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News Briefs

Pope's prayer intentions on social media

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will deliver his monthly prayer intentions on video over social media as part of a Jesuit-run global prayer network.

The new video messages, featuring the pope asking for prayers and action on various challenges facing the world today, began Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord.

Often people are inundated with so much bad news that they might feel helpless, but "to pray together with Pope Francis for these challenges will help us a lot," Jesuit Father Frederic Fornos told Vatican Radio Jan. 4.

The Jesuit priest is the head of the international Apostleship of Prayer, a Jesuit-run outreach that has given Catholics the pope's monthly prayer intentions since 1890.

Working with the Vatican Television Center, the apostleship will launch the monthly videos of the pope's universal prayer intentions on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

While the pope will speak in Spanish, the videos will have subtitles for a total of 10 languages, Father Fornos said.

Pope erects Syro-Malankara eparchy



Bishop Naickampambil
(CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis erected a new Syro-Malankara eparchy for the United States and Canada.

The pope also named Bishop Thomas Eusebios Naickampambil, who served as the apostolic exarch

for Syro-Malankaran Catholics in the United States, as its first bishop.

The new diocese is called the Eparchy of St. Mary, Queen of Peace, and will be based out of Elmont, New York, in the Latin-rite Diocese of Rockville Centre, at St. Vincent de Paul Malankara Catholic Cathedral.

In its announcement Jan. 4, the Vatican noted the presence of 11,500 Syro-Malankaran Catholics in the United States, particularly in Illinois, Texas, Michigan, Florida, New York and Washington, D.C.

The eparchy includes 19 parishes and missions as well as three women's religious institutes situated in 10 convents in the two countries.

There are 17 priests assigned within the eparchy, and another 16 Syro-Malankaran priests ministering in Latin-rite dioceses.

The U.S. communities were formally organized as missions in 1984, according to a 2014 decree on governance issued by Bishop Naickampambil.

St. John Paul II appointed the first apostolic visitor to U.S. Syro-Malankaran Catholics in 2001.

2015 Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign concludes over the top; '16 DPSC kicks off with same goal

STEUBENVILLE — As the 28th annual Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign draws to a close with more than \$2.2 million pledged, the 29th annual DPSC opens with an unchanged \$1,240,000 goal.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton thanked parishioners in the diocese for their support of the DPSC. "On behalf of all our brothers and sisters in our beloved Diocese of Steubenville, thank you," the bishop said.

He continued: "The generous outpouring of kindness during the Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign is a testament to goodness in the hearts of so many people.

"Thank you for enabling us as a diocese to share Jesus with others."

The diocese uses its portion of the DPSC for the education of seminarians; assistance to the poor and needy; technology; health care for retired priests and Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon; support to parochial schools and parish schools of religion; publication of the diocesan newspaper, The Steubenville Register, and its mailing to virtually every Catholic household in the diocese, as well as making it available online; and liturgical renewal.

Started by the diocese's second bishop, the late Albert H.



"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks" (Col 3:17).

— 2015 DPSC theme

Ottenweller, the DPSC benefits parishes, also, since money pledged and collected above a parish's goal is returned to it. This year, more than \$900,000 has been rebated to parishes, according to tabulations by David A. Franklin, diocesan comptroller (see **parish-by-parish DPSC report/Page 12**).

Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general and director of the DPSC, said of the 2016 campaign: "We are very excited about the upcoming

DPSC, especially regarding the major gift portion, which begins the first week of February. It is always a pleasure to be with people of the diocese and to see familiar and new faces from year-to-year."

DPSC major gift dinners will be held, beginning Feb. 1, said Martin B. Thompson, associate director of the DPSC. As is custom, the first major gift dinner will be held in Ironton, at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Other major gift dinners will be held in Athens, at Ohio University Inn, Feb. 2; in Marietta, at Lafayette Hotel, To Page 3

St. Ambrose parishioners missionaries to Belize



Rod Rauch, St. Ambrose parishioner, holds the cross he made that matches one he constructed and placed on the lectern he built, also, for St. Ambrose Church, Little Hocking. (Photo provided)

LITTLE HOCKING — Bags are packed and their owners are ready to head south to become house builders.

That is the plan of present and former St. Ambrose, Little Hocking, parishioners and two long-time members of Sacred Heart Parish, Pomeroy, who now volunteer in Alabama.

The contingent will build a house in Belize, after St. Ambrose Parish — where Father Robert A. Gallagher is pastor — raised, in a short period of time, the more than \$5,600 needed for the construction of the small wooden frame dwelling, with a bathroom.

The idea for the build grew from a visit to St. Ambrose by Sister of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, Luke Boiarski, a native to the Diocese of Steubenville who formerly ministered in diocesan parishes. Now, she serves her order, and travels with the volunteers she helps recruit for mission trips. She spoke with The Steubenville Register just after her return from Mississippi where she helped with cleanup in the aftermath of severe December storms.

The January trip to Belize will be Sister Luke's 16th to that locale in North Central America.

Rita Rodgers, a St. Ambrose parishioner, outlined the itinerary for the travelers — Gini Jacobs, June Logue, Carl Perry, Jean Rice, David Schaad and herself, St. Ambrose parishioners; Don McNamee, presently of Cincinnati, but formerly of St. Ambrose Parish; and Mark and Cj Rhonemus, recently Sacred Heart parishioners. The first stop is in Kentucky, where the men and women will be commissioned for their service by the Sisters of Charity. Following orientation, the missionaries

To Page 3

'Ask the Bishop'

STEUBENVILLE — Kindergarten through 12th-graders in the Diocese of Steubenville "Ask the Bishop," Jeffrey M. Monforton.

Q: For Confirmation, who picked what the gifts of the Holy Spirit were and why did they choose those ones?

**Marian Mello
Steubenville**

A: That is a very good question, as we wish to find the source of much of what we receive or do. To put it bluntly, God himself chose the gifts of his Holy Spirit we receive in the Sacrament of Confirmation. We receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, as they sustain your moral life and mine as Christians. These permanent dispositions enable us to be receptive or docile in following the invitations or promptings of the Holy Spirit.

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are: *Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord.* These seven gifts belong in their fullness in Jesus Christ. These gifts prepare us to receive God's infinite gifts.

Q: What will happen to all our wonderful churches if no one joins the priesthood?

**Landon Conley
Ironton**

A: This is a very insightful question for we do hear from time to time about the declining numbers in Church vocations, especially in certain areas of the world. We recognize in the past decades the decline in ordinations to the priesthood in our country. At the same time, we recognize how the very existence of our Catholic Church depends on the presence of our priests. In our own diocese there is a pastoral plan in

which a number of parishes share pastors or happen to be mission vocations, whereas decades ago each one of those parishes had its own pastor and one or two associate pastors. While the Lord gives us what we need, it seems to me that we must be vigilant and persistent in promoting Church vocations, especially, as you mention in your question, the priestly vocation.

That being said, trust that we will always have men joining the priesthood, for Our Lord has established his Church to endure forever even in the midst of trying times. You see, the very existence of the Church depends on the existence of the Holy Eucharist and the existence of the Holy Eucharist depends on the priest who confects the Eucharist at the altar.

And so, please pray with me that more men will exercise the courage and perseverance to consider a priestly vocation.

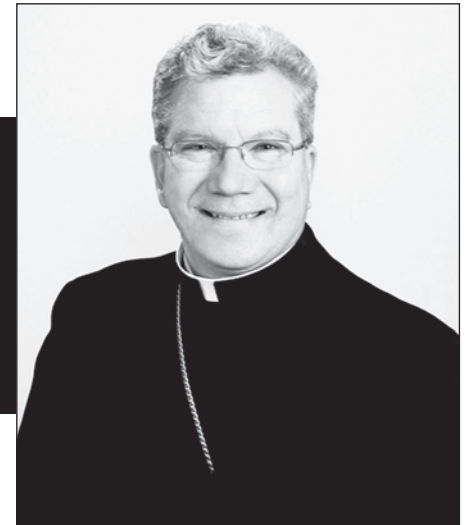
We are presently blessed, in the Diocese of Steubenville, with nine seminarians preparing for the priesthood and, of course, blessed with so many priests in our diocese, diocesan and religious alike, who have offered their lives to share Jesus with each and every one of us. God bless our priests!

Q: Why do we dip our hands in holy water before we enter and leave the church?

