

# WESTERN NEW YORK CATHOLIC



St. Teresa's  
Coloring Book  
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MAY 2019

A wide-angle photograph of the interior of a large, ornate cathedral. The view is from the back of the nave, looking down a long, polished wooden aisle towards the altar. The pews are filled with a large congregation of people. The architecture is highly detailed, with high vaulted ceilings, numerous arches, and statues. Latin inscriptions are visible on the walls, such as 'MATER PURISSIMA' and 'DOMUS AGREA'. The lighting is warm, highlighting the intricate details of the church's interior.

**Our Lady of Victory  
has a new pastor**

*see page 6*

# Bishop Richard J. Malone May 2019

## Calendar of Meetings and Public Events

**Thursday, May 2:** 10:30 a.m. Catholic Charities Appeal news conference, 741 Delaware Ave., Buffalo; 1:30 p.m. Priest Personnel Board meeting, Catholic Center, Buffalo; 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation Nativity of Our Lord, Orchard Park

**Friday, May 3:** 9 a.m. Ribbon Mass St. John Paul II School, Lake View

**Saturday, May 4:** 4:30 p.m. Mystagogy Mass (with newly initiated Catholics), St. Joseph Cathedral, Buffalo

**Sunday, May 5:** 10 a.m. 90th Anniversary of Consecration St. Casimir Church, Buffalo; 3 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Mary of the Angels, Olean

**Monday, May 6:** 1 p.m. International Priests meeting, Catholic Center, Buffalo; 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, Immaculate Conception, East Aurora

**Tuesday, May 7:** 12 p.m. St. Thomas More Guild luncheon, Buffalo Niagara Convention Center, Buffalo; 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, Holy Apostles, Jamestown

**Wednesday, May 8:** 9 a.m. Day of Recollection Christ the King Seminary; 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. John the Baptist, Lockport

**Friday, May 10:** 9 a.m. Leadership Conference of Women Religious meeting, Buffalo; 4 p.m. Commencement, Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora

**Saturday, May 11:** 10 a.m. Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting, Catholic Center, Buffalo

**Sunday, May 12:** 10 a.m. Mass and blessing of Narthex at Sacred Heart Parish, Lakewood; 8:30 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, Canisius College, Buffalo

**Tuesday, May 14:** 1:30 p.m. Presbyteral Council meeting, Catholic Center, Buffalo; 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation I, St. Gregory the Great, Williamsville

**Wednesday, May 15:** 9 a.m. Employee Appreciation Awards, Catholic Center, Buffalo; 12 p.m. Employee Appreciation Luncheon Catholic Center; 3 p.m. St. Mount St. Mary's Hospital Press Conference, Mount St. Mary's Hospital, Lewiston; 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation Immaculate Conception, Ransomville

**Thursday, May 16:** 10:30 a.m. CAO Finance Council meeting, Catholic Center, Buffalo; 2:30 p.m. Vocation Awareness Contest, Catholic Center; 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation II, St. Gregory the Great, Williamsville

**Friday, May 17:** 8:30 a.m. Mass, St. Mary's Elementary, Lancaster; 4:30 p.m. Baccalaureate Mass, Canisius College, Buffalo

**Saturday, May 18:** 10 a.m. Diocesan Religious Jubilee Celebration, St. Joseph Cathedral, Buffalo; 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Vincent, Springbrook

**Sunday, May 19:** 9 a.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, Our Lady of the Lake, Barker; 4 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. John the Baptist, Kenmore

**Monday, May 20:** 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, Queen of Heaven, West Seneca

**Tuesday, May 21:** 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, Immaculate Conception, Eden

**Wednesday, May 22:** 12 p.m. Catholic College presidents luncheon, Bishop's Residence, Buffalo; 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Josaphat, Cheektowaga

**Thursday, May 23:** 12 p.m. 50th anniversary Mass, ordination class of 1969, Our Lady of Victory Basilica; 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Francis of Assisi, Tonawanda

