be the same, Pope Francis said.

The family based on marriage between a man and a woman is the answer because “it is the cell of a society that balances the personal and communal,” he said at his general audience Sept. 30 in St. Peter’s Square. The family also can be “the model of a sustainable management of goods and the resources of creation” against today’s culture of consumerism, he added.

The pope dedicated his audience talk to reviewing his Sept. 19-27 trip to Cuba and the United States, where he visited Washington, New York, the United Nations and Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families. He thanked Cuban President Raul Castro, U.S. President Barack Obama and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for their warm welcomes and extended his thanks to all the bishops and everyone who worked to make the trip possible. The pope made special mention of Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia “for his commitment, piety, enthusiasm and his great love for the family,” which were seen in his work organizing the main focus of the pope’s trip – the World Meeting of Families.

Canonization can renew mission spirit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — For Catholic Extension, the canonization of St. Junipero Serra – a Spanish-born Franciscan friar who carried out his mission work in the 18th century – Sept. 23 marked a renewal of the 110-year-old organization’s help to the marginalized.

“We have to awaken our mission spirit in the United States,” said Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension. “You can’t do that just by being in the sanctuary. The good news is meant to be shared joyously. And it’s meant to be in the poorest places in the United States.”

Ninty-four of 196 Catholic dioceses nationwide are classified as mission dioceses. Since its founding in 1905, Chicago-based Catholic Extension has been supporting the work and ministries of these dioceses, “where the faith is thriving but the resources are scarce.”

Pope Francis celebrated the canonization Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Synod place to listen to Holy Spirit, pope says

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The world Synod of Bishops on the family is not a parliament where participants will negotiate or lobby, Pope Francis said, but it must be a place of prayer where bishops speak with courage and open themselves to “God who always surprises us.”

Opening the first working session of the synod Oct. 5, the pope said the synod’s 270 voting members need courage, “pastoral and doctrinal zeal, wisdom, frankness and to keep always before our eyes the good of the church and of families and the supreme law – the salvation of souls.”

Arriving about 15 minutes before the session began, Pope Francis welcomed to the synod hall the members, delegates from other Christian communities and the men and women who will serve as experts and observers.

The synod is not a convention or a parliament, Pope Francis said, “but an expression of the church; it is the church that walks together to read reality with the eyes of faith and with the heart of God.”

Synod members must be faithful to church teaching, “the

deposit of faith, which is not a museum to be visited or even simply preserved, but is a living spring from which the church drinks to quench the thirst and enlighten” people, he said.

The synod hall and its small working groups, he said, should be “a protected space where the church experiences the action of the Holy Spirit.”

In a spirit of prayer, the pope said, the Spirit will speak through “everyone who allows themselves to be guided by God, who always surprises us, by God who reveals to the little ones that which he has hidden from the wise and intelligent, by God who created the Sabbath for men and women and not vice versa, by God who leaves the 99 sheep to find the one missing sheep, by God who is always greater than our logic and our calculations.”

Synod members need “an apostolic courage that does not allow itself to be afraid in the face of the seductions of the world” that are attempting “to extinguish in human hearts the light of truth” and replace it with “little and temporary lights,” he said.

However, at the same time, Pope Francis said, apostolic
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Christine and Joseph A. Schmidt wait with their children, Felicity, 11; Gianna, 9; Jonathan, 7; and Therese, 5, for a chance to see Pope Francis along a Philadelphia street. They caught a glimpse and also were among the throng at the papal Mass. The family represented the Diocese of Steubenville at the World Meeting of Families Sept. 21-28 in Philadelphia. At left, Michele A. Santin, director, Diocese of Steubenville Office of Family and Social Concerns (Catholic Charities), displays memorabilia from her visit to the White House when Pope Francis was the guest. (Photos provided and by DeFrancis)



Holy Name Cathedral
Renovation, Restoration and Renewal
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St. John Central (Grade) School changes leadership, expands classroom



Victoria Nurczyk, standing, aids Theresa Young in completing forms online, part of her job as interim principal at St. John Central (Grade) School.

BELLAIRE — A woman who has called St. John Central (Grade) School home for 24 years is its interim principal.

Theresa Young, a native of Neffs and member of Sacred Heart Parish there, who graduated from Belmont County grade and high schools, is transitioning into the principalship of the school that educates students from early childhood through grade eight.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton made the interim appointment.

Paul D. Ward is director of the diocese's Office of Christian Formation and Schools.

Father Daniel Heusel is pastoral administrator of St. John Central (Grade) School.

Meanwhile, the early learners at the school at 37th and Guernsey streets are being educated in a renovated classroom.

Young has been on staff at St. John Central since she graduated from Ohio University, Athens, in 1991. During that time, she has taught a number of grades — first second, then fourth, first, seventh and fifth,

as well as computers.

"I've always been happy here," Young said.

"It is a smooth transition," Victoria J. "Vicki" Nurczyk said of Young assuming the leadership role that she has held since the 2012-13 school year.

A Steubenville resident, Nurczyk received her bachelor's degree from the then The College of Steubenville and master's in educational administration from Franciscan University of Steubenville, where she is working part time with education students.

Before becoming principal of St. John Central, Nurczyk spent her career affiliated with Catholic schools in Steubenville, beginning at St. Anthony, and then teaching and serving as principal of Aquinas Central and finally working at Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary, which she helped create when parochial schools in Jefferson County were restructured.

"I did what I wanted to do," the mother and grandmother and Triumph of the Cross Parish, Steubenville, member said. "I taught my faith," Nurczyk said.

At St. John Central, Young said she will strive to continue to assist educators in providing a Catholic education to students, as a foundation for their success academically, spiritually and socially.

"I am seeing children of former students in school," Young said. "It lets you know you are doing something right here, if they are sending students back."

Nancy Ducci, longtime St. John Central (Grade) School teacher, will aid Young,



Michelle VanDorn, at desk, and Valerie Francis assist early learners in their expanded classroom at St. John Central (Grade) School, Bellaire. (Photos by DeFrancis)

particularly, with the components of the children's education that deals with liturgy and Catholic identity, Young said.

The number of students in the St. John Central (Grade) School 3-year-old preschool and 4-year-old prekindergarten has grown for the 2015-16 school year. The increase resulted in a doubling of their classroom space.

Michelle VanDorn, early childhood preschool/prekindergarten director and

teacher, and Nurczyk said they made the decision in the spring to expand the size of the classroom to accommodate enrollment. Tony Francis and Tom Mullen, parents of St. John Central students, completed the work during summer months.

The 4-year-olds are in class from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. four days a week. They are assisted by Valerie Francis, newly hired aide. The 3-year-olds meet Fridays, mornings or afternoons.

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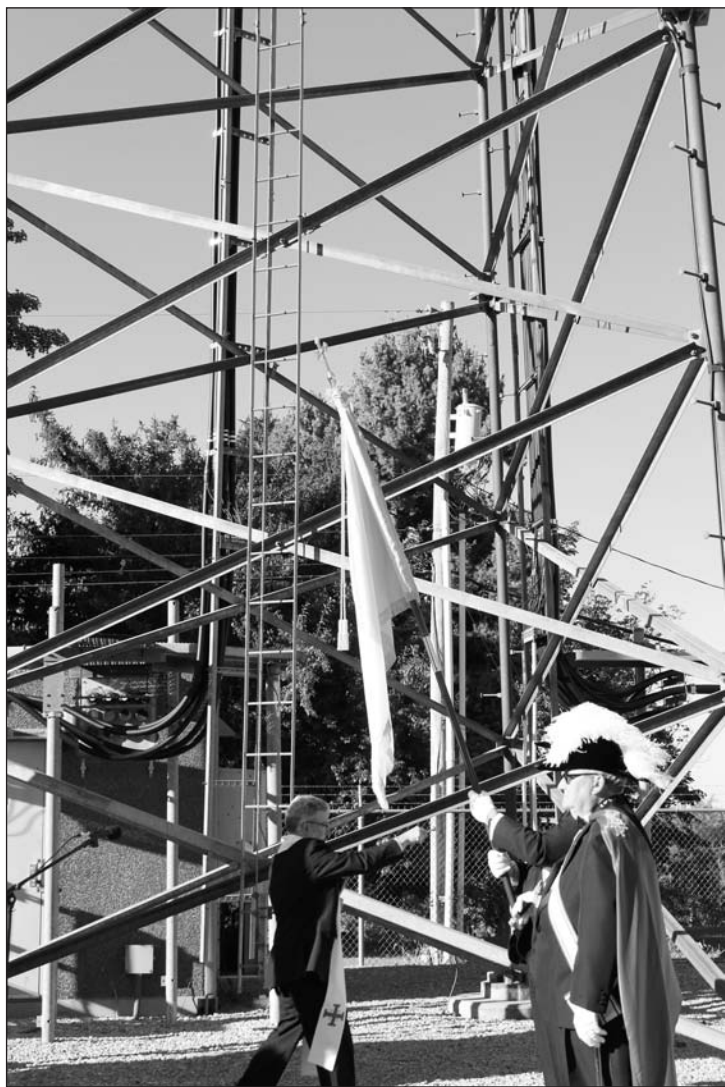
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Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton blesses Light of Life, Catholic radio ministries WDC radio tower, transmitter and transmission equipment, situated on a St. Clairsville hilltop. Father David J. Cornett, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Barnesville, and St. Mary Parish, Temperanceville, assisted Bishop Monforton. Lynne Snyder of Belington, West Virginia, also aided the bishop. Fourth-degree Knights of the Commodore Jack Berry Assembly 802, Bridgeport, and Father Francis Trettel, 1736, participate – John Morris, Mike Abbott, Carl Duke and Ron Ginnetti. Bob Carubia, station president, said Light of Life is a listener-supported, all-volunteer, nonprofit radio ministry. WDC-FM 90.7 can be heard on the radio in the upper Ohio Valley and online or on a mobile device. The first Light of Life station went on the air in North Central, West Virginia, in 2010. WLOL-FM 89.7 began broadcasting in Morgantown, West Virginia, in 2011. WDC has been transmitting since 2012. Light of Life, an affiliate of the Eternal Word Broadcasting Network, provides education, information and opportunities for ecumenism, evangelization and catechesis, Carubia said. (Photo by DeFrancis)