**Eden Ingram
Marietta**

A: There are three reasons, in particular, why we dip our hands in the holy water font and then make the sign of the cross with the holy water that is on our fingers. While water has Old Testament roots, as Christians we sign ourselves first as a reminder of our own baptism.

Another reason why we sign ourselves with the holy water is repentance of sin. In other words, asking God for forgiveness as



Bishop Monforton

May Almighty God bless you and your family as we venture these early days of 2016.

we prepare to enter into our sacred celebration or as we leave the sacred space of the church and go out into the world.

A third reason why we sign ourselves is for protection from evil. We ask God to keep us safe, especially, if bad things may come upon us.

When we sign, we trace the sign of the cross with holy water, we identify ourselves as Christians who have great faith that Jesus is with us and will assist us to be more like him. How fortunate we are to celebrate our relationship with God who loves us so dearly.

To "Ask the Bishop," address questions to Joseph M. Taylor, catechetical consultant, Diocese of Steubenville Office of Christian Formation and Schools. Taylor can be reached via the U.S. Postal Service through P.O. Box 969, Steubenville, OH 43952; email, jtaylor@diosteub.org, or telephone (740) 282-3631.

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Dresses are on display. Women from St. Ambrose Parish – Carolyn Alloway, Rita Rodgers, Cathy Mace, Gini Jacobs, Theresa Kocher and Charlene McNulty, as well as Marilyn Keesey – made them for Belize girls. (Photo provided)

St. Ambrose parishioners

From Page 1

will leave Jan. 16 for Belize.

Suitcases of the builders will be packed, not only with personal necessities, but also with dresses and shorts, hand-made by St. Ambrose women for Belize boys and girls.

Another item on board for the flight in Rodgers' suitcase is a cross made by St. Ambrose parishioner Rod Rauch. The cross is a replica of the one Rauch made and placed on the lectern he also built for St. Ambrose. The family that will become the occupants of the house built by the missionaries will receive the cross, made of black walnut, which Rauch called a highly prized exotic wood he orders.

Rauch, a 17-year member of St. Ambrose Parish who has a wife, Dianna, and two older daughters, is a resident of Vincent and a woodworking teacher at Warren Local High School, there.

He has made a number of items for St. Ambrose Parish, such as a cabinet to store vestments, a song board, the choir area, display cases, an ossuary and donations, such as a pie safe, for parish auctions. Currently, Rauch is working on new chairs for the presider at Mass and his altar servers, which he and Father Gallagher designed.

The cross will hang on the wall of the 16 feet by 16 feet house in Belize City, Sister Luke said. The occupants will be a woman who is suffering from a chronic illness and works a minimum wage job, her child and two sisters.

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth work with the Hand in

Hand Ministries, Sister Luke said, to determine who is in greatest need in Belize City or Las Solres for the construction by the religious and volunteers. Most of the construction is for women, since the sisters' mission statement includes helping women who are economically poor and marginalized.

Once the construction is complete, Hand in Hand maintains the deed for the house for 10 years to ensure the stability of the occupants, who often must go to parenting classes; if they have small children, make sure they attend school; learn to budget, and work with other house builds. "It is not just a giveaway," Sister Luke said of the project.

After the four-day build, it is a great thing to know that the people in Hand in Hand will follow through with the family, she added.

On the fifth day volunteers are there, the house will be blessed and the cross, along with a photo of St. Ambrose Church, will become part of the decor. "Every time I go back and check on builds, the first thing I see when I enter a house is a photo of the volunteers, the people who funded the build and the cross – great symbols," Sister Luke said.

In addition, she expressed appreciation that volunteers from the Ohio Valley continue to be part of her ministry, which she tries to bring to the diocese at least annually. Her most recent project was in Barton.

Bishop Monforton's Schedule

January

- 16-23 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Church in Central and Eastern Europe subcommittee meetings
- 21 WAOB radio segment, 7:40 a.m., 8:40 a.m. and 6:40 p.m.
- 26 Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m.

2015 Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign

From Page 1

Feb. 3; in St. Clairsville, at Undo's, Feb. 4, and in Mingo Junction, at the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361 hall, Feb. 8.

Registration for all major gift dinners begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinners commence a half hour later, Thompson said.

The theme of the upcoming campaign is "Give to the Most High as He has Given to You," Msgr. Kemo announced (the theme is taken from Sirach, Chapter 1, Verse 12).

Msgr. Kemo asked, "Who cannot relate to such a statement?"


"The Lord has done so much for us in our diocese, in our parishes and personally," Msgr. Kemo said. "The theme gives us a time to reflect on all that the Lord has done and how he has been with us throughout our lives.

"I am sure he will be with us during this year's campaign, since it is his work that we are doing."

As the annual campaign progresses, a taped message from Bishop Monforton will be played in parishes and parishioners in the pew will be asked to make pledges.

DPSC pledges or one-time gifts to the campaign should be made in parishes. Pledge cards will be mailed to parishioners, or will be available at parishes.


Pledges can be paid with cash, a personal check or with a credit card or automatic fund transfer from a checking account by clicking onlinepayments.diosteub.org.



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Bus loads of marchers from the Diocese of Steubenville will head to D.C.

STEUBENVILLE (compiled by The Steubenville Register) and WASHINGTON (from Catholic News Service) — The annual March for Life, set for Jan. 22, will convene in a new location in the nation's capital for the traditional midday rally, and bus loads of lay and religious from Diocese of Steubenville parishes will be among the throng.

As well, a second annual March for Life will be held in Carrollton to coincide with the March for Life in D.C., said Father Anthony R. Batt, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Carrollton, and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Morges.

Because of the ongoing refurbishment of the National Mall and strict new regulations that require temporary flooring to protect the grass, the Washington rally has been moved from the West Front of the Capitol to the Washington Monument grounds.

"We were lucky to get that. It's going to cost us \$70,000, and it's not something we budgeted for," said Jeanne Monahan-Mancini, president of March for Life. "It's the most economical wide-open space we could afford."

Other than the venue, the event is expected to remain much the same.

Held since 1974, the march marks the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, which legalized abortion.

"Pro-Life is Pro-Woman" is this year's theme.

People from **Diocese of Steubenville parishes** in Athens, Belmont, Jefferson, Gallia, Guernsey, Noble, Meigs, Monroe and Washington counties, and perhaps others, are expected to march.

John Spencer, a Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, parishioner, said he has organized the buses for transporting people from the southern end of the diocese to the nation's capital for five years now. This year, he expects more than 90 riders to fill two buses that will depart early Jan. 21. The departure time will enable people to attend a Mass the evening before the march. Immediately after the Jan. 22 march, the buses will make the return trip to the diocese, Spencer said.

Two buses of youth and adults from **Jefferson and Belmont counties** will be among those on the road Jan. 22 for Mass and the march. **Father Michael W. Gossett**, parochial vicar to Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, pastor of Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes, Wintersville; director of vocations for the Diocese of Steubenville, and chaplain at Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, said the students are from St. John Central High School, Bellaire; Catholic Central High School and eighth-graders from Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School, Steubenville.

An **Upper Ohio Valley Right to Life** bus is expected to be driven out from a Steubenville start, along with eight buses from **Franciscan University of Steubenville**. Ronald J. McNamara, coordinator, Student Leadership Development at Franciscan University, said that 440 students and a number of Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars and Sisters will be on the buses. However, at least 700 to 800 students from Franciscan University are expected at the march, since some will travel in private vehicles, McNamara said.

The day before the march, Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, will lead a prayer rally at the Planned Parenthood offices in Washington. A youth rally at the Renaissance Hotel follows.

Other march-related activities include a Mass opening the overnight National Prayer Vigil for Life at the basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Jan. 21 and a Mass the next morning at the basilica; a Mass and interdenominational prayer service at Constitution Hall prior to the march; and two similar events, a youth rally and Mass for life, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington at the Verizon Center and the D.C. Armory.

In **Carrollton**, the **Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Carroll County Council 15401** will sponsor a March for Life, locally, to coincide with the march down Washington's Constitution Avenue. Those interested in marching in Carrollton should gather at Our Lady of Mercy Parish hall, 616 Roswell Road Northwest, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The march will begin at 11 a.m., Jan. 22, when marchers proceed down Main Street to Public Square. Carrollton marchers will return to Our Lady of Mercy Parish hall, where the K of C will host a reception during which participants may view events in Washington, **Daniel A. Hitchcock, grand Knight**, K of C Our Lady of Carroll County Council 15401, said.