**Saturday, May 25:** 9:30 a.m. Diaconate ordination, St. Joseph Cathedral, Buffalo

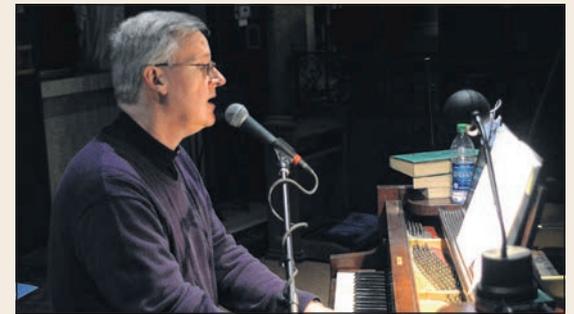
**Sunday, May 26:** 12 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Timothy, Tonawanda

**Tuesday, May 28:** 1:30 p.m. Independent Diocesan Review Board meeting, Catholic Center, Buffalo; 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Peter, Lewiston

**Wednesday, May 29:** 3:30 p.m. FRCDB board of trustees meeting, Catholic Center, Buffalo; 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, Christ the King, Snyder



## In this Issue



Father Bill Quinlivan performs his original work "Stations for a Suffering Church."

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## ON THE COVER

The altar at Our Lady of Victory Basilica will soon have a new pastor behind it. Msgr. David LiPuma will be replacing Msgr. Paul Burkard, who is retiring.

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE

May 10, 2019 for the June issue.

# ‘One report of abuse by a member of our clergy is one to many’

Originally released April 11, 2019

The subject of child sexual abuse is one that rightfully has been the focus of intense media attention in recent years. It is a problem that, unfortunately, extends far beyond the Diocese of Buffalo and far beyond the Church. Yet despite the intense media coverage, many of the important facts regarding the scourge of child sexual abuse and the response of the Church and our diocese are either unmentioned or misstated in the news. I write today to correct some of those errors.

## Almost all the reported cases of clerical abuse involve conduct that occurred decades ago:

With almost daily media reports, some people might conclude (incorrectly) that the current crisis involves ongoing clergy abuse. That is not true. Since 2003, every diocese in the country has completed an annual audit of the newly reported cases of child abuse, regardless of whether those cases could be investigated or substantiated. In the last audit year, which included a wave of claims that followed the announcement of the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program, our diocese received 191 first reports of child abuse, which were more than had been reported in all previous audits combined. Significantly, not a single one of those new allegations involved an incident that occurred after 2000. All of them reported abuse that occurred decades ago. In fact, there have been only three priests against whom the diocese has received allegations of child sexual abuse that occurred in this century. All three of those priests were removed from ministry, and their cases have been widely publicized. And there have been no substantiated allegations of child sexual abuse against any diocesan priest ordained in the past 30 years.

## The policies implemented following the 2002 Charter have worked:

In 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops established a comprehensive set of procedures known as the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Following the charter, every diocese in the country established a “Safe Environment Program” designed to prevent and respond to any incidents of child sexual abuse and to ensure the safety of children and young people in three ways: (1) by thoroughly screening and supervising all clergy and all employees and volunteers who work with children and young people, (2) by providing appropriate training in recognizing and reporting child abuse to appropriate civil and Church authorities, and (3) by holding all members of the clergy, employees and volunteers who work with children and young people to Christ-centered and professional codes of conduct. These policies have been implemented here and they have worked, as demonstrated by the fact that there have been very few actual cases of child

sexual abuse in our diocese since 2002.