Bishop Monforton's Schedule

October

- 10 Diocesan Respect Life Conference Mass, Holy Family Church, Steubenville, 8:30 a.m.
Mass of solemn profession of vows, Mother Marija Benedykta of the Cross, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 7 p.m.
- 11 Visit Diocese of Steubenville youth conference "Rise Up!" "Let Your Light Shine," St. Ambrose Church, Little Hocking, 3:30 p.m.; Mass, 4:40 p.m.
- 12 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 8:30 a.m.
- 13 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m.
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 6 p.m.
- 14 Mother of Hope Deanery Council of Catholic Women day with the bishop, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Toronto, 11 a.m.
- 15 WAOB radio segment, 7:40 a.m., 8:40 a.m. and 6:40 p.m.
- 18 Red Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 11:30 a.m.
- 19 Mass and lunch with Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles, Steubenville, 11:30 a.m.
- 20 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m.
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 6 p.m.
- 23-24 Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem investiture, Columbus, Ohio

Diocesan priest dies at 74

CLEVELAND — Father John "Jack" Holmes, a Diocese of Steubenville priest, has died.

Born July 26, 1941, in Cleveland, Father Holmes was the son of Harold and Lauretta Martens Holmes.

Raised in Cleveland, the deceased attended Catholic schools and entered Borromeo Seminary, a Diocese of Cleveland seminary in Wickliffe, Ohio, at the age of 14. He continued his studies at St. John Vianney Seminary, Bloomington.

He was ordained to the priesthood May 17, 1969, at Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville, by Bishop John King Mussio.

Since the late 1980s, Father Holmes had been on leave, outside the diocese.

Father Holmes died Oct. 3. A funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 9 at Our Lady of Angels Church, Cleveland. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery, Brook Park, Ohio.

Siblings Mary Nist, Ruth Ann Bielek, Theresa Parente, Tom and Ted survive, as well as many nieces and nephews.

World Mission Sunday observed during October

STEUBENVILLE — World Mission Sunday will be observed the weekend of Oct. 17-18 in every nation, including the United States, and a collection will be taken up during weekend Masses in the Diocese of Steubenville at that time to directly benefit the mission church, said Steubenville Diocese Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton.

During a message for the upcoming 89th World Mission Day, Pope Francis said, "... (T)here is an urgent need to reaffirm that the central ideal of mission is Jesus Christ, and that this ideal demands the total gift of oneself to the proclamation of the Gospel. On this point there can be no compromise: Those who by God's grace accept the mission, are called to live the mission. ...

"Today, the church's mission is faced by the challenge of meeting the needs of all people to return to their roots and to protect the values of their respective cultures. This means knowing and respecting other traditions and philosophical systems, and realizing that all peoples and cultures have the right to be helped from within their own traditions to enter into the mystery of God's wisdom and to accept the Gospel of Jesus, who is light and transforming strength for all cultures."

The pope, Bishop Monforton pointed out in a letter that will be read at Masses in the Steubenville Diocese Oct. 10 and 11, asked: "Who are the first to whom the Gospel message must be proclaimed? The answer, found so often throughout the Gospel, is clear: It is the poor, the little ones and the sick, those who are often looked down upon or forgotten, those who cannot repay us (see, Lk 14: 13-14). ... There is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor. May we never abandon them" – "The Joy of the Gospel" ("Evangelii Gaudium"), Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation.

"Pope Francis has shown himself to be a great teacher with the heart of a missionary," Bishop Monforton wrote. "Like Jesus, he teaches by word and example, keeping the poor, the troubled and the vulnerable in clear view at all times. ... Our Catholic Church, at every level and by its very nature, is missionary. Its origin is in the very mission of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit."

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is the pope's chief missionary arm, providing resources for more than 1,150 dioceses throughout Asia, Africa, parts of Latin America and Europe, and on the Islands of the Pacific. Donations make it possible for priests, religious and catechists to reach out to communities, families and children.

Father Timothy J. Kozak, Sacred Heart Parish, Pomeroy, pastor, is mission director for the Steubenville Diocese. Names of donors he receives will be mailed a copy of Mission magazine by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

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In November election, Ohio bishops support Issues 1,2, oppose Issue 3

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The general election is Nov. 3 in the state of Ohio; early voting and absentee voting started Oct. 6.

In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation, Ohio's Catholic bishops reminded. The responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience.

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. The 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, they said.

There are three statewide issues on the Nov. 3 ballot. The Catholic Bishops of Ohio – Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr of Cincinnati, Bishop of Cincinnati Joseph R. Binzer, Bishop of Cleveland Richard G. Lennon, Bishop of Columbus Frederick F. Campbell, Bishop of Byzantine Eparchy of Parma John Kudrick, Bishop of Steubenville Jeffrey M. Monforton, Bishop of Toledo Daniel E. Thomas, Bishop of Youngstown George V. Murry, Bishop of Romanian Catholic Eparchy of Canton J. Michael Botean and Bishop of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Eparchy, Parma, Bohdan J. Danylo – have taken a supportive position on Issues 1 and 2, while opposing Issue 3.

On Sept. 30, the Catholic Bishops of Ohio issued the following recommendations:

Issue 1: Creation of a bipartisan, public process for drawing legislative districts –

“We appreciate that this issue was well debated in the Ohio General Assembly, and that it was placed on the ballot with strong bipartisan support.

“Legislative districts should be fairly established, facilitate active citizen participation, assure effective accountability and accessibility to both voters and elected officials, and ensure the common good of all in society. Issue 1 provides a prudentially viable process for achieving these goals. The Catholic Bishops of Ohio support Issue 1.”

Issue 2: Anti-Monopoly amendment –
“Economic justice calls for a balance between free market practices and public actions that protect the common good. Our teaching refers to this as pursuing a proper equilibrium between subsidiarity and solidarity (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, Paragraphs 353, 354).

“We appreciate that the Ohio General Assembly, with bipartisan support, placed this issue on the ballot. We agree with proponents that the Constitution should be used to protect fundamental rights of all individuals, not to guarantee financial profits for a select few. The Catholic Bishops of Ohio support Issue 2.”

Issue 3: Production and Sale of marijuana for medicinal and personal purposes –

“The Catechism of the Catholic Church warns that the nontherapeutic use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life (Paragraph 2291). Practicing the virtue of temperance disposes one to avoid every kind of excess, including drunkenness and substance abuse.

“We do not believe that Issue 3 is well conceived. We agree with opponents of

Issue 3 that the scope of this amendment is overly broad. We worry about the negative consequences broad exposure to marijuana will have, especially on children. We strongly believe that many of the proposed legalization provisions do not belong in the State Constitution. The Catholic Bishops of Ohio are opposed to Issue 3.”

Statistics from the Catholic Conference of Ohio show, as of January 2014, 1,964,274 Catholics in the state of Ohio. That is 17 percent of a total populace of 11,288,817. The church has 1,608 priests in the state; 2,662 sisters; 204 brothers; 814 deacons; 773 parishes; 84 health care hospitals and centers; 190 cemeteries; 13 colleges or universities; 122,700 students in 401 Catholic schools; 98,905 religious education students; and 76 special centers for social services serving 1,278,865 persons annually.

A representative from the Catholic Conference of Ohio quoted “The Joy of the Gospel” (“*Evangelii Gaudium*”), Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation, “I ask God to give us more politicians capable of sincere and effective dialogue aimed at healing the deepest roots – and not simply the appearances – of the evils in our world! Politics, though often denigrated, remains a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good.

“We need to be convinced that charity is the principle not only of microrelationships (with friends, with family members or within small groups) but also of macrorelationships (social, economic and political ones).

“I beg the Lord to grant us more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the

poor! It is vital that government leaders and financial leaders take heed and broaden their horizons, working to ensure that all citizens have dignified work, education and health care. Why not turn to God and ask him to inspire their plans? I am firmly convinced that openness to the transcendent can bring about a new political and economic mindset which would help to break down the wall of separation between the economy and the common good of society.”

A prayer before an election –

“Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community. We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty. We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender. We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your kingdom. We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his apostles and guide us to your kingdom of justice and peace. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

For more information on the ballot issues, log on www.ohiocathconf.org.

Mary's Meals receives Franciscan University's highest nonacademic honor

STEUBENVILLE — Mary's Meals – the international charitable organization that receives support from Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School



Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow receives the Poverello Medal from Third Order Regular Franciscan Sean O. Sheridan, Franciscan University of Steubenville president. (Photo by DeFrancis)

and Franciscan University of Steubenville students – was awarded the Franciscan University of Steubenville Poverello Medal during a Sept. 20 special ceremony.

Staff, students and administrators from the junior high in Steubenville and university gathered in the university's Finnegan Field House's upper level to applaud Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder of Mary's Meals.

Mary's Meals received the award because it exemplifies the call of Christ to love the least among us, as it feeds more than 1 million needy children daily in impoverished countries, a university spokesman said.

The Poverello Medal, which bears an image of St. Francis giving money to the poor, is Franciscan University's highest nonacademic award.

Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School students have raised money for two years in a row for Mary's Meals, and will continue to collect dollars to maintain “Cynthia's Kitchen,” said Theresa Danaher, principal. The kitchen in Liberia is named in honor of deceased Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School student Cynthia Phillipson. She participated in Mary's Meals in 2014.