Reversing the landmark Supreme Court decision remains the long-term goal of the national march. But organizers told CNS they prefer to focus on changing the nationwide conversation.

"I think we have a much loftier goal, and that's to change the hearts and minds of Americans. That no woman, in her right mind, would ever choose abortion. Because we really have a deprived culture when any woman thinks that's an empowering act," Monahan-Mancini said.

Michael Ciccocioppo, executive director of Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, a march participant, said the



challenge to the pro-life movement in its quest to overturn Roe v. Wade is "that the court is still stacked against us."

"But we're in this for the long haul. This is going to be going on for as long as it takes," he said.

"First of all, to recognize the humanity of the unborn child in law," he continued. "But also, another focus of the march is obviously to help get the truth out there about how abortion harms women physically, emotionally and mentally, and kills living human beings, so we can get the hearts and minds of the culture to really accept the fact that this is killing of little human beings, citizens of our country."

U.S. bishops are asking Catholics to pray to end abortion, beginning Jan. 16 and continuing until Jan. 24. A traditional novena would be to say a rosary each day, or at least a couple of Our Fathers, said **Father Timothy J. Kozak, pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Pomeroy**. For more information, log on 9DaysForLife.com.

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Church's credibility found in showing mercy, pope says in new book

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Being ministers of God's mercy, church members overcome "prejudice and rigidity," taking risks like Jesus did in order to heal and to save, Pope Francis said.

In Jesus' day, lepers were cast out of the community "to avoid contamination: the healthy needed to be protected," but Jesus, at his own risk, "goes up to the leper and he restores him, he heals him," Pope Francis said in a new book-length interview on mercy.

"By welcoming a marginalized person whose body is wounded and by welcoming the sinner whose soul is wounded, we put our credibility as Christians on the line," the pope told the Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli in "The Name of God Is Mercy."

The book was scheduled for a worldwide release Jan. 12.

In the interview, the pope spoke about experiencing an overwhelming sense of mercy during confession when he was 17 years old, provided more details about stories he has recounted in homilies, explained his comment, "Who am I to judge" about a homosexual person seeking God and discussed the need he saw to invoke a jubilee Year of Mercy.

He also talked about the relationship of mercy and justice and addressed criticism that his focus on mercy amounts to watering down church doctrine and tolerating sin.

Tornielli asked Pope Francis why he so frequently and negatively mentions the "scholars of the law" in his morning homilies. The pope responded that in the Gospels "they represent the principal opposition to Jesus: they challenge him in the name of doctrine" and such an attitude "is repeated throughout the long history of the church."

Using the example of Jesus' close contact with lepers despite the Old Testament law that lepers be excluded

from the community, Pope Francis said it is obvious that the exclusion of lepers was meant to contain disease, but it led to social and emotional suffering and, what is worse, to a sense that lepers had committed some sin which caused their disease. They were excluded from the community, but also from a relationship with God.

In literally reaching out to lepers, the pope said, Jesus "shows us a new horizon, the logic of a God who is love, a God who desires the salvation of all men."

Jesus touched and healed the lepers, he continued. "He didn't sit down at a desk and study the situation, he didn't consult the experts for pros and cons. What really mattered to him was reaching stranded people and saving them."

Pope Francis said a similar attitude by the church today "provokes angry mutterings from those who are only ever used to having things fit into their preconceived notions and ritual purity."

"Caring for outcasts and sinners does not mean letting the wolves attack the flock" or jumping into the darkness with sinners, he said; it means being aware of the reality of sin and sharing the reality that God always is ready to forgive the sinner.

When the grace of God begins to help a person recognize his or her sin and need for forgiveness, the pope said, that person "needs to find an open door, not a closed one. He needs to find acceptance, not judgment, prejudice or condemnation. He needs to be helped, not pushed away or cast out."

"Jesus sends forth his disciples not as holders of power or masters of a law," the pope said. "The Christian message is transmitted by embracing those in difficulty, by embracing the outcast, the marginalized and the sinner."

Obviously, he said, the church cannot and does not pretend sin is unimportant.

But "God forgives everyone, he offers new possibilities to everyone, he showers his mercy on everyone who asks

for it," Pope Francis said. "We are the ones who do not know how to forgive."

The pope told Tornielli he is convinced that God's mercy is Jesus' most important message and that it is a message people today urgently need to hear.

"Humanity is wounded, deeply wounded," he said. "Either it does not know how to cure its wounds or it believes that it's not possible to cure them."

To preach the Gospel, the church must counter an attitude that says there are sins that cannot be healed or forgiven, the pope said.

"The church does not exist to condemn people but to bring about an encounter with the visceral love of God's mercy," he said.

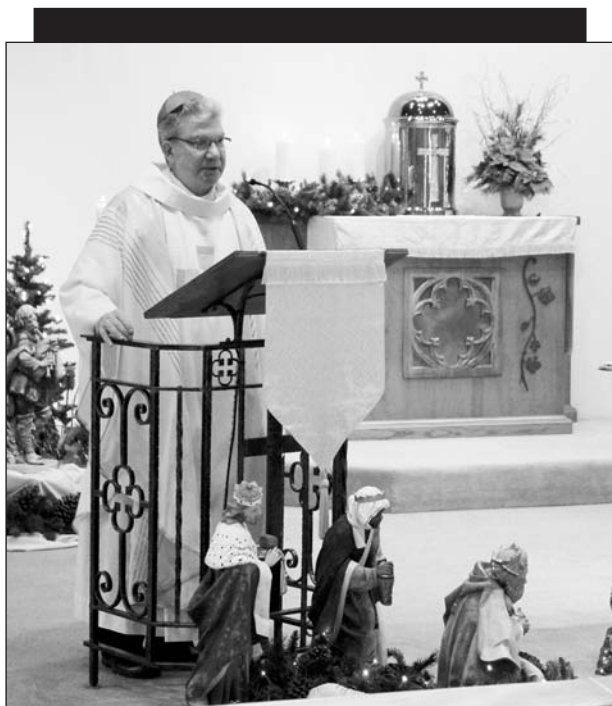
Priests, especially in the confessional, must do all they can to communicate God's love and mercy. If they cannot offer absolution to someone, the pope said, they should at least offer a blessing. The fact that the person entered the confessional is a clear sign of God's grace already at work.

"As a confessor, even when I have found myself before a locked door," he said, "I have always tried to find a crack, just a tiny opening, so that I can pry open that door and grant forgiveness and mercy."

As for his "Who am I to judge" remark to reporters in July 2013 when asked about the church's attitude toward homosexual persons, Pope Francis said, "I was paraphrasing by heart the Catechism of the Catholic Church where it says that these people should be treated with delicacy and not be marginalized."

Speaking to Tornielli, Pope Francis made no comment on homosexuality as such, other than to insist that "people should not be defined only by their sexual tendencies."

"I prefer that homosexuals come to confession, that they stay close to the Lord, and that we all pray together," he said. "You can advise them to pray, show goodwill, show them the way and accompany them along it."



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton addresses diocesan diaconate candidates during a formation weekend earlier this month at Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory, Lore City. (Photo provided)

Vatican says 3.2 million pilgrims visited in 2015

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than 3.2 million pilgrims visited and attended papal events, liturgies or prayer services at the Vatican in 2015, the Vatican said.

The statistics, released Dec. 30, were compiled by the Prefecture of the Papal Household, which coordinates papal events and distributes free tickets to papal audiences and liturgies. The prefecture said more than 3.2 million people attended a papal event in 2015.

The total was a significant drop from the 5.9 million visitors received by Pope Francis in 2014. It was also slightly more than half the 6.6 million pilgrims who visited the Vatican during the first nine and a half months of his pontificate in 2013.

During 2015, at least 704,000 people attended the pope's 42 weekly general audiences; more than 408,000 attended a special group audience; at least 513,000 pilgrims participated in papal liturgies in St. Peter's Basilica or St. Peter's Square; and more than 1.5 million attended the pope's Angelus address on Sundays and major feast days in St. Peter's Square.

The papal event statistics do not include papal events in the city of Rome or international visits made by Pope Francis. They are also based on the number of ticket requests and estimates of crowd size.

Bishop says Palestinians 'have lost hope'

BEIT JALLA, West Bank (CNS) — A United States bishop visiting the Holy Land for the second year in a row said Palestinians whose land has been divided by the Israeli separation barrier "have lost hope."

"It was very sad to see the present situation where individuals have their lands confiscated and trees uprooted," said Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, New Mexico. "This is a sign of something much larger. It seems to be a diminishing of the rights of Palestinians to be there and a lack of acknowledgment of their legitimate right to be present whether in the state of Israel or in Palestinian lands."