## The independent Review Board process works:

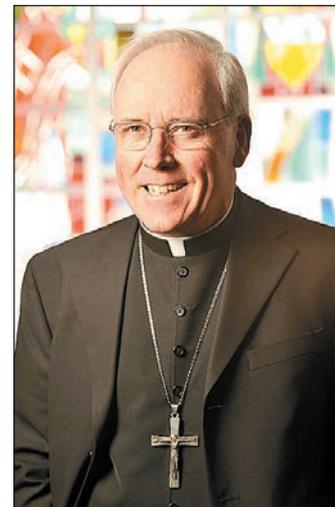
In addition to procedures meant to prevent abuse, the charter required every diocese to create procedures for ensuring that cases of past abuse were addressed appropriately. One purpose was to have significant involvement of the laity in decisions about how claims of child sexual abuse were handled. Following the charter, our diocese established an independent Diocesan Review Board, which hears every single report of child sexual abuse received by the diocese. Over the years, the Review Board has included retired judges and prosecutors, physicians, experts in the treatment of child sexual abuse, and other community leaders. In cases involving living priests, an investigator will be assigned to interview witnesses and collect available evidence and to report to the Review Board. The Review Board may request that additional investigation be conducted. When adequate information has been obtained, the board will make a recommendation to me about whether or not the claim has been substantiated. No priest with a substantiated claim of child sexual abuse can remain in ministry. The Review Board is always willing to consider new claims or new evidence. In some cases, the board has reconsidered decisions made by bishops before the charter, and, based on a new investigation, a priest who had been allowed to remain in ministry was removed.

My decisions about whether a priest is removed from or returned to ministry are often criticized in the media. Of course, the process needs to be confidential to protect the privacy of all the parties involved, and, as a result, the public may not hear all that went into each decision. What I can share is that the diocese is fortunate to have the expertise and collective wisdom of the people who volunteer to serve on the Review Board. I observe their deliberations and can assure you that they recognize the important responsibility with which they are entrusted, and they do not make a recommendation without serious deliberation.

Once a priest has been removed from ministry, the case is to be processed and sent for review by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican. When I first arrived here, I learned that there was a backlog regarding several priests who had been removed from ministry and whose cases had not been sent to Rome. We are making progress in our efforts to correct that situation.

## Our diocese has made significant strides to increase transparency regarding child sexual abuse:

A *Buffalo News* editorial printed on Jan. 28, 2019, alleged that the diocese has engaged in a “cover-up of the names of the accused [priests].” This is simply not true. To begin, I would note that by publishing names of credibly accused priests, this diocese was doing the



## From the Bishop

BY  
BISHOP  
RICHARD J.  
MALONE

very opposite of covering up. Last March, I decided, for the first time in the history of this diocese, to publish a list of diocesan priests with substantiated allegations of child sexual abuse. The list included not only living priests who had been removed from ministry following allegations of abuse, but also deceased priests who had more than one allegation of abuse against them. The list did not include, and did not profess to include, deceased priests who had only one allegation against them if that single allegation was made after the priest had died and the priest could not defend himself.

As was immediately apparent (and publicly reported) when our initial list was published, we did not include priests who were members of a religious order. Order priests are subject to their own superiors. The religious orders assign their priests to different dioceses, keep their own records regarding the priest's history and whereabouts, and are responsible for disciplining their priests. Nevertheless, when we updated the list in November, we included the names of order priests if we were aware of more than one allegation against them.

Our updated list also reflected the numerous new reports of decades-old abuse that we received between March and November, and this resulted in an expanded list. Despite these revelations, the *Buffalo News* recently wrote on April 3, 2019, that beyond releasing these names, “Bishop Richard J. Malone has refused to provide more information to the public about the depth and scope of clergy sexual abuse of minors in the diocese.” Again, that statement is demonstrably false. In November, the diocese held a press conference during which we not only disclosed additional names of priests, but the diocese specifically announced it has received reports of sexual abuse of minors against more than 130 diocesan priests and over 40 religious order priests. The very purpose of making that announcement was to disclose the depth and scope of the allegations received.

To fully appreciate the scope of the abuse crisis among priests, it is important to consider the number

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*From page 3*

of priests who have served in the diocese during the same time period. Since 1950, there have been well over 2,300 clergy assigned to the diocese.

Of course, a priest's name is not publicized if the claim has been investigated and determined to be unsubstantiated. Similarly, if a claim cannot be thoroughly investigated because, for example, the priest is deceased, then the priest's name is not publicized. If, however, the diocese receives more than one report against such a priest, then he will be added to the list.