Mary's Meals was organized on the Franciscan University of Steubenville campus in 2009 by Andrew Minto, a member of the university's theology faculty, who

became involved in Mary's Meals when he taught on the Gaming, Austria, Franciscan campus. The university students support one kitchen entirely, which costs an approximate \$12,000 a year, Minto said, during a recent telephone conversation with the Register. Cost of a kitchen depends on the number of children fed, which hinges on how large the school is.

The concept behind Mary's Meals is simple. When a child attends school, he or she gets a meal. The meals are prepared by the locals in kitchens they have created, and the food cooked is locally harvested. MacFarlane-Barrow writes of the success

of the venture in a book, “The Shed That Fed A Million Children.”

Mary's Meals grew from a project MacFarlane-Barrow and his brother, Fergus, initiated 23 years ago. Then they organized a local appeal for food, clothing and medicine, took a week off work and drove the supplies to Bosnia.

“There are so many different stories about Mary's Meals (named after the mother of Jesus). It is a fruit of prayer,” MacFarlane-Barrow said. “It is transforming lives. Every child in the world should receive a meal every day. There is more than enough food for all of us.”

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To see the pope – unforgettable experience, diocesan parishioners say

STEUBENVILLE — They traveled to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., by plane, cars and buses.

They all had a goal in common – to see Pope Francis who was on a three-city tour of the United States.

They were not disappointed.

As Joseph A. Schmidt and his wife Christine and their children Felicity, Gianna, Jonathan and Therese were settling into hour after hour of newness as the Diocese of Steubenville representatives at the World Meeting of Families, Sept. 21-28, in Philadelphia, Michele A. Santin, director, diocesan Office of Family and Social Concerns (Catholic Charities) was driving with her husband, Bryan. The two were en route to Washington, where they would go to the White House to greet the pope. Other Steubenville Diocese parishioners, joined with their priests, and boarded buses to take them to witness the pope celebrate an open air Mass. And, the diocese's Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton not only participated in the pomp in Washington, D.C., surrounding the papal visit to the nation's capital, but also was in a pew and on the ground in Philadelphia (see, column Page 7).

President Barack Obama had greeted Pope Francis Sept. 22 upon his arrival in the United States. The pope was here after a visit to Cuba Sept. 19-22.

As guests of Catholic Charities USA, the Santins boarded a bus at 5:30 a.m., Sept. 23, for the White House and the arrival ceremony honoring Pope Francis, Michele Santin said. The two were among those standing in the crowd on the D.C. lawn. Later, they were in a seat for the canonization of St. Junipero Serra – an 18th-century, Spanish-born Franciscan friar missionary. The Mass, celebrated by Pope Francis, was at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. "It was all very exciting, but very peaceful," Michele Santin said.

She characterized her entire trip to Washington as being one where she witnessed people with happy, positive

attitudes. The pope smiled a lot and seemed happy to be here, she continued. Bystanders appeared to be holding their breaths in great anticipation of the pope's message, she added. "It was very simple – love one another; help those in need."

The Schmidts began their pilgrimage to Philadelphia after Mass at their home parish, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, and with the blessing of their pastor, Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the basilica. Thirteen hours later, they arrived in Philadelphia, already filled with clergy, religious and laity from all over the world, Christine Schmidt said. The excitement was palpable.

After signing in the next day, they joined the throng with World Meeting of Family T-shirts, see-through backpacks and green lanyard name tags. At the Mass that opened the World Meeting of Families, the procession lasted a full 21 minutes, she calculated.

Days that followed meant the Youth Congress for the three older children, and speakers and vendors for the adults and the youngest Schmidt who had to accompany her parents. When there was an opportunity, a little sightseeing in the historic city occurred. Since Christine Schmidt home schools the children, she wanted to be able to show them some of the things they had been learning about during history lessons. "Jonathan was amazed to see a chair George Washington had sat in," she said.

Lunching with Bishop Monforton, which included ice cream; conversing with families, even when there was a language barrier; and having each day that held so many surprises made us feel blessed, Christine Schmidt said.

The World Meeting of Families was "amazing – innumerable blessings, fun, opportunities and absolute exhaustion."

Pope Francis arrived Sept. 26 for the Festival of Fami-

lies on Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The Schmidts got a glimpse. "In a flash only a few feet in front of us, Pope Francis went by. We saw him. It almost did not seem real. He was being driven very fast, so it was a quick look, but we saw him with our own eyes. It was an incredible thrill," Christine Schmidt wrote.

For the papal Mass Sept. 27 everyone walked. The Schmidts picked their spot for Mass in sight of the altar. Because of the four-hour wait, they took naps on the ground. The papal parade allowed a second glance at the pope, Christine Schmidt said.

Father James M. Dunfee, pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Mingo Junction, was among those who took a motor coach to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and then an Amtrak train to and from Philadelphia.

His group, a member of it metered out, walked four miles to their destination, the papal Mass, Father Dunfee said. It was a packed place, 860,000 people, with an afternoon of entertainment, and all thrilled at seeing the pope, Father Dunfee said. When the massive screen showed that Mass had begun, everyone became silent, he said. People stood, sat and knelt, when possible, during Mass. They responded. They listened. "It was very impressive," Father Dunfee said.

The crowd was a mix of all ages and ethnicity. That is what is unique about America, Father Dunfee reminded. When the pope goes to Korea, he sees Koreans, but when he comes to America, he sees Spanish, Vietnamese, English, etc.

"A society grows strong, grows in goodness, grows in beauty and truly grows if it is built on the foundation of the family," the pope is quoted as saying at the Festival of Families. "All of the love that God has in himself, all of the beauty that God has in himself, all of the truth that God has in himself, he gives to the family. And a family is truly a family when it is able to open its arms and receive all of this love."

To the travelers from the diocese who witnessed it firsthand – the woman who told of riding the bus that picked up Noble County passengers with her daughter for a quick trip to Philadelphia to the Schmidts who spent a week there and even took a side trip to step in the ocean on the way home – Pope Francis' visit to the United States was as Christine Schmidt put it, "an enormous gift."



Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary School students, in Jennifer Filby's second grade, show off the miters they made for Pope Francis' visit to the United States. The miters include the papal crest. The students include Michael Fink, sitting left, and Zachary Napoli, sitting right; kneeling from left James Henderson, Sagan Smarrella, Sophia Henderson, Karlie Nese, Chloe Wilson, Lynn Cai, Clare Croskey and Lucy Harold; and standing from left. Jenna Shoemaker, Mary Rohde, Lizzy Greve, Addison Jolley, Clara Lively, Nicholas Harbert, Emma Mitchell, Santiago Descalzo, Matthew Sprochi, Ireland Marshall and Mia Dao. (Photo provided)

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St. John Paul II Jesus and Truth

By Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

One of the most interesting dialogues in the Gospels is that of Jesus before the Roman governor Pontius Pilate. The accusation that the chief priests brought against Jesus was that he claimed to be the Messiah and, therefore, a king. This put him at odds with the Romans who would consider any such claim to be treason against the Roman emperor. The Romans would not be interested in the claim that he was the Jewish Messiah, but they bristled at any claim of ruling authority other than that of Rome. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world." Pilate came back with, "So you are a king." Jesus replied, "It is you who say I am a king. The reason I was born and came into this world is to testify to the truth" (Jn 18: 33-37).

Notice that Jesus is highlighting two concepts here: that of *kingship* (i.e., power and authority of one man over others) and *truth*. Pilate asks, (like many intelligentsia today) "What is truth?" The institution of royal kingship is a human creation. That is what Our Lord meant when he said, "It is *you* who say that I am a king." In other words, my claim to kingship is something totally different from any human notion of power and authority. It is based on reality itself. That is what truth means: the perception of reality. So, what's reality? It's the fact that all things – including mankind itself – are the way they are because God created them that way (whether evolved or not). The "good news" that Jesus came to preach is that God, our Creator, is the only true power and authority and that he has a plan for us. Jesus' mission is to lay that plan before us and call us to respond to it freely. A little later, Jesus would point out to Pilate: "You would have no power over me whatever, if it were not given you from above" (Jn 19: 11). God, having created him free, permits him to create his own institutions, including the way he governs himself. We might note, as an aside, that any government that recognizes the kingship of God and takes it into consideration in its activities, would work fine, but any government that does not, will ultimately fail!

St. John Paul says, "Speaking of Jesus' preaching, even his opponents expressed in their own way its fundamental significance when they said to him, 'Teacher, we know that ... you teach the way of God according to the truth.'" (Mk 12: 14). On other occasions, "The people were astonished at his teaching for he taught them as one having authority

*As for Our Lord himself,
"He refused to impose the truth by force
on those who spoke against it."*

and not as the scribes" (Mk 1: 22). The pope points out: "This authority was constituted especially by the power of truth contained in Christ's preaching. ... This is the authority of truth whose source is God himself." We saw that authority of Christ expressed in the Sermon on the Mount when he said, several times: "It is said ... but I say to you ..." (Mt 5: 21-48). Jesus spoke with the authority of the prime lawgiver himself. "It is the authority of the truth, by reason of which the new law (i.e., the Gospel) becomes for humanity a binding principle of conduct." The pope points out, too, that, as Moses was the divinely commissioned

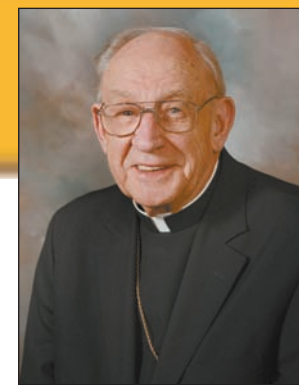
authority for the Old Covenant, Jesus was such for the New, but with this important difference: Moses spoke as delegate of God. Jesus spoke in the person of God himself!