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St. John Paul II Jesus as Model

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

The redemption of mankind that Christ accomplished as the God-Man, has made it possible for each of us to be “re-created,” in a sense, into a new human being by deleting original sin and opening to us the source of a new life – that of grace. For now, we will consider grace as a participation in the supernatural life that Jesus himself lives. In him that grace is unlimited, so that it can be shared with all human beings, past, present and future. St. Paul tells us that we as Christians are “(M)embers of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ as the capstone. Through him the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord; in him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God and the Spirit” (Eph 4:20-24). St. John Paul will speak about the “mystical body of Christ” later in this series. For now, let us consider what it means to be this “new man” in Christ.

“As an historical figure, Jesus Christ signifies a perfect

Jesus Christ signifies a perfect model, the ideal. ...

model, the ideal, for this new man. ... Here we enter into the ambit of the theme of the imitation of Christ,” says the pope. Jesus himself said, “If anyone would come after me, let him take up his cross and follow me” (Mt 16:24). St. Paul tells us, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Cor 11:1). John Paul points out that the important idea here is not so much that of imitation, as that which is to be imitated, namely the total giving of Christ to the will of the Father culminating in his passion and death. The Father willed that passion and death out of love for mankind, that the human race might once again regain the status of adopted sons and daughters and thus enter into eternal happiness with him in heaven. Love therefore of God and man is the key to the life of Jesus and the objective of our imitation of Christ. “Christ has not transmitted merely a magnificent theory to humanity. He has revealed in what sense and in what way the ... transformation of the ‘old’

man ... into the ‘new’ man must be achieved. The ... moral transformation must succeed in conforming man to that most original model according to which he was created.” Mankind is to undergo a “complete makeover” by which he is in the same condition as our first parents before their fall!

St. Paul puts it this way: “Be imitators of God as beloved children and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Eph 5:1-20). Pope John Paul explains, “Christ is the model ... of this ‘imitation of God.’ ... He alone makes this imitation realizable, when, through the redemption, he offers us a participation in God’s life. At this point, Christ becomes not only the perfect model, but the efficacious model.” The gift of grace that our first parents lost is nothing less than a participation in the life of God himself, which Christ restored. Grace, then, is what conforms us to Christ and through Christ to the Father!

Grace is, of course, a supernatural reality that man, of

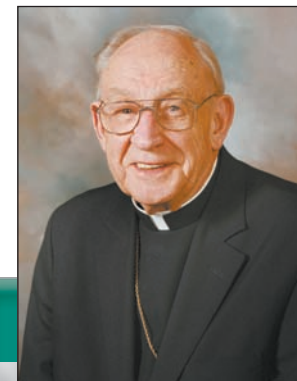
his own accord and by his own effort, cannot achieve. But man can imitate Jesus in his actions. Quoting St. Paul again: “Have among yourselves the same attitude

that is also yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness ... and he humbled himself becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross ...” (Phil 2:5-8). John Paul comments: “Here is the culminating point of the imitation of the Master.” He quotes the letter of Peter, also, in this connection: “If you do right and suffer for it patiently, you have God’s approval. For this you were called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps” (1Pt 2:20-21). It is in accepting and bearing our own crosses that we imitate Christ most closely. We need not like our crosses. If we did, they would not be crosses! Nor need we not try to avoid them or alleviate them when they come. That is only rational, and we are rational creatures. But, for the most part, we can do little

to avoid them. The death of a loved one, a catastrophic illness, disappointment in love or a setback in employment or career, the straying of a son or daughter from the church – things over which we usually have little control – not to mention the daily annoyances, aches and pains, frustrations that beset our lives – and, of course, other people: such are the crosses that we are called to carry in the footsteps of Christ.

Why does God require them of us? St. John Paul, who was no stranger to them, explains: “In human life, suffering signifies a test of human strength. ... it liberates the spirit’s hidden strengths and allows them to appear. At the same time, it becomes an occasion of interior purification. “He goes on to refer to the parable of the vine and the branches and how the Father prunes the branches in order to make them more fruitful. “Every branch of mine that does bear fruit he prunes that it may bear more fruit.” It is the crosses in our lives that constitute this “pruning.” Branches that are cut off from the vine, which is the body of Christ, bear no fruit and are discarded to be burnt” (Jn 15:1-6). For us, it is dealing with our crosses, how we react to them, that means growth in the life of grace or stagnation.

We speak of the “paschal mystery.” It refers to the process by which we are born to the new life of grace in baptism, and grow in it through the other sacraments, particularly that of the Eucharist. Meantime, we follow in the footsteps of Christ, footsteps that lead in only one direction: to Calvary. Each of us meets his or her own Calvary in death – the final cross and the final piece in our imitation of Christ, as well as the final payment on our own redemption.



Bishop Sheldon

Forever Being Ahead of Our Souls

By Father Ron Rolheiser

Sometimes nothing is as helpful as a good metaphor.

In his book “The God Instinct,” Tom Stella shares this story: A number of men who made their living as porters were hired one day to carry a huge load of supplies for a group on safari. Their loads were unusually heavy and the trek through the jungle was on a rough path. Several days into the journey they stopped, unshouldered their loads, and refused to go on. No pleas, bribes or threats worked in terms of persuading them to go on. Asked why they couldn’t continue, they answered: “We can’t go on; we have to wait for our souls to catch up with us.”

That happens to us, too, in life, except mostly we never wait

for our souls to catch up. We continue on without them, sometimes for years. What’s meant by this? Mostly, it means that we struggle to be in the present moment, to be inside our own skins, to be aware of the richness of our own experiences. Mostly our experiences aren’t very soulful, because we aren’t very present to them. For example: For the past 20 years, I’ve kept a journal, a diary of sorts. My intent in keeping this journal is to record the deeper things that I’m aware of throughout each day; but mostly what I end up actually writing down is a simple chronology of my day, a daybook, a bare, no-frills recounting of what I did from hour to hour. My diaries don’t much resemble Anne Frank’s diary, Dag Hammarskjöld’s “Markings,” Etty Hillesum’s “An Interrupted Life” or Henri Nouwen’s “Genesee Diary.” My journals resemble more what you might get from a schoolboy describing his day at school, a simple chronology of what happened. Yet, when I go back and read an account of what I did each day, I’m always amazed at how rich and full life was on those days, except that I wasn’t much aware of it at the time. While actually living through those days, mostly, I was struggling to get my work done, to stay healthy, to meet expectations, to carve out some moments of friendship and recreation

amidst the pressures of the day, and to get to bed at a reasonable hour. There wasn’t a lot of soul there, just a lot of routine, work and hurry.

I suspect that this is not atypical. Most of us, I suspect,

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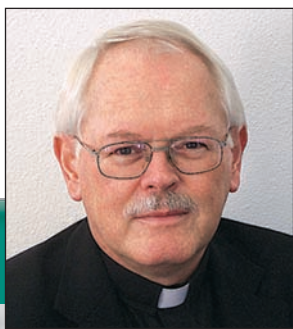
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Father Rolheiser

Jubilee of Mercy Part 2

By Msgr. Thomas C. Petronek

Pope Francis' letter inaugurating the Jubilee of Mercy begins with the following sentence: "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy."

That statement proves itself true over and over again in the Gospel of Luke. It is so easy to picture the mercy-filled expression on Jesus' face in one scene after another. Let us start with Luke, Chapter 7, Verses 36-50 – the story of the penitent woman.

We first note that Luke is not telling the story of the anointing at Bethany, as it is found in Matthew, Chapter 26, Verses 6-23, Mark, Chapter 14, Verses 3-9 and John, Chapter 12, Verse 18, which takes place two days before Jesus' last Passover. In that story, Jesus has been in Jerusalem for a week. The host of the meal is Simon, a leper. The woman who anoints Jesus is not described as sinful, and the story revolves around the potential good of selling the oil and using the proceeds for the poor. Jesus interprets that anointing as proper for his burial and commends the woman.

Luke's story of the penitent woman in Chapter 7, Verses 36-50, takes place at a meal to which Jesus has been invited by a Pharisee named Simon. It is early in Jesus' ministry. A woman who is a known sinner enters the house uninvited, washes Jesus' feet with her tears, wipes them with her hair, kisses them and anoints them with oil. We note that the woman says nothing except through her actions, which Jesus interprets as love.