I would note that the criteria I implemented resulted in many more priests being disclosed than if we had applied the criteria used elsewhere. For example, one television reporter has suggested that if our diocese followed the disclosure policies of the Archdiocese of Boston then our list of priests would be "more comprehensive." This is false. If we had followed Boston's policies, far fewer names would have been disclosed. Boston does publicize a deceased diocesan priest's name if the accuser already has gone public with his or her accusation. It is true that if our diocese followed that policy, there would be about five or six new names added to our list. But Boston does not publicize a deceased priest's name even if, after he died, he was accused by multiple people if those accusations were made confidentially. Following that rule would result in approximately 16 fewer names on our list. Additionally, Boston does not publicize the names of any religious order priests. If Buffalo had followed suit, the list released in November would not have included 16 names of order priests.

I say none of this as a criticism of the list prepared by the Archdiocese of Boston. Each diocese has to weigh the important concerns and make a decision that cannot be perfect. Some could argue with good reason that my decision to add the name of a deceased priest who was accused by two people after he died might result in an innocent priest's name being unjustly tarnished, and it certainly denies him due process. In fact, we have received strenuous and heartfelt complaints from some deceased priests' families who insist their relatives were wrongly accused. But I decided on the rule to err in favor of transparency.

I am also mindful of the requests by some for even more transparency. The Movement to Restore Trust has asked me to be more transparent about several issues, including the abuse crisis's financial impact on the diocese. I have taken those requests to heart, and I intend to be more transparent on a number of those issues as well.

Finally, on the issue of transparency I should note that any claim of child sexual abuse that is recent enough to be prosecuted is immediately reported to the appropriate district attorney pursuant to a memorandum of understanding entered into with the eight district attorneys in our diocese back in 2003. The reporting criteria were set by the district attorneys. As noted above, however, almost all of the reports we

receive concern abuse occurring decades ago. In any event, we are providing information about the child sexual abuse allegations received by the diocese since 1950 to the New York State Attorney General's office.

**Child sexual abuse is a vast problem across our society, and it deserves more attention everywhere it occurs:**

Child sexual abuse is a terrible problem around the globe and in our community. According to one review of studies, an estimated 19.7 percent of women and 7.9 percent of men globally experience sexual abuse prior to the age of 18. Another study estimates that in the United States 25 percent of girls and 16 percent of boys experience sexual abuse before they turn 18. Another paper reviewed six different U.S. studies and concluded that the overall full-childhood sexual abuse prevalence rate in this country was 7.5-11.7 percent.

This horrible crime cuts a wide swath across all areas of our society, and its scope is staggering. Even assuming conservatively that 10 percent of the adult population suffered sexual abuse as a child, then in the eight counties that comprise our diocese approximately 121,000 living adults were sexually abused as children. Most abuse will never be reported because it was perpetrated by family members, family friends or neighbors. Also, because there is no institution associated with those abusers, most of that abuse will never be the subject of a lawsuit or a front-page story. But to forget or to ignore the vast majority of victims of child sexual abuse would be a tragedy.

Some of those 121,000 adults who were abused as children here in the Buffalo Niagara region were abused by priests. One report of abuse by a member of our clergy is one too many, and every Catholic in this diocese, including me, is horrified by each report. But even if the diocese is aware of only half of the total number of people who were abused by priests as children, that total number constitutes only a small fraction of 1 percent of the child sexual abuse that has occurred in this area.

Additionally, last year, the Erie County District Attorney's office announced the launch of its participation in the "Enough Abuse" campaign and reported that "Erie County has the second highest number of cases of child abuse in New York state with approximately 9,000 cases reported per year." None of those cases involved priests, but the media still should not ignore those facts. During the past year, some local news sources have provided minimal reporting (others have provided none) on the nationwide "Enough Abuse" campaign, all while providing constant coverage of decades-old clergy sexual abuse cases in Buffalo. The 9,000 children being abused here every year deserve better, and our community deserves reporting on the full panorama.

I provide this perspective not to minimize the horrific scale of the abuse perpetrated by priests in the past but rather to place it in the context of a wider societal problem of child sexual abuse that deserves more attention from the media and from us all.