As such, he spoke not only as conveyer of truth, but as the author and source of truth. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Mk 13: 31). Jesus hinted at this when he rebuked the Pharisees for their failure to believe, pointing out that the Queen of Sheba came from afar to hear the wisdom of Solomon, "But you have something greater than Solomon here" (Mt 12: 42). Peter recognized this when, after the discourse on the Bread of Life and the defection of many of his disciples, Jesus asked the Apostles if they, too, would walk away from him. Peter answered: "To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe; we are convinced that you are God's holy one" (Jn 6: 68-69).

John Paul comments: "Here we touch on the problem of human freedom to accept or not to accept the eternal truth contained in Christ's teaching." He refers to the Second Vatican Council: "The Council first of all stated that 'all men are bound to seek the truth, especially in what concerns God and his church,' but also that 'truth cannot impose itself except by virtue of its own truth, as it makes its entrance into the mind at once quietly and with power' (Declaration on Religious Freedom, "Dignitatis Humanae," Paragraph 1). It states further that human dignity forbids coercion on the part of any human agency in this regard. Nevertheless the same document goes on to say that people have an obligation to accept the truth once it is recognized and to adhere to it by ordering their lives accordingly (see, Declaration on Religious Freedom, Paragraph 2). Such is the nature of religious freedom. Unfortunately, there were times in the church's history when these principles were allowed to be obscured by other considerations, to the detriment of the church's credibility in later ages. People will be quick to bring up in this connection such things as the (much exaggerated) Inquisition and its treatment

of heretics and dissenters in past centuries, failing to take into account that the spirit of the times was quite different from our own.

As for Our Lord himself, "He refused to impose the truth by force on those who spoke against it." We recall an incident after some of his disciples returned after being expelled from a Samaritan town. John and James asked Jesus if they should call down fire from heaven upon that town. "He turned toward them only to reprimand them" (Lk 9: 51-55). In John Paul's words, "Not by force of blows does his rule assert its claims. It is established by witnessing to the truth ... and it extends its dominion by the love whereby Christ, lifted up on the cross, draws all men to himself."



Bishop Sheldon

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Pat DeFrancis
Editor

The Pope, Congress and a Trappist Monk

By Bishop Robert Barron

I had the extraordinary privilege last week of following the pope's pilgrimage at very close quarters. I had this access both as a bishop and as a commentator for NBC News. It was thrilling indeed to witness just how rapturously the American people received the pope and how affected the Holy Father was by this reception. Many images stay vividly in my mind: the pope kissing the forehead of the 10-year-old boy with cerebral palsy, the rabbi and imam praying together at the Sept. 11th memorial, a little boy from a New York Catholic school showing the pope how to maneuver his



Bishop Barron

way around a Smart Board. But what stays most powerfully with me is the pope speaking to a joint meeting of the United States Congress in Washington, D.C.

My first assignment for NBC last week was the Today Show's coverage of the pope's arrival on the south lawn of the White House. As I sat on the platform with Matt Lauer and Maria Shriver, I looked across at the stately obelisk of the Washington Monument, and I remembered an extraordinary event from the mid-19th century. Along with many other world leaders, Pope Pius IX had sent a block for the construction of the monument to the father of our country, but an angry mob of anti-Catholic bigots took that piece of marble and threw it into the Potomac. This of course was not an isolated or purely egregious act of vandalism; rather, it partook of a widespread and deeply rooted hatred of Catholicism that lasted in this country in fairly virulent form up to the election of John F. Kennedy in 1960. That the Pope of Rome would be graciously received at the White

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Papal Visit

By Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

“You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church” (Mt 16: 18).

As the recent papal visit is still fresh in our minds, it seems appropriate to share some reflections in my article concerning my privilege to be both in Washington, D.C., and in Philadelphia with our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

The first opportunity my brother bishops and I had to interact with Pope Francis was at the Cathedral of St. Matthew in Washington, D.C., as together we prayed midday prayer. I was edified to participate with the nearly 300 U.S. bishops in attendance at the liturgy and, in a particular way, to sense that, together with Jesus, we were in that Upper Room just as the first bishops of the Church, namely, the Apostles. Much informal discussion occurred throughout the day among my brother bishops and myself as each shared stories of our own particular flock.

Later that day, we again joined with Pope Francis, this time at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, but due to the size of the crowd, the Mass was outdoors. At this Eucharistic celebration, Pope Francis canonized the missionary, Father Junipero Serra, which reminded me of the words of St. Vincent de Paul: “It is not enough for me to love God if my neighbor does not love God.” Certainly, St. Junipero Serra embodied that pilgrim’s charge. I am grateful that following the liturgy I had the opportunity to come across a couple of our fellow diocesan faithful, namely, the director of Family

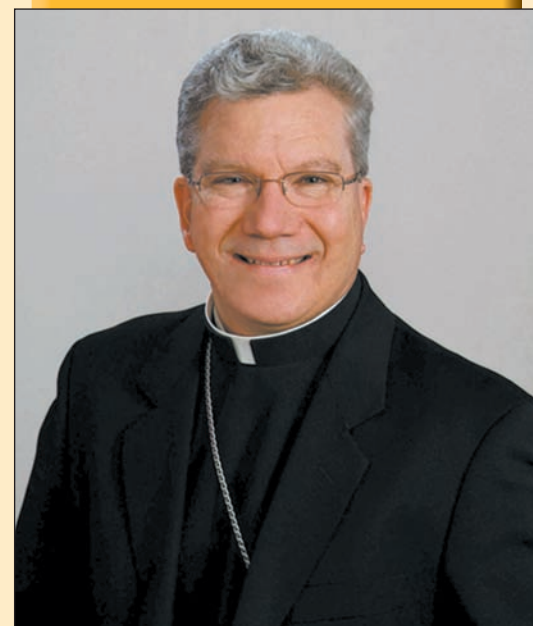
and Social Concerns, Michele Santin and her husband, Bryan.

While Pope Francis traveled to New York, most of us bishops traveled to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families. While the visit with Pope Francis began that Saturday afternoon in front of Independence Hall, how appropriate that at the World Meeting of Families, I had opportunity to share a meal with one of our diocesan families, the Schmidts.

Saturday evening Pope Francis kicked off the evening’s venue for the World Meeting of Families celebrated in song. The number of venues at this celebration was a striking reminder of the pluralistic nature of our Christian family. It was a long evening for many as the celebration went into the 9:30 to 10 p.m. hour, but one could see that even to the end of the evening Pope Francis was filled with great joy and vitality. Not bad for a 78-year-old Pontiff whose usual body clock is six hours different than ours!

In his words throughout the World Meeting of Families, Pope Francis reminded us that there is always the Cross in the family, but there also is always the Resurrection. Namely, the Holy Father reminds us that with the presence of Jesus in our lives there always is hope. My brother bishops and I had opportunity to visit with the Holy Father one final time in the main chapel of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. The Holy Father reminded my brother bishops and me that we are members of a family and must be able to serve in the midst of the family and not at a distance.

At the evening Mass at Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Pope Francis articulated the truth that it is impossible to overestimate the family in Church as well as within the culture. In his humility, as well as in his joyful demeanor, our Holy Father provided words of encouragement to fami-



Bishop Monforton

lies and to all Americans alike at each and every location he visited on his whirlwind pilgrimage here in the United States.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be present on behalf of our beloved diocese as well as to show fraternal support as a fellow shepherd. This recent visit of Pope Francis is a striking reminder of the words from one of his predecessors, that is, Pope St. John Paul II: “*To maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of others.*”

The Pull of Possessions (28th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

By Father Paul J. Walker

What a great story this is in Mark’s Gospel! Like every gospel story, it is not about what happened some 2,000 years ago, but it is a story about us, now, present day. Also, like every gospel story, it is a mixed bag of blessings and unwanted surprises, feast and famine, comfort and challenge!

Let’s examine the story: Mark notes that Jesus was “setting out on a journey. ...” This is the context or framework of Mark’s Gospel – Jesus is always “on the way.” It is, of course, the way to the cross and it is this journey that contextualizes all the encounters Jesus has with all kinds of people – Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes, his own disciples, men and women and children, all kinds of folks. Matthew and Luke paint this journey as well, but not in so striking a way as does Mark.

He says that a man “*ran up, knelt down ... and asked, what must I do to inherit eternal life.*” We need to be attentive to these verbs. He *ran up*, indicating there was perhaps an anxious air about his question. He’s waited a long time to find the wandering rabbi and has been carrying with him his desire to “inherit eternal life.” The way he phrases the question is telling: “What must I *do* to inherit eternal life?” Apparently, he thinks the way to qualify for this inheritance is to keep all the rules, to *do* all that’s required. Jesus notes six of the commandments (the ones having to do with this man’s relationship to others). So the man says, yes, he indeed has observed



Father Walker

these, even from his youth. We need to recall that the man’s question was one of the most problematic in Jewish law, for keeping the law involved not only the decalogue, but the 613 precepts that now, through rabbinic teaching and tradition, accompanied it!

Here, Mark slips in a comment that some would find perplexing: “Jesus, looking at him with love. ...” Jesus’ heart goes out to this man. Many times Jesus was angry at those who claimed they had met all the demands of the Law. Maybe what Jesus saw here was not pride or hypocrisy, but a kind of anxiety, a perfectionism leading him to worry that perhaps there were other rules he hadn’t known about. “Come on Jesus, clue me in, what other requirements are there? What must I *do* to inherit everlasting life?” Jesus’ response to the man’s question is a perfectionist’s nightmare. Here is some new, even stricter requirement worse than all the old rules! “Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor ... come follow me.”