The unspoken – but very real – objection by Simon is not the misuse of expensive oil but the manner of the person doing the anointing – a sinner. Actually, the person under judgment here is not the woman, quickly assessed as a

sinner, but Jesus, who is defiled (according to Simon) by her sin, because Jesus let her touch him.

Jesus – reading Simon's thoughts – tells a short parable in answer to the Pharisee's objection of Jesus allowing himself to be touched by the caresses of such a low-life. "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed 500 'denarii,' and the other 50. When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Now, which of them will love him more (see, Luke, Chapter 7, Verses 41-42)?"

I find the question posed at the end of the parable truly amazing – framed around the word "love." Do you see the expression on Jesus' face as he poses the question alive with mercy for the woman? And Simon's answer – "The one to whom he forgave more" – is commended by Jesus as the right answer. Apparently, Jesus interprets Simon's neglect of the customary greetings of hospitality as showing little love and the actions of the woman showing great love.

Jesus details the slights that he received from Simon on coming to his house: no water for his feet, no kiss, no anointing of his head – small failures by comparison to the woman's sins. Did Simon even think he needed forgiveness? I doubt it. He was much too busy condemning his guest for allowing himself to be defiled by the touch of such a woman.

Did the woman know she was in need of forgiveness? Of course, that was her purpose in coming to Simon's home without invitation, seeking Jesus' mercy with truly scandalous actions – at least in the minds of the onlookers.

The woman known citywide as a sinner used tears, her hair, ointment and kisses to speak to Jesus' mercy. And they did. He declares: "... I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven for she loved much; but he who is forgiven

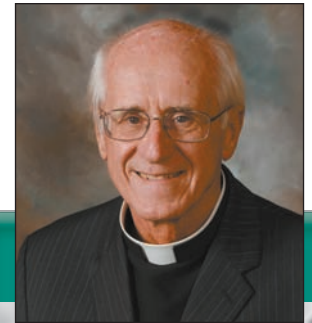
little, loves little."

Do you not agree that introducing the question of which debtor loves more into the parable makes us wonder about Luke's story being a love story from the very beginning? Because the parable is about borrowing and not being able to repay the debts, it would seem that we are in an area handled by law courts, which deal with nonpayment of debts with justice – not mercy, and not love. But not so!

Actually the whole story is best studied from the viewpoint of the other guests who ask: "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" As we gaze on the merciful and loving face of Jesus throughout the story, we ask a similar question: "How does Jesus deal with our sins?"

First, mysteriously, he brings us to admit and regret our sins – perhaps not as dramatically as he does the woman of the story – but admit and regret nonetheless. Second, he says to us as he did to the penitent woman: "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Msgr. Petronek, a Diocese of Steubenville priest, is a former director of the diocesan Office of Worship and missionary priest. Retired from active parish ministry, he resides in Wheeling, West Virginia. Msgr. Petronek is a regular columnist for The Steubenville Register.



Msgr. Petronek

An Inaugural in Galilee (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C)

By Father Paul J. Walker

On this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jan. 24), we hear the prologue to Luke's Gospel. This author is setting out his qualifications for being able to write his Gospel. He has studied the other accounts before he offers his own – he presents it now in an "orderly sequence." We should realize here that this "order" does not mean a correct historical sequence of "what happened," but lays out the Lucan theme of Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

So Luke offers his account to the governor and says, "I'm writing the greatest story ever told, and I offer only the best as good enough for it." He notes that it is the result of the most careful research, and so presents himself as someone who thinks, seeks and searches. The word of God is given and the seeker discovers it.

In Luke's account, Jesus begins his ministry with these words, read from a scroll of Isaiah the prophet: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me." In other words, the arrival of the reign of God was inextricably tied to helping the poor, releasing prisoners, healing the sick and announcing the "jubilee year" – that year in which according to strict Mosaic Law, social justice, harmony and peace are restored in the economic and social structures of Jewish life. Ancestral lands were restored to those who had lost or mortgaged them in times of distress, so that all families again own a little parcel of land able to sustain them. Pris-

oners went free, debts were remitted and slaves were freed.

Luke gives us this "inaugural address" of Jesus: Jesus has come in the power of the Spirit of God to make things better for the poor, to set prisoners free, to restore clarity of vision to the blind and to rescue "broken victims" of our human society. Here is the program or outline he proclaims for his ministry.

So – what happened? Look around! The poor remain in our streets, our prisons are way overcrowded, and each of us will eventually arrive at ill health and physical death. Did Jesus fail? No!

Following in his steps from that early synagogue service, to the hills of Galilee, on the road to Jerusalem and on the way of the cross, we discover that suffering is not God's will – courage in the face of fear, faith in the face of doubt and abandonment, love in the face of hatred and prejudice! God's will is to call these things out of the hurt and brokenness that we are and that we find around us!



Father Walker

The liturgy does not offer this text so that we might look backward to figure out whether Jesus' program has been realized. Rather it is that we might look forward with the understanding that this is the program Jesus proposes to us here and now – in the year 2016. It seems clear that the intention of this Gospel narrative is that each time we hear it proclaimed we should realize that is now, this year, in all the places where we may have any influence, that ours is the mission of Jesus. We are as St. Paul reminded us in the second reading, "... the body of Christ, every one of us is a member of it." So the hard, but marvelous mission of the church is ours: it is

- to find the lost
- to heal the broken
- to feed the hungry
- to release the prisoner
- to rebuild the nations
- to create gladness in human hearts
- to bring peace.

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

Seminarian studying in Rome for Steubenville Diocese installed as reader

ROME — On Jan. 10, 68 members of the first year class of the Pontifical North American College – including Diocese of Steubenville seminarian Nicholas Ginnetti – were installed as readers.

This ministry, the first of those given to seminarians in their formation for ordination to the priesthood, gives them the ministry within the church to proclaim the Scriptures at Masses.

Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher, secretary for the Relations with States in the Vatican, was the celebrant of the Mass and during the rite presented each candidate with the Lectionary, the book containing the readings from holy Scripture, which are proclaimed at Mass, a spokesman for the Pontifical North American College said.

In his homily, Archbishop Gallagher reminded the seminarians that they are to proclaim the word of God clearly that it may be heard by all, both literally in the manner in which they speak, and

also as a matter of integrity as to how they live their lives as a witness to that which they proclaim. He noted that this is an important first step in their public life in the church, being mandated and charged by the church for this task of proclaiming God's word, and that the other ministries they receive on the way to priesthood build on this first public step.

The Pontifical North American College in Rome, founded in 1859, is a house of formation for the priesthood for candidates from the dioceses of the United States, and from Canada and Australia.

Shortly after his spring 2015 graduation from the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio, Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton admitted Ginnetti to candidacy. Then, the seminarian traveled to Rome to begin his studies at the Pontifical North American College.

He is the son of Ron and Christine Ginnetti, members of Christ Our Light Parish, Cambridge.



Nicholas Ginnetti, studying in Rome for ordination to the priesthood for the Diocese of Steubenville, receives the Lectionary from Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher. (Photo provided)

Forever Being Ahead

From Page 6

live most of our days not very aware of how rich our lives are, forever leaving our souls behind: For example, many is the woman who gives 10 to 15 years of her life to bearing and raising children, with all that entails, tending constantly to someone else's needs, getting up at night to nurse a child, spending 24 hours a day on constant alert, sacrificing all leisure time, and putting a career and personal creativity on hold. And, yet, too often that same woman, later on, looks back on those years and wishes she could relive them – but, now, in a more soulful way, more deliberately aware of how wonderful and privileged it is to do precisely those things she did with so much dram and tiredness. Years later,

looking back, she sees how rich and precious her experience was and how, because of the burden and stress, how little her soul was present then to what she was actually undergoing.

This can be multiplied with a thousand examples: We've all read accounts wherein someone shares what he or she would do differently if he or she had life to live over again. Mostly these stories rework the same motif: Given another chance, I would try to enjoy it more the next time, that is, I would try to keep my soul more present and more aware.

For most of us, I fear, our souls will only catch up with us when, finally, we are in a retirement home, with diminished health, energy and opportunity to work. It seems

we need to first lose something before we fully appreciate it. We tend to take life, health, energy and work for granted, until they are taken away from us. Only after the fact do we realize how rich our lives have been and how little of those riches we drank in at the time.

Our souls eventually do catch up with us, but it would be good if we didn't wait until we were in the retirement home for this to happen. Like the porters who dropped their loads and stopped, we need regularly to stop and wait for our souls to catch up.