Child sexual abuse definitely has received attention

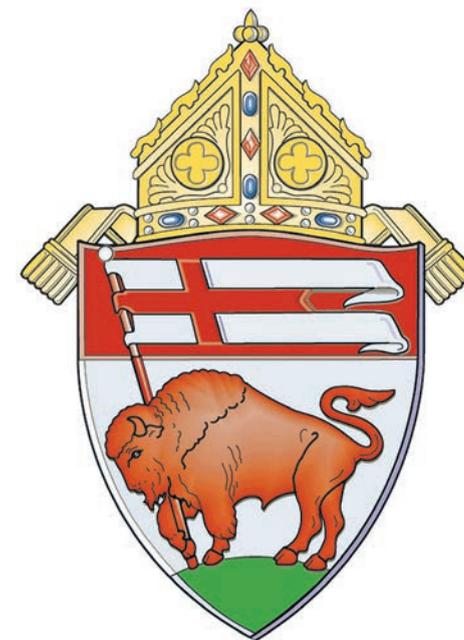
from the Church. While the Church in the United States can be faulted for not having done enough in the past to address child sexual abuse, no other institution has done more in recent years to prevent such abuse from occurring.

**We need to do more:**

For all the progress the Church and this diocese have made in preventing child sexual abuse today and in addressing abuse in the past, I recognize that more needs to be done. Of course, I am acutely aware of the times when I personally have fallen short. I deeply regret and apologize for having signed those letters in support of Father Art Smith. I also regret not being more transparent about claims involving abuse against adults. As you know from the manner in which we have been addressing more recent claims involving conduct between adults, we are handling those matters differently now. Lessons have been learned.

Additionally, I look forward to working with the Movement to Restore Trust and the Leadership Roundtable to improve the way the diocese handles all of these issues. I also would like to thank those of you who came forward and reported abuse that you or a loved one endured. On behalf of the diocese, I apologize to all those who have suffered and continue to suffer as a result of abuse in the past. I also encourage anyone who was abused to contact the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Jacqueline Joy, at 716-895-3010.

During this Easter season, we are reminded that being a Christian means becoming a Christian ever anew. That requires repenting and struggling to remake ourselves with humility, prayer and love. I personally need to repent and reform, and it is my hope that this diocese can rebuild itself and learn and even grow from the sins of the past. Let us pray for each other, for the Church and pray for all those who suffered and suffer as a result of abuse as we go forward together to address the worldwide problem of child sexual abuse.



# Stations of the Cross used to address suffering Church

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish put a modern spin on an old tradition. Father Bill Quinlivan, the pastor of the South Buffalo parish, wrote a special set of the Stations of the Cross to address the priest abuse crisis that is currently affecting the Church.

The debut of Stations for a Suffering Church took place Friday, April 5, at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, where a small crowd prayed along with the author. Reflections on how Jesus' suffering mirrors today's suffering and a short musical verse accompanied each of the 14 Stations.

When Jesus fell for the first time, Father Quinlivan hopes His perseverance can be a model for the modern Church. "You found the strength to carry on – please grant us that grace," he said.

At the fourth station, when Jesus meets His mother, Father Quinlivan reflects how we instinctively call our mothers when we suffer.

"Tonight we ask her intercession for all the mothers of abuse victims as well of the mothers of those who committed such crimes. Each and every sinner has a mother, and that maternal bond endures through heart-breaking news. As a mother instinctively listens to her hurting children, help us to seek the face of Christ within our suffering church. Through the eyes of our Lady of Sorrows, may we be healed in her loving glance; the same eyes that met on your Way of the Cross," he said.

The idea to write a special set of Stations of the Cross, "came to Father Quinlivan this past January when he realized the "unusual circumstances" the diocese is facing this Lent.

"Aware that people are looking for answers and solutions to the turmoil of our times regarding accusations of sexual abuse by clergy and Church members, I realized all I could say was (that) we have to keep turning it back to Jesus, we have to bring it to Him," Father Quinlivan explained, shortly before the premier. "I started to prepare for Lent and doing Stations of the Cross, I thought that maybe I could compose a set of Stations of the Cross for the Suffering Church to bring it to the cross, to bring it to Christ and His cross, and ask for His help as we pass through this time."

At the parish, a dozen of the faithful, led by three servers, moved through all 14 stations, while another 50 or so prayed in the pews. They reflected on Jesus falling and being entombed, while Father