Here is a common dynamic in encounters with Jesus: go, sell, give, follow. The man can’t meet what he sees as demands, so “... he went away sad, for he had many possessions.” What he should have heard, he did not. Jesus is offering a completely new *way of living*. The man is unable to follow him, the invitation receives no RSVP – the man’s hands are grasping his possessions, so he is unable to catch the new life Jesus offers.

Giving to the poor is not another good deed he must *do* to qualify for eternal life. Rather it is, as one spiritual writer notes, “... the flip side of living in grace.” Our hearts opening to God

must first be open to those in need. The man’s relationship to God seems based on knowledge of facts or ideas *about* God; one based on laws, rules, commands and demands. Jesus extends the invitation to let go of all that and follow him into the mystery and joy of *knowing* God. One of the possessions to which the man is clinging is his religion, his knowledge of the Torah, teachings *about* God, rules and commands to obey (all 613 of them).

As the dialogue between the two of them abruptly ends, Jesus suggests it’s not just senseless stripping away or letting go for nothing. There is always an intimation that it will all come back to you in a new and fuller way: “No one who has given up ... for my sake, who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age. ...”

Thus remains the nagging question for you and me: What part of my baggage will I not strip away? To what do I cling? The answers here don’t mean just money or possessions, they also mean those attitudes (anger, suspicion, envy) I “possess” in relationship with others. I cling to my notion regarding who God is and how he acts in the world, I cling to judgmental pictures I paint of others, I cling to relationships I have with others, I cling to the image of a bygone church. I cling. I cling. I cling. Jesus once offered a poignant insight into the attraction of wealth and riches: “Where your treasure is, there is your heart as well” (see, Matt 6: 21 and Lk 12: 34).

Father Walker is a Diocese of Steubenville priest, retired from active parish ministry. He continues to reside in his hometown, McConnellsville, where he presides at weekday and Sunday Masses at St. James Church and writes a regular column for The Steubenville Register.

Synod

From Page 1

courage does not tremble in fear “before the hardening of certain hearts that despite good intentions drive people further from God.”

Evangelical humility is “emptying oneself of one’s own convictions and prejudices in order to listen to our brother bishops and fill ourselves with God,” he said. It is a humility, “which leads us not to point a finger in judgment of others, but to extend a hand to help them up again without ever feeling superior to them.”

Trust-filled prayer is an attitude of openness to God and silencing one’s own preferences “to listen to the soft voice of God who speaks in silence,” Pope Francis told the synod members. “Without listening to God, all of our words will be just words that don’t quench or satisfy.” Without prayer, “all our decisions will be just decorations that instead of exalting the Gospel cover and hide it.”

The gathering began with mid-morning prayer, which included the reading of a passage from the Second Letter to the Corinthians: “Brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.”

Throughout the synod, members will offer a brief meditation during the morning prayer. Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodri-

guez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa began Oct. 5, telling the bishops: “We are not a church in danger of extinction, far from it. Neither is the family, although it is threatened and struggling.”

The synod, he said, is not a place “to mourn or lament” the challenges families face, but to rejoice and seek perfection and to help families do the same.

The discussions aim at “the unanimity that comes from dialogue,” he said, but can be disturbed by “ideas defended to the extreme.”

Hungarian Cardinal Peter Erdo of Esztergom-Budapest, chosen by the pope to introduce the discussion, spoke for close to an hour, outlining the questions the synod will be called to discuss over the course of three weeks. The gathering is set to conclude with a Mass Oct. 25.

Looking at the situation of families around the world, he said, one of the primary challenges is economic. Too many families do not have food, shelter or employment. Young people delay marriage and parenthood because they do not have or think they do not have the means to support a family. Millions of families are torn apart by war and migration.

In addition, the cardinal said, with an exultation of individualism there is a widespread distrust of institutions – including of the church, the state and the institution

of marriage.

The Catholic Church at every level, he said, must affirm the missionary role of families, ensuring married couples are part of marriage preparation programs, family support groups and outreach to families in crisis emotionally or economically.

“The life of the human being and of humanity is part of a great project, that of God the creator,” he said. “As in all aspects of life, we find our fullness and our happiness if we are able to freely and wisely put ourselves into this great project that is full of wisdom and love.”

Turning to the widely debated topic of the pastoral care of divorced and civilly remarried Catholics, Cardinal Erdo said pastors must be ready to help couples verify whether or not their church marriage was valid. If it was a valid marriage, he said, it is indissoluble, as Jesus himself taught.

“The mercy of God offers pardon to the sinner, but requires conversion,” Cardinal Erdo said. If it is impossible for a person to return to his or her spouse, then the church requires that in the new union the partners refrain from sexual relations.

“It is not the failure of the first marriage, but living together in a second relationship that impedes access to the Eucharist,” he said.

Cardinal Erdo said the synod would be called to examine more carefully the idea

of offering a “penitential path” to such couples, a path that would lead to their receiving absolution and having access to the Eucharist, perhaps gradually. But, he said, his opinion was that such a path necessarily would require a promise of sexual abstinence.

“Between the true and false, between good and evil, there is no graduality,” he said. “Even if some forms of cohabitation have some positive aspects,” for example in the joint care of children, “that does not imply the unions can be presented as good.”

Responding to reporters later, Cardinal Erdo said his report’s affirmation of the indissolubility of marriage and moving away from seeking a pastoral approach to allowing those couples to receive Communion were the result of the input the synod sought from Catholics around the world after the extraordinary synod on the family last year.

Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois of Paris, one of the synod presidents, told reporters, “If you are looking for a spectacular change in church doctrine you will be disappointed.”

At the same time, said Italian Archbishop Bruno Forte of Chieti-Vasto, special secretary of the synod, “the synod is not gathering to say nothing.” The goal is to find new pastoral methods to bring the church “closer to the men and women of its time.”

The Pope

From Page 6

House and welcomed to speak before the entire Congress of the United States would have struck most Americans, for much of our history, as simply unthinkable. And this is why (and I’ll confess it openly) my eyes filled with tears as I saw the pope standing at the rostrum in the House of Representatives, the cheers of the gathered lawmakers washing over him.

And as I listened to the pope’s words that day, I was even more astonished. As is his wont, Francis didn’t trade in abstractions. Instead, he focused his remarks on four outstanding figures from American history – Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton – each of whom spoke of some dimension of authentic freedom. Anyone familiar with my work over the years would know that all four of these people are heroes of mine. I have a photo of Lincoln over the desk in my office; I have written extensively on King and have done a number of videos on his life and legacy; Dorothy Day is featured prominently in my documentary “Catholicism” (see, Episode 2); and Thomas Merton is, quite simply, one of the major reasons that I entered the priesthood, and a photo of him is in eyeshot as I type these words.

I would love to explore the pope’s analysis of each of these giants, but given the limited scope of this article, I will focus on the one I consider the most important, namely Merton. What Merton signaled for the pope was the openness to dialogue with other religions to be sure, but also and more significantly, the contemplative openness to the reality of God, to a dimension that goes beyond the empirical world and the achievements of the individual ego. This is

of supreme importance, for when a sense of God evanesces – as it has increasingly in our secularized Western world – all we have left for understanding human affairs are psychological and political categories. Armed only with these, we fall into the customary patterns of left and right, liberal and conservative, open to change and suspicious of change, etc. And this, furthermore, makes Catholic social teaching so confounding to the pundits and politicians. How can the Catholic Church simultaneously advocate against abortion and assisted suicide but for immigration reform and attention to the poor? How can it stand against the abuse of the environment and for the free market, against the death penalty, and for the family? With God out of the picture, it is indeed hard to make sense of such an array of opinions, but with God at the heart of things, the various positions of the church fall into harmony, much like the medallions in a rose window. If God exists, then every individual person that he has created is a subject of rights, freedom and dignity. If God exists, then no one is expendable and everyone is equally worthy of respect. It is none other than the contemplative attitude exemplified by Thomas Merton that reveals this deep consistency.

How wonderful and strange that a pope would be addressing Congress at all, but how surpassing wonderful and strange it was that he should use the occasion to hold up before the lawmakers of the most powerful nation on earth the example of a Trappist monk who gave his life to the contemplation of God.

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



While Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus and women in formation look on, Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton blesses the ground where the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus will build a novitiate. The congregation’s Mother General Maria del Mar Merino was at the Mass and blessing. Bishop Monforton celebrated the Mass and delivered his homily in Spanish. Sister Visitacion de Maria Martinez, mother superior, Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, also participated, along with Ben Wetmore and Steven R. Szczepanski of MacLachlan Cornelius and Filoni, Pittsburgh, architecture, planning and interior design. The women religious purchased the former St. Pius the Tenth Church in 2014 and created Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Oratory, Lovers Lane, Steubenville, after having established the congregation’s first house in the United States in 2011 in the former St. Pius the Tenth rectory, Lovers Lane. The sisters have demolished a former school at the site where the novitiate will be built. (Photo by DeFrancis)

Discoveries on Mars may reveal God’s personality

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican astronomer said the latest discovery of flowing liquid water on the surface of Mars was exciting.

“You can see the traces of the rivers changing over the course of a Martian year. So we are not talking about water that was there a long time ago or water that is frozen under the surface, but actual liquid water on the surface,” Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, director of the Vatican Observatory, told Vatican Radio.

NASA scientists confirmed Sept. 28 that liquid water flows, at least during the

summer months, on the surface of Mars.

The latest discovery adds to the debate of whether life ever existed, or could exist, beyond the planet Earth. Brother Consolmagno told Vatican Radio, “We have no idea whether life is so rare that it never occurs anywhere, or so common that it occurs everywhere, and that’s why we have to look at places life could be to see just how rare or how common it actually is.” Brother Consolmagno said discovering if there were or were not life found beyond Earth would reveal something about God’s personality.