Early on in his priesthood, when Pope Francis was in charge of a school, he would

at a certain point each day have the public address system cut in and interrupt the work that was going on in each classroom with this announcement: *Be grateful. Set your horizon. Take stock of your day.*

We all need, regularly, to lay down our burdens for a minute, so our souls can catch up with us.

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

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Cambridge — Donations are being accepted for an upcoming St. Benedict School March 5 auction. Items can be dropped off Jan. 15, from 3-4 p.m., and Jan. 16, from 11 a.m.-noon, and every Friday and Saturday, at the same times, through Feb. 12-13. Contact Elizabeth Betts with donation questions at (740) 644-8236. Raffle tickets will be sold following Masses at St. Benedict Church, or at the school, 220 N. Seventh St. Tickets cost \$5 for a book of six, or \$1 each.

Carrollton/Morges — Parishioners from Our Lady of Mercy, Carrollton, and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Morges, are collecting pots and pans, which will be given to Helping Hands, an organization that assists the less fortunate. Donations can be taken to either church. For additional information or questions, telephone (330) 866-9718.

Churchtown — St. John Central School will hold a "Super Bowl" sub sale Feb. 6 and Feb. 7, following Masses at St. Ambrose Church, Little Hocking. Cost is \$3.50 per sub. Proceeds will benefit the school's field trips. For additional information, telephone the school office at (740) 896-2697.

Little Hocking — The St. Ambrose Parish Mardi Gras will be held following the celebration of the 5 p.m. Mass, Feb. 6, in the church hall. A chili competition will take place at the event.

Malvern/Minerva — Beginning Feb. 4, the social concerns committee of St. Francis Xavier Church, Malvern, and St. Gabriel, Minerva, will sponsor "Dinner Out" on the first Thursday of each month. Dinners will be held at the Minerva Senior Center, 1200 Valley St., Minerva, at 5 p.m. Cost of each meal is \$5. Reservations must be made by telephoning Norma Marko at (330) 868-4502 or the senior center at (330) 868-6004, no later than 5 p.m. the Wednesday before the event.

Marietta — A St. Mary School Montessori preschool and prekindergarten open house will be held from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Jan. 20, at the Msgr. Edward Kakascik Parish Center.

Martins Ferry — St. Mary Central School students are collecting the front part of Christmas cards for use in special projects at school. Cards can be taken to the school, 24 N. Fourth St., or to St. Mary Church rectory, 20 N. Fourth St.

Minerva — A LifeShare blood drive will be held Jan. 26, beginning at 2 p.m., in St. Gabriel Church annex meeting rooms.

Steubenville — Tickets for the annual Bishop John King Mussio Central Elementary and Junior High schools' raffle can be purchased by calling the elementary school at (740) 264-2550 or the junior high school at (740) 346-0028. Tickets cost \$20 and the drawing will be held April 29, following the celebration of the Bishop Mussio Day Mass at Catholic Central High School, in Berkman Theater, Lanman Hall. A \$500 early bird drawing will be held Feb. 27. Proceeds from the raffle will be used for operating expenses at the schools.

Wintersville — Permanent Deacon Randy Redington and his wife Mary Ellen will be guest speakers at 7 p.m., Jan. 21, at the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults team meeting, which will be held in Sargus Hall. Their presentation will be on marriage.

Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes will hold a seventh annual St. Vincent de Paul "Valentine's Craft Extravaganza" from noon to 3 p.m., Feb. 7, at Blessed Sacrament Church Sargus Hall, 852 Main St. For information on becoming a vendor, or to receive an application, call Linda Freed at (740) 264-6539, or email dolcepizzelles@aol.com. Interested vendors can make \$25 money orders for table fees payable to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and mail to 852 Main St., Wintersville, OH 43953. Proceeds from the event will be used to purchase food for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which provides meals for the less fortunate. For additional information on the society, telephone (740) 264-9547.



During an annual end-of-year gathering, Diocese of Steubenville chancery employees were recognized for years of service. Steubenville Diocese Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, who hosts the chancery staff during Advent, and Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general, second from right, presented years of service awards to the chancery employees. Recipients include, from left, David A. Franklin, diocesan comptroller, 30 years of service; Attorney Thomas S. Wilson, diocesan Office of Civil Law, 15 years; and Janice Ward, circulation/advertising/proofreader, The Steubenville Register, 30 years, along with James G. Piazza, executive assistant to the bishop, five years, right. (Photo by DeFrancis)

Around and About

Athens — Ohio University students will hold a fundraising euchre tournament at 6 p.m., Feb. 6. Buy-in for the tournament is \$10 per team for tickets purchased in advance, or \$14 at the door the evening of the event. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and a drawing for a "hoverboard." Contact priffon@athenscatholic.org, for additional information.

Athens — The Salvation Army will sponsor a pancake breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m., Jan. 16, at Applebee's, 547 E. State St.

Caldwell — A benefit for Christopher Brooker, a 15 year old who was involved in a four-wheeler accident, will be held Jan. 17, at the Noble County Community Center, 508 Main St. Serving of a ham dinner will begin at noon; an auction will begin at 4 p.m.; suggested donation is \$8. There will also be a country store at the event. Proceeds will be used for Brooker's medical expenses.

Carrollton — Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Carroll County Council 15401 will hold a square dance from 7:30-10:30 p.m., Jan. 16 and Feb. 6, at Our Lady of Mercy Church hall.

Churchtown — Knights of Columbus Council 4617 will sponsor a breakfast from 8 a.m.-noon, Jan. 17, at the K of C hall, 17784 Ohio Route 676. Proceeds will benefit the March for Life.

Little Hocking — A "Super Bowl" party, sponsored by Knights of Columbus St. Ambrose Council 15569, will be held at 6 p.m., Feb. 7, in St. Ambrose Church hall.

Knights of Columbus St. Ambrose Council 15569 will sponsor a fish fry from 5-7 p.m., Feb. 12, in St. Ambrose Church hall.

Martins Ferry — Knights of Columbus Mother of God Council 1421 will hold a fish fry from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Jan. 15, at the council home, 25 N. Fourth St. Telephone (740) 633-0528, to place an

order. Eat in or take out will be available.

Mobile, Ala. — A discernment retreat, for single women between the ages of 17-35, will be held from 6 p.m. Feb. 5, until 2 p.m. Feb. 7. Sponsored by the Little Sisters of the Poor, it will be held at 1655 McGill Ave. There is no charge to attend the retreat; register, by Feb. 3, at vocmobile@littlesistersofthepoor.org, or telephone (251) 591-3700.

North Canton, Ohio — Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth Chapter of Magnificat, a women's ministry modeled after the Visitation, will sponsor a breakfast Feb. 27, at Walsh University, Barrette Center, 2020 E. Maple St. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.; breakfast will be served at 9 a.m.; cost is \$18. Make checks payable to Magnificat of Stark County and mail to Shirley DeOrio, 409 Seventh St. NW, North Canton, OH 44720. Seating is limited. No reservations will be accepted after Feb. 20. For additional information, telephone DeOrio at (330) 305-1146.

Parkersburg, W. Va. — The Parkersburg Catholic High School sophomore class will sponsor a spaghetti and meatball dinner from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Jan. 17, in the school cafeteria, 3201 Fairview Ave.; carryouts will be available. Cost of the dinner is \$7 for adults; \$5 for students; children under the age of 2 eat for free. Tickets can be purchased at the door the day of the event.

A sports-themed cake decorating contest will be held at 6 p.m., Feb. 3, at Parkersburg Catholic High School, 3201 Fairview Ave.; cakes will be sold at a silent auction.

Parkersburg, W. Va. — The Parkersburg Knights of Columbus Council 594 will sponsor a meatloaf dinner at 6 p.m., Jan. 22, at the council hall, 1010 Market St. Takeouts are available by calling (304) 428-0331.

Around and About

From Page 10

Pleasant City, Ohio — A “Flash Divine Liturgy” will be celebrated at 5 p.m., Jan. 31, at St. Michael Byzantine Church, 300 Church St. A reception will follow in the church social hall. A tour and explanation of the historic church and its interior will be provided.

St. Clairsville — Amedisys Hospice will offer bereavement support groups, which are free and open to the public.

The day group will meet the third Tuesday of the month, at 11 a.m., at the lodge at Mark H. Kennedy Retirement Park, 108 Pine Ave.