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton congratulates women religious on their anniversaries. They include Franciscan Sister Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother (Toronto) Katherine Caldwell, left, celebrating 25 years as a sister; Sister of the Good Shepherd (Carrollton) Lynn Reid, 40 years; and Sister of the Good Shepherd (Carrollton) Sheila Rooney, 50 years. Annually, Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, as the delegate for religious in the Diocese of Steubenville, hosts the women for dinner, which is preceded by Mass, celebrated by the bishop. Sister Jeanne Vucic, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, also is celebrating her 60th anniversary. (Photo provided by Father Nelson)

Bishop asks for prayers, support

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS) — Bishop Robert E. Guglielmo of Charleston asked for prayers for the families of those killed as well as for those whose homes were destroyed in what officials called a 1,000-year storm that brought extreme rains that deluged South Carolina.

Authorities said at least 14 people died and media reported that rescuers have had to pluck hundreds from swamped cars and flooded houses. Some residents remained in danger Oct. 6 from residual effects of saturated grounds that can unearth weakened trees and collapse roads.

“We simply ask for prayers, especially for the families of those who lost their lives in this horrific storm,” Bishop Guglielmo told *The Catholic Miscellany*, newspaper of the Charleston Diocese. “Many people lost homes, cars and other possessions, but in time and with assistance these can be replaced. The strong spirit of our people in South Carolina and their lively faith will get us through this difficult time and will sustain us.”

State officials declared a state of emergency Oct. 1 as unprecedented rains and flash flood conditions raged throughout the state.

Bishop Guglielmo canceled the On Fire With Faith conference set for Oct. 2-3 in Simpsonville, 200 miles northwest of Charleston. Other diocesan events were postponed and rescheduled.

The National Weather Service reported that from Oct. 1 to Oct. 5, Charleston saw 23.61 inches of rain, while nearby Summerville, which also had significant flooding and evacuations, was inundated by 19.47 inches. Columbia Airport had 10.77 inches.

It was the dams in Columbia, however, that wrought more damage. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division reported that of 18 dams officials are

closely monitoring, nine have breached or failed completely and one was intentionally breached to relieve pressure on it. The dams are part of the 70-mile network of lakes and streams that make up the Gills Creek Watershed.

The emergency management division also reported that several rivers remained above flood stage Oct. 6. Mandatory evacuations were ordered for some areas and a curfew was mandated by Charleston officials.

Msgr. Richard Harris, diocesan vicar general, is pastor of St. Joseph Church located near one of the flooded areas along Lake Katherine in Columbia. The church was without power and closed Oct. 4, so Masses were canceled.

He said he knew of 10 parishioners who had to be rescued by boat. “They have lost everything,” Msgr. Harris said.

One family had to put their children on their shoulders and carry them through chin-deep water, he added.

Tracy Bates, Catholic Mutual’s claims risk manager for the Diocese of Charleston, had nine reports of damage from parishes as of the morning of Oct. 6 and said that calls continued to come in from parishes in Myrtle Beach, Summerville and Georgetown.

In addition to the bricks and mortar damage, the diocesan Office of Archives and Records Management was concerned about historically important items and put out a call to parishes to offer assistance with documents. “We’re happy to consult with vendors, help develop records recovery plans, find temporary housing for records, or make on-site visits,” said Brian Fahey, archivist.

Bishop Guglielmo has sent a request to pastors asking them to take up a special collection within the next several weeks to help parishioners who lost their homes and churches that sustained damage.

‘Unite suffering’ with those grieving

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — St. Joseph Parish in Roseburg hosted an emotional Mass the evening of Oct. 1 for 10 people who died in a shooting that morning at Umpqua Community College. Auxiliary Bishop Peter Smith traveled from Portland for the liturgy.

Authorities in Roseburg, in green rolling hills 180 miles south of Portland, identified the shooter Oct. 2 as 26-year-old Chris Harper Mercer, but did not give details about him. Nine others were wounded.

FBI investigators say the gunman brought six legally purchased weapons to the small college and was wearing a flak jacket. A witness reports he asked students what their religions were before he began shooting.

One student at the college and the sister of a second student both told news organizations that Mercer told people in classrooms to stand up and declare whether they were Christian. If they responded yes, they were shot in the head. If they answered no or gave some other answer, they were shot elsewhere.

The attack ended when the gunman shot himself on campus.

At a Roseburg news conference Oct. 2, after Douglas County Sheriff John Hanlin refused to answer more questions, a foreign reporter called out, “Why does this keep happening in America?”

Portland Archbishop Alexander K. Sample rushed a letter to the people of Roseburg hours after the shooting.

“I am saddened beyond words over the tragedy that has struck your local community,” the archbishop wrote. “Even though I am unable to be physically present with you at this particular moment, know that I am very much united with all of you in spirit and in prayer. We are one body in Christ, and when even one member suffers, we all suffer with them. My heart is indeed very heavy with sorrow as I grieve with all of you.”

The archbishop went on to say he cannot begin to make sense of the tragedy.

“Why such shooting tragedies continue

to happen is hard to understand,” he wrote. “Sadly, we live in the midst of a culture that does not value the dignity and sacredness of every human life as it once did.”

The archbishop told Catholics in Roseburg to “unite their suffering” with those directly affected and to pray for healing and strength of those who lost loved ones.

Some of the injured were taken to Mercy Medical Center in Roseburg. More critically injured patients were transferred to PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center in Eugene. Of those transferred patients, two were in critical condition and one is serious, a PeaceHealth spokeswoman said.

Many Catholic parishes in Oregon are sending what organizers call “Posters of Hope” to St. Joseph Church in Roseburg. Teens have been writing messages of encouragement and love for Roseburg residents.

Comments have come from around the nation.

“There’s another community stunned with grief, and communities across the country forced to relive their own anguish, and parents across the country who are scared because they know it might have been their families or their children,” President Barack Obama said.

He added, “It cannot be this easy for somebody who wants to inflict harm on other people to get his or her hands on a gun. ... I’d ask the American people to think about how they can get our government to change these (gun) laws and to save lives and to let young people grow up, and that will require a change of politics.”

“What should have been a sanctuary for education and a symbol of bright futures will now become the latest memorial of victims lost to America’s gun violence epidemic,” said Dan Gross, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

“All of our faith traditions abhor violence, and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has joined the National Council of Churches in calling for action to prevent gun violence,” said Jan Elfers, interim executive director of Ecumenical Ministries.

Mother's Pilgrims Pilgrimage to Medjugorje



April 26 - May 5, 2016
Trip: Fellow Pilgrims
Rev. Joseph M. Mele
Rev. Anthony Gargotta

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Adena — “Enjoy Coupon Books” are being sold by St. Casimir CWC. To order a book, which costs \$40, call the church office at (740) 546-3463.

Adena/Dillonvale — The St. Casimir, Adena, and St. Adalbert, Dillonvale, Youth Group will sponsor a spaghetti dinner from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Oct. 18, at St. Adalbert School hall, 39 Smithfield St., Dillonvale. Dinners cost \$8 each; carryouts will be available.

Athens — A new ministry titled “The Elijah Ministry” is being established at St. Paul Parish and the Christ the King University Parish. It is aimed at helping community members in need with financial hardships, child or household care, material needs, and spiritual and emotional support. For additional information, telephone the parish office at (740) 592-2711 or (740) 593-7822.

Bellaire — St. John Parish will sponsor a fall card party Nov. 8, in the church hall. Doors will open at noon; games will begin at 1 p.m. Cost for admission is \$6. Lunch will be included in the admission price, and baked goods will be sold. The event will also feature raffles and a Chinese auction. For reservations, telephone (740) 676-0051.

Beverly — Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults sessions, for anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic Church, will begin Oct. 14, at St. Bernard Church. For more information call the parish office, (740) 984-2555.

Caldwell — Topic for Bible study discussion, which is held from 10-11:30 a.m., Mondays, in the St. Stephen Church annex, is the Gospel of Matthew.

St. Stephen Parish will sponsor a parish social and bingo from 5-8 p.m., Oct. 11, at the church hall. Proceeds will benefit Parish School of Religion and vacation Bible school programs. A country store will also be featured at the event.

Vendors and anyone who would like to sell crafts at the upcoming St. Stephen CWC fall bazaar can call Beth Bridgman at (740) 838-5481, to reserve a spot. The bazaar will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 14, at St. Stephen Church hall. Cost is \$20 per table.

Cambridge — An autumn salad luncheon will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Oct. 16, at St. Benedict Church social hall. Cost is \$6 per person; containers will be available for takeout.

Cambridge — St. Benedict School will sponsor a “Monster Book Fair” from 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Oct. 19 through Oct. 23, in the school social hall, Gomber Avenue. Books can also be purchased following the Oct. 24 and Oct. 25 Masses at St. Benedict Church. Online ordering is available from Oct. 17 through Nov. 2, at scholastic.com/fair.

A fundraiser will be held the evening of Oct. 22, at Bob Evans, 2358 Southgate Parkway. Fifteen percent of all orders will benefit St. Benedict School.

Carrollton — Adult education classes are being held at 9:40 a.m., Sundays, in Our Lady of Mercy Parish hall. Currently being discussed is “The Lay Members of Christ’s Faithful People,” by Pope St. John Paul II.

A Polishfest will be sponsored by Our Lady of Mercy Parish from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Nov. 1, in the church hall. An all-you-can-eat buffet will be featured. Cost for adults to eat is \$12; youth, 5-12 years of age, eat for \$4; children, 4 years of age and under, eat for free. Entertainment will be provided by Jim Bebesi & His Polka Pals; there will be a cash prize raffle, also. Proceeds will benefit the Our Lady of Mercy building fund.

Fulda — St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish will sponsor an annual “Sauerkraut and Bohnen Brie” dinner from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., Nov. 1, at the church. The menu will include pork, sauerkraut, bohnen brie, mashed potatoes, homemade noodles, applesauce, roll dessert and beverage. Bingo will be played from 1-3 p.m., and a raffle drawing will take place at 3 p.m.

Harriettsville — A Halloween square dance will be held from 8-11 p.m., Oct. 24, at St. Henry



St. Agnes Catholic Woman's Club is, once again, making and selling pumpkin rolls, say, in front, from left, Paula Robson, Barbara Crugnale, JoAnne Raha, CWC president, and Jackie Parks; and, in back, from left, Karen Sabatino, Debbie DiNofrio, Jeanette Gibson and Theresa Madden. The pumpkin rolls are \$9 each and may be ordered by telephoning St. Agnes Church hall (740) 535-0098; Raha (740) 282-1612 or Crugnale (740) 535-0174. Pumpkin rolls will be available for pickup in the parish hall, 204 St. Clair Ave., Mingo Junction, from 9 a.m. until noon and 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. All orders should be picked up within two days of ordering. The last day to place an order for a pumpkin roll is Oct. 22. All pumpkin roll orders must be picked up by noon Oct. 27. (Photo by Father Dunfee)

Church hall. There will be food, a raffle and prizes at the event. Music will be provided by the Pickin' on Country Band.

Ironton — An annual turkey dinner, which will benefit St. Lawrence Central and St. Joseph Central High schools, will be held from 1-5 p.m., Oct. 25, in St. Joseph Church undercroft.

A blood drive will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 31, at St. Joseph Central High School gymnasium, 912 S. Sixth St. Make an appointment online at redcrossblood.org; enter St. JosephHSIronton, or telephone (800) RED CROSS. If the blood drive goal is met, students may be eligible for scholarship monies through the Red Cross.

Ironton — The annual fall and Christmas craft sale, sponsored by the Ironton Catholic community CWC will be held from 9 a.m.-noon, Oct. 17, at St. Joseph Church, in the undercroft.

Little Hocking — Msgr. John Michael Campbell, rector of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, will present a talk about the Eastern rites of the Catholic Church at 7 p.m., Oct. 21, at St. Ambrose Church. He will celebrate an Easter-rite liturgy at 7 p.m., Oct. 28, at St. Ambrose Church.

Marietta — A live auction, sponsored by St. Mary School, will be held at 6 p.m., Oct. 11, in St. Mary Parish Center.

St. Mary School will sponsor a “Fall Back 5K Run/Walk” Nov. 1, at the gazebo at East Muskingum Park, Front Street. Registration will be held from 1-1:45 p.m.; the walk will begin at 2 p.m. Registration fees for students, 18 years of age and under, is \$12; adults, \$15, if registered by Oct. 15, \$20 after Oct. 15. For an application form, visit the school at 320 Marion St. or go to www.rivercityrunners.com. To register by mail, make check payable to St. Mary Boosters and send to Ann Kerenyi, 116 Mound Drive, Marietta, OH 45750. For additional information email Ann Kerenyi at kerenyi@suddenklink.net.

Marietta — The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption Health Ministry will conduct an annual winter coat giveaway at 11 a.m., Oct. 14, at the Knights of Columbus Council 478 hall, which is located on Gilman Avenue. Donations of coats, hats,

gloves, scarves, shoes and boots, adult and children sizes, will be accepted at the hall at 9 a.m. the day of the event.

Martins Ferry — Boscov's is hosting “Friends Helping Friends Day” Oct. 20. Shopping passes are available for \$5 and provide a 25 percent discount on all purchases made the day of the event. To purchase a pass, call St. Mary Central School at (740) 633-5424. The school will receive the profit from each pass sold.

McConnelsville — Bob Drabik, director of Morgan County United Ministries, which assists Morgan County residents in need, will speak at 1 p.m., Oct. 13, at St. James Church social hall. He will discuss a number of programs available for children and adults.

Morges — St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish will sponsor an annual turkey dinner from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Oct. 25. Adults eat for \$10; children eat for \$6.

Richmond — An Oktoberfest will be held from noon-4 p.m., Oct. 11, at St. John Fisher Church. The menu will include turkey, pork loin, mashed potatoes, gravy, haluski and more. Cost for adults to attend is \$8; children, 4-12 years of age, can attend for \$4; children, 3 years of age and under, are admitted for free.

St. Clairsville — A student art show and smoked chicken lunch will be held from 12:30-3:30 p.m., Nov. 1, in St. Mary Church Marian Hall. Each student will have one piece of artwork on display. The lunch will include half a smoked chicken, potato salad, baked beans, roll, dessert and beverage. Presale tickets, which can be purchased by calling St. Mary Central School, (740) 695-3189, cost \$9. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door the day of the event for \$10.

Boscov's is hosting “Friends Helping Friends Day” Oct. 20. Shopping passes are available for \$5 and provide a 25 percent discount on all purchases made the day of the event. Passes can be purchased at St. Mary Central School, 226 W. Main St. The school will receive the profit from each pass sold.

Around and About

Athens — A Habitat for Humanity faith build scrap metal drive will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov. 7, at the Athens County Fairgrounds, 286 W. Union St.

Carey, Ohio — A Mass for expectant parents will be celebrated at noon, Oct. 11, at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, 315 Clay St. A Mass for hope and healing, for cancer victims, survivors, caregivers and their loved ones, will be celebrated at 7 p.m., Oct. 23, at the basilica. For additional information, telephone (419) 396-7107.

Columbus, Ohio — Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the first cardinal from Ghana, will visit The Ohio State University campus for a community discussion on global sustainability. His talk will begin at 7 p.m., Nov. 2, at Mershon Auditorium, 1871 N. High St. The event is open to the public, but tickets are required to attend. Tickets can be reserved online at <https://wexarts.org/tickets/1528>. For additional information, telephone Gina Langen at (614) 688-4423 or visit <http://oe.osu.edu/cardinal-peter-turkson.html>.

Dillonvale — The annual Hugh Smith pancake breakfast will be held from 9-11:30 a.m., Oct. 18, at the Dillonvale Presbyterian Church, 52 Liberty St. Pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice will

be served. Tickets cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

Gallipolis — Knights of Columbus Council 3335 will sponsor a benefit breakfast following the celebration of the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses at St. Louis Church. Proceeds will benefit youth activities at St. Louis Parish, which are sponsored by the Knights.

Ironton — Members of Knights of Columbus Council 1405 serve soup and sandwiches from 5-8 p.m., Tuesdays, at the council home, 2101 S. Third St.

Martins Ferry — A choir/music festival will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 18, at the First Presbyterian Church, 400 Walnut St. The offering taken up that evening will support the Daily Bread Center.

Parkersburg, W.Va. — The Parkersburg Catholic High School Athletic Association will sponsor an "Outback Dinner" from 6-8 p.m., Oct. 14, at the school, which is located at 3201 Fairview Ave. Adult dinners cost \$15, \$10 for students. To purchase a ticket or for additional information, telephone the high school at (304) 485-6341.

A "Big Blue Bash" will be held from 6-10 p.m., Oct. 23, at Parkersburg Catholic High School, 3201 Fairview Ave. A prayer service, chicken dinner, live band, DJ and games for children will be part of the activities.

Pomeroy — Knights of Columbus Msgr.

John Joseph Jessing Council 1664 will sponsor a pancake breakfast at 10:30 a.m., Oct. 11, at Sacred Heart Church hall. Cost to eat is \$5.

St. Clairsville — A rosary rally will begin at noon, Oct. 10, at Belmont County Courthouse Plaza, 101 W. Main St. For additional information, call Mary D'Ambrosia at (740) 695-2746.

Steubenville — A panel discussion of the moral, political and philosophical issues surrounding interrogational torture will be held from 8-9:30 p.m., Oct. 13, in the Tony and Nina Gentile Gallery of the J.C. Williams Center at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

The dangers posed by strident governmental regulations that impact the missions of faith-based universities will be the subject of a talk presented by Patrick J. Reilly, founder and president of the Cardinal Newman Society, at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 16, in Franciscan University of Steubenville's Pugliese Auditorium in Sts. Cosmos and Damian Science Hall.

The true meaning of marriage in modern society, Catholic business ethics and the societal implications of liberalism and individualism are among topics that will be discussed during the 23rd annual conference for the Society of Catholic Social Scientists Oct. 23-24, at Franciscan University of Steubenville. For additional

information or to register, visit www.catholicsocialscientists.org, email Carrie Libetti at clibetti@franciscan.edu, or telephone (740) 284-5262.

Toronto — Throughout the month of November, the Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother will pray for deceased members of families and friends. Names of the departed can be submitted online at www.Franciscan-SistersTOR.org, by Oct. 27, or by mail to Franciscan Sisters TOR, 369 Little Church Road, Toronto, OH 43964. An All Souls' Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m., Nov. 2, in the Father of Mercy Chapel, Our Lady of Sorrows Monastery.

Wheeling, W.Va. — The Tri-State Tax Institute will provide an educational program to accountants, lawyers, bankers, financial planners, insurance executives and development professionals Oct. 20. The daylong program will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m., at Wheeling Jesuit University's Troy Theater. For additional information about the number of Continuing Education Unit credits offered and the cost of the program, contact Paula Ullom at (304) 243-2057 or email pullom@wju.edu.

Wheeling, W.Va. — Faith in Action Caregivers is selling "Enjoy Coupon Books" for the Wheeling, West Virginia, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area. To reserve a copy, telephone (304) 243-5420.