The evening group will meet the third Thursday of the month, at 5:30 p.m., at Amedisys Hospice, 52171 National Road East, Suite 1.

For additional information on either group, telephone Kellie Conaway, (740) 526-0970; light refreshments will be provided.

Steubenville — Knights of Columbus St. John Neumann Council 11828 will sponsor a breakfast from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Jan. 17, at St. Peter Church lower hall, 425 N. Fourth St. The breakfast will help subsidize the March for Life bus to Washington, D.C. Cost to eat is \$7, for adults; \$3, for children under the age of 12; and \$30, family maximum charge.

Steubenville — Eric Genuis, renowned composer and concert pianist, will present a music concert at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 3, in the Tony and Nina Gentile Gallery in the J.C. Williams Center at Franciscan University of Steubenville. The concert is free and open to the public.

Wheeling, W.Va. — An annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. community celebration will take place Jan. 17-18.

A panel discussion hosted by Wheeling Jesuit University’s Black Student Union titled “Are We Keeping the Promise?” will take place at 7 p.m., Jan. 18, inside the National Technology Transfer Center Auditorium, located on the university’s main campus.

The march, beginning at 1 p.m., Jan. 17, will be held on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, beginning at the top of the hill and ending at the Fourth Street United Methodist Church, 1060 Chapline St., with a prayer service. Following the service, a community meal will be held at the church; a \$3 donation per person is requested. At 4 p.m., a memorial worship service will be held at Wayman AME Church, 1136 Eoff St. Special honors will be presented to those in Wheeling who are continuing the work of King and civil rights activist Rosa Parks.

Jan. 18 activities will begin with breakfast for school-age children at 9 a.m. in the Laughlin Memorial Chapel, 129 1/2 18th St.

Zanesville, Ohio — Volunteers will prepare and electronically file federal and state tax returns for free, if it is a simple return and the participant has a total income below \$95,000 for a married couple, or \$65,000 for a single filer. The clinics begin in late January and continue through March. Clinics will be held at Colony Square Mall, 3575 Maple Ave. Telephone the United Way at (740) 454-6874, for an appointment.



Knights of Columbus Msgr. John Joseph Jessing Council 1664, Sacred Heart Church, Pomeroy, has donated more than 100 coats to the local Peoples Bank annual “Coats for Kids” campaign, said Father Timothy J. Kozak, Sacred Heart Parish pastor. Council member David Casci, left, gives the coats to Tina Rees, site manager, Peoples Bank, Pomeroy location. Casci says the Knights council collected coats from Sacred Heart parishioners, as well as purchased coats and received ones from Robert Byers, state treasurer of the Ohio Knights. The Msgr. John Joseph Jessing Council 1664 has participated in the “Coats for Kids” campaign for the past five years, Father Kozak said. (Photo provided)

Valentine’s Day Marriage Encounter planned

HUDSON, Ohio — Worldwide Marriage Encounter will sponsor a “Valentine’s Day” marriage encounter weekend from Feb. 12-14, to bring a husband and wife closer together.

As stated in a parish bulletin announcement, “at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter, which is an original and continually updated marriage enrichment program, couples can get away from the distractions

of everyday life and focus on each other.”

For additional information or to register, telephone (330) 305-9963, or visit GreatMarriagesOhio.org.

Father H. Christopher Foxhoven, pastor of St. Mary of the Hills Parish, Buchtel, and Holy Cross, Glouster, is director of Marriage Encounter – described as an all-inclusive weekend experience for a married man and woman – for the Steubenville Diocese.

Papal honoree dies Dec. 28 at 82

COLERAIN — Barbara Jean Applegarth – a recipient of the papal award “Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice,” founded by Pope Leo XIII July 17, 1888, and bestowed on Catholics who have given meritorious service to the church – died Dec. 28 in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Applegarth, a resident of St. Clairsville, received the award in 2001 on recommendation of Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Gilbert I. Sheldon, the diocese’s third bishop and now the diocese’s bishop emeritus.

The 82-year-old Applegarth was born in October 1933 in Barton, a daughter of Julius “Jess” Betler and Leota Beck Betler Lesnick.

Applegarth attended Our Lady of Angels Grade School in Barton and St. John Central High School, Bellaire.



DeFrancis/File photo
Barbara Applegarth

A member of St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Colerain, Applegarth was a member and officer of the local Catholic Woman’s Club, the Presentation Deanery Council of Catholic Women and the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. She, too, served on the diocesan Lay Deanery Council and was a member of the National Council of Catholic Women Associates, Ohio Conference of Catholic Women Associates and the province board of directors. At her parish, Applegarth was a choir member, lector and an extraordinary minister of holy Communion.

A memorial Mass was celebrated Dec. 31 at St. Frances Cabrini Church, Father Timothy P. McGuire, pastor.

Applegarth was married to Smith B. Applegarth, who preceded her in death.

Survivors include her children Kathy, John, James and Donald and two grandsons.

Collection to be taken in diocesan parishes

STEUBENVILLE — A special collection for humanitarian and church needs will be taken up in parishes in the Diocese of Steubenville Jan. 16 and Jan. 17.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton announced the collection, requested by Bishop Joseph E. Kurtz, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in dioceses in the United States not damaged by December flooding.

Bishop Monforton said, “During the last weeks of Advent 2015, we received a powerful reminder of how important it is for us to bring the love and care of Jesus to all who suffer. Severe weather, in the form of violent storms, tornados and floods, has impacted several states in the South and Midwest regions of our country. Additional major flooding is expected over the next several weeks as rivers and

tributaries continue to rise.”

The December flooding left 24 dead in Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri and Oklahoma and millions of dollars in property damage in the South and Midwest.

“If you are able to bring any relief to these people in the form of a monetary donation, please put the donation in an envelope marked ‘Disaster Relief’ and place it in the collection basket,” Bishop Monforton advised.

“Monies donated in the Diocese of Steubenville will be forwarded to the domestic relief agencies of the U.S. Catholic Church, Catholic Charities USA, which will then be used to respond to immediate emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter and medical care, as well as long-term needs for rebuilding and recovery efforts.”

Obituaries

Bernard Bodnar, 78, Bridgeport, St. Joseph, Jan. 2.

Thomas M. Burkhart, 68, St. Francis Xavier, Malvern, Dec. 29.

Emilio Castellucci, 61, St. Francis Xavier, Malvern, Dec. 26.

Nicole DiStefano, 26, Wintersville, Blessed Sacrament, Dec. 2.

Eloise A. Dopson, 87, Steubenville, St. Peter, Dec. 30.

Kenneth Ferguson, 84, St. Gabriel, Minerva, Dec. 20.

Emil J. Halloy, 92, Pataskala, Ohio, St. Joseph, Bridgeport, Jan. 2.

Helen L. Pintarich Hood, 85, Bridgeport, St. Anthony of Padua, Dec. 30.

Margaret J. Langley, 85, Steubenville, St. Peter, Dec. 28.

Martha “Marty” Rainone, 69, St. Gabriel, Minerva, Jan. 5.

More than \$2.2 million pledged to 2015 Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign



**“And whatever you do,
in word or deed,
do everything
in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks” (Col 3:17).
– 2015 DPSC theme**

Facts about the 28th annual campaign

- Already, in the 2015 DPSC, 98 percent of the people who pledged to the annual campaign have paid their pledges.

- Parishioners who pledged the most in Mother of Hope Deanery are members of Triumph of the Cross Parish, Steubenville; Nativity of Mary Deanery – St. Joseph and St. Lawrence O’Toole parishes, Ironton; Presentation Deanery – St. Mary Parish, St. Clairsville; and Visitation Deanery – the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta.

- Almost every parish in the diocese far exceeded its DPSC goal.

- Rebates to parishes, to date, in the 2015 DPSC total \$948,065.66.



Bishop Monforton

On the success of the 2015 DPSC, Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton said:

“On behalf of all our brothers and sisters in our beloved Diocese of Steubenville, thank you. The generous outpouring of kindness during the Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign is a testament to goodness in the hearts of so many people. ...”

Questions on the DPSC, contact Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, diocesan vicar general and DPSC director, or Martin B. Thompson, DPSC associate director, chancery, P.O. Box 969, Steubenville, OH 43952; telephone (740) 282-3631; email kkemo@diosteub.org or mthompson@diosteub.org.