St. Anthony of Padua parishioners, from left, Dick Riley, Kathy Brown, Barbara Aubrey, Craig Aubrey, Alfreda Zadell, John Petronek and William Dorsch gather to make plans for the parish's annual turkey dinner, noon to 3 p.m., Oct. 11. The fundraiser will be served at the St. Anthony of Padua School hall, 630 Main St., Bridgeport. Shuttle parking will be available to and from the church parking lots the day of the dinner, which includes turkey, dressing, mashed and sweet potatoes, gravy, green beans, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, rolls, beverages and desserts. Cost of the dinner is \$10 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. Takeouts will be available. Raffles will be held during the dinner. Father John F. Mucha is parish pastor. (Photo by DeFrancis)

Up and Down the Diocese

From Page 10

Steubenville — A blessing and investiture ceremony with the Miraculous Medal will take place following the celebration of the 5:15 p.m. Mass, Oct. 19, at Holy Rosary Church; Benediction and novena prayers will then follow. Miraculous Medals will be available, without charge, for anyone wanting to be invested.

"The Holy Rosary" will be discussed at 7 p.m., Oct. 20, at Holy Rosary Church, as part of the "Be Not Afraid Family Hour." The family hour is combined with devotion and catechesis. For more information, call (740) 266-7255, (740) 284-1539 or (502) 599-4482.

Steubenville — The eighth annual "Ristorante Mussio" pasta dinner, sponsored by Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary

and Junior High schools, will be held from noon-5 p.m., Nov. 1, in Triumph of the Cross Holy Rosary auditorium. Adult dinners cost \$8; student dinners, for ages 4-14, cost \$5; children under the age of 3, eat for free. There will also be numerous raffles at the event.

Steubenville — The musical "Hello Dolly" will be presented by Catholic Central

High School students Nov. 13 through Nov. 15, in Lanman Hall, Berkman Theater, 320 West View Avenue.

Tiltonsville — The St. Joseph Parish Women's Auxiliary is selling "Enjoy Coupon Books" for \$40. Coupons in the book can be used until November 2016. To purchase a book, call Joyce Rankin, (740) 859-647 or Marsha Chrisagis, (740) 859-4492.

Obituaries

Peter Babiczuk, 62, Minerva, St. Gabriel, Sept. 24.

Rodger Brown, 72, Bellaire, St. John, Sept. 18.

Cheryl Columbo, 68, Bellaire, St. John, Sept. 2.

Jeanette M. Eannarelli, 89, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Oct. 1.

Thomas F. Feeney, 73, Steubenville, Holy Family, Sept. 3.

Micheline "Mickey" Hauber, 75, St. Teresa of Avila, Cadiz, Sept. 13.

Terence Huck, 58, St. Bernard, Beverly, Oct. 2.

Katherine Ladyga, 93, Palm Harbor, Florida, St. Mary, Shadyside, Sept. 19.

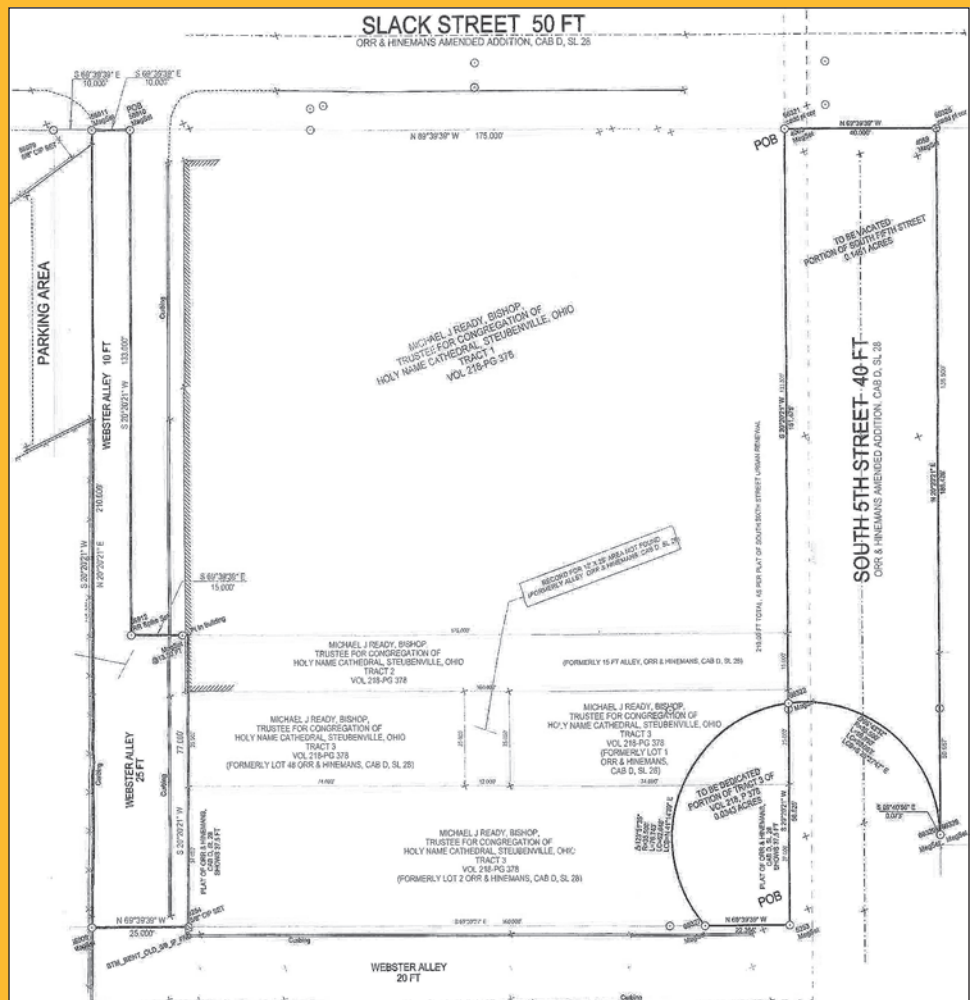
Joseph Melet, 89, Fairpoint, St. Mary, St. Clairsville, Sept. 20.

Virginia M. Prince Potnick, 97, Lansing, St. Joseph, Bridgeport, Sept. 28.

Dorothy Rocko, 86, 195 Belt St., Powhatan Point, St. John Vianney, Sept. 25.

Joan J. Tucci, 85, Steubenville, Holy Family, Sept. 9.

After action by Steubenville City Council in late September, the Diocese of Steubenville will be able to carry out plans to utilize a portion of a street and an alley to create a cul-de-sac in front of a renovated, restored and renewed Holy Name Cathedral. Attorney Thomas S. Wilson, diocesan Office of Civil Law, announced that council, with the backing of Steubenville city officials, has passed three ordinances that will permit the vacation of a portion of South Fifth Street and Webster Alley (visible behind the cathedral, at right) and will dedicate land at the corner of the street and alley as a cul-de-sac for public use (visible in plat, at right). Specifications have been drawn for the roadwork. Bids are being sought. Work is expected to begin in coming weeks, said James G. Piazza, executive assistant to the bishop. Once completed, the roadwork will help create a plaza-type atmosphere that will enhance the multimillion-dollar cathedral renovation, restoration and renewal. When Bishop Monforton announced that the cathedral for the Diocese of Steubenville would remain Holy Name Cathedral, he was greeted with applause. Since the announcement, plans continue to be drawn that depict a cathedral with a Romanesque architecture that includes a pitched roof, multistory bell tower and an interior that memorializes parishes, present and former. Money continues to be raised for the project. Mail donations to Holy Name Cathedral Renovation, Diocese of Steubenville, P.O. Box 969, Steubenville, OH 43952-5969. Donations can be made online, also. Log on to the diocesan website, www.diosteub.org. (Photo by DeFrancis; plat by Vince Dowdle & Associates LLC, Bloomington)



Women in retreat at St. Ambrose Church hear about the power of prayer

LITTLE HOCKING — It was a rainy Saturday, but the approximate 65 women seated in St. Ambrose Church Oct. 3 were out to “Renew Your Spirit” during a “Ladies Retreat Day.”

As School Sister of Notre Dame Joan Marie VanBeek directed the women from listening to speakers to discussing what they had to say to singing, Sue Beaty and Robin Ambrozy, St. Ambrose parishioners, shared their stories.

The “Covenant With the Spirit” allowed Beaty to trace her life through a lost first love, marriage, motherhood, depression, divorce and a vision to help people. A 25-year social worker, Beaty advised, “Trust in the Lord, and he will direct your path. ... As women of faith we can make a difference in this world.”

Beaty is a 46-year active

member of St. Ambrose Parish.

After Beaty’s presentation and again following the afternoon presenter, women were invited to walk for 15 minutes around

the church and its grounds and then to spend another 15 minutes sharing with their partners – who they randomly found during discussion sessions to which they

had been assigned – “What’s happening between you and God.”

Second speaker Ambrozy’s story was one of conversion. She centered her presentation on “Life is Better When You’re Laughing.” A lifelong Baptist, Ambrozy detailed her conversion to Catholicism 10 years ago. Reminding the women from Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania that they each are “a child of God,” she suggested, “Don’t worry, God has something better planned for you.”

Ambrozy is active in youth ministry at St. Ambrose and in nearby West Virginia.

Kay Carter, a member of St. Mary of the Hills Parish, Buchtel, provided music for the day.

Father Robert A. Gallagher, pastor of St. Ambrose Parish, celebrated the sacrament of penance.

St. Ambrose women provided a lavish lunch of homemade foods.



Sue Beaty, standing left, in front of her peers who are finishing lunch, and Robin Ambrozy, standing right, were the featured speakers at the annual “Renew Your Spirit Ladies Retreat Day” Oct. 3 at St. Ambrose Church, where Father Robert A. Gallagher, standing center, is pastor. School Sister of Notre Dame Joan Marie VanBeek, standing second from left, introduced the speakers. Miriam Allen was a small group discussions coordinator. (Photo by DeFrancis)