Parishes

| | GOAL | AMOUNT PLEDGED | PAID AMOUNT | PERCENT PAID | REBATES |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| MOTHER OF HOPE DEANERY | | | | | |
| HOLY FAMILY STEUBENVILLE | 44,144.00 | 77,175.50 | 75,066.58 | 97% | 30,922.58 |
| ST PETER STEUBENVILLE | 48,856.00 | 65,894.89 | 63,074.89 | 96% | 14,218.89 |
| TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS STEUBENVILLE | 66,464.00 | 148,676.00 | 145,666.00 | 98% | 79,202.00 |
| ST JOSEPH AMSTERDAM | 12,648.00 | 21,090.25 | 19,390.25 | 92% | 6,742.25 |
| ST TERESA CADIZ | 16,740.00 | 40,000.00 | 40,000.00 | 100% | 23,260.00 |
| OUR LADY OF MERCY CARROLLTON | 17,236.00 | 26,610.00 | 26,610.00 | 100% | 9,374.00 |
| SACRED HEART HOPEDALE | 8,556.00 | 21,090.00 | 21,060.00 | 99% | 12,504.00 |
| ST FRANCIS XAVIER MALVERN | 21,204.00 | 25,470.00 | 25,470.00 | 100% | 4,266.00 |
| ST GABRIEL MINERVA | 23,064.00 | 34,361.00 | 34,341.00 | 99% | 11,277.00 |
| ST AGNES MINGO JUNCTION | 35,092.00 | 48,130.00 | 48,130.00 | 100% | 13,038.00 |
| ST MARY MORGES | 8,308.00 | 9,590.00 | 9,340.00 | 97% | 1,032.00 |
| ST JOHN FISHER RICHMOND | 14,632.00 | 20,965.00 | 20,965.00 | 100% | 6,333.00 |
| ST FRANCIS TORONTO | 19,716.00 | 38,972.00 | 38,574.33 | 99% | 18,858.33 |
| ST JOSEPH TORONTO | 15,872.00 | 30,438.00 | 30,358.00 | 99% | 14,486.00 |
| BLESSED SACRAMENT WINTERSVILLE | 47,492.00 | 102,264.99 | 100,001.65 | 98% | 52,509.65 |
| OUR LADY OF LOURDES WINTERSVILLE | 12,400.00 | 18,260.00 | 18,260.00 | 100% | 5,860.00 |
| ST MATTHIAS FREEPORT | 4,588.00 | 9,870.00 | 9,870.00 | 100% | 5,282.00 |
| MOTHER OF HOPE DEANERY TOTALS | 417,012.00 | 738,857.63 | 726,177.70 | 98% | 309,165.70 |
| NATIVITY OF MARY DEANERY | | | | | |
| CHRIST THE KING ATHENS | 38,068.00 | 49,574.50 | 49,324.50 | 99% | 11,256.50 |
| ST PAUL ATHENS | 37,448.00 | 57,790.00 | 57,640.00 | 99% | 20,192.00 |
| ST ANN CHESAPEAKE | 16,492.00 | 13,900.00 | 13,900.00 | 100% | |
| ST LOUIS GALLIPOLIS | 27,404.00 | 28,345.00 | 27,945.00 | 99% | 541.00 |
| HOLY CROSS GLOUSTER | 9,300.00 | 16,610.00 | 16,510.00 | 99% | 7,210.00 |
| ST JOSEPH/ST LAWRENCE Ironton | 46,996.00 | 250,375.00 | 242,689.00 | 97% | 195,693.00 |
| ST MARY PINE GROVE | 3,596.00 | 8,530.00 | 8,530.00 | 100% | 4,934.00 |
| SACRED HEART POMEROY | 18,476.00 | 22,939.00 | 22,939.00 | 100% | 4,463.00 |
| ST MARY NELSONVILLE | 9,672.00 | 13,872.00 | 13,872.00 | 100% | 4,200.00 |
| NATIVITY OF MARY DEANERY TOTALS | 207,452.00 | 461,935.50 | 453,349.50 | 98% | 248,489.50 |
| PRESENTATION DEANERY | | | | | |
| ST CASIMIR ADENA | 12,896.00 | 26,325.00 | 26,058.32 | 99% | 13,162.32 |
| ASSUMPTION BARNESVILLE | 24,304.00 | 31,162.44 | 31,162.44 | 100% | 6,858.44 |
| ST JOHN BELLAIRE | 22,940.00 | 26,402.62 | 24,887.62 | 94% | 1,947.62 |
| ST ANTHONY BRIDGEPORT | 10,788.00 | 17,100.00 | 17,100.00 | 100% | 6,312.00 |
| ST JOSEPH BRIDGEPORT | 17,360.00 | 34,530.00 | 34,510.00 | 99% | 17,150.00 |
| ST FRANCES CABRINI COLERAIN | 19,468.00 | 44,025.00 | 42,185.00 | 96% | 22,717.00 |
| ST ADALBERT DILLONVALE | 15,376.00 | 25,352.00 | 25,272.00 | 99% | 9,896.00 |
| ST MARY MARTINS FERRY | 22,196.00 | 40,020.97 | 39,795.97 | 99% | 17,599.97 |
| SACRED HEART NEFFS | 9,796.00 | 14,710.00 | 14,310.00 | 97% | 4,514.00 |
| ST JOHN VIANNEY POWHATAN POINT | 3,596.00 | 4,860.00 | 4,860.00 | 100% | 1,264.00 |
| ST MARY SHADYSIDE | 11,160.00 | 23,960.00 | 23,885.00 | 99% | 12,725.00 |
| ST MARY ST CLAIRSVILLE | 65,720.00 | 167,154.62 | 162,912.66 | 97% | 97,192.66 |
| ST MARY TEMPERANCEVILLE | 5,704.00 | 7,368.00 | 7,368.00 | 100% | 1,664.00 |
| ST JOSEPH TILTONSVILLE | 11,780.00 | 20,314.00 | 20,314.00 | 100% | 8,534.00 |
| ST LUCY YORKVILLE | 5,456.00 | 7,110.00 | 6,910.00 | 97% | 1,454.00 |
| PRESENTATION DEANERY TOTALS | 258,540.00 | 490,394.65 | 481,531.01 | 98% | 222,991.01 |
| VISITATION DEANERY | | | | | |
| CORPUS CHRISTI BELLE VALLEY | 7,812.00 | 14,040.00 | 14,040.00 | 100% | 6,228.00 |
| ST AMBROSE LITTLE HOCKING | 35,712.00 | 69,347.00 | 69,302.00 | 99% | 33,590.00 |
| ST BERNARD BEVERLY | 22,444.00 | 48,441.80 | 47,641.80 | 98% | 25,197.80 |
| ST STEPHEN CALDWELL | 32,240.00 | 40,956.00 | 40,831.00 | 99% | 8,591.00 |
| ST MICHAEL CARLISLE | 6,696.00 | 8,965.00 | 8,965.00 | 100% | 2,269.00 |
| ST JOHN CHURCHTOWN | 23,932.00 | 27,900.00 | 27,900.00 | 100% | 3,968.00 |
| IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FULDA | 16,492.00 | 22,723.32 | 22,673.32 | 99% | 6,181.32 |
| ST HENRY HARRIETTSVILLE | 7,812.00 | 13,605.00 | 13,355.00 | 98% | 5,543.00 |
| OUR LADY OF MERCY LOWELL | 19,344.00 | 25,353.33 | 25,353.33 | 100% | 6,009.33 |
| ST MARY MARIETTA | 85,560.00 | 138,549.00 | 135,974.00 | 98% | 50,414.00 |
| ST JAMES MCCONNELLSVILLE | 9,920.00 | 18,272.00 | 18,052.00 | 99% | 8,132.00 |
| ST JOHN MILTONSBURG | 5,332.00 | 8,055.00 | 8,055.00 | 100% | 2,723.00 |
| ST SYLVESTER WOODSFIELD | 14,880.00 | 19,340.00 | 18,140.00 | 94% | 3,260.00 |
| ST JOHN BOSCO SARDIS | 1,860.00 | 3,700.00 | 3,700.00 | 100% | 1,840.00 |
| CHRIST OUR LIGHT CAMBRIDGE | 66,960.00 | 71,553.00 | 70,433.00 | 98% | 3,473.00 |
| VISITATION DEANERY TOTALS | 356,996.00 | 530,800.45 | 524,415.45 | 99% | 167,419.45 |
| GRAND TOTAL ALL DEANERIES | 1,240,000.00 | 2,221,988.23 | 2,185,473.66 | 98% | 948,065.66 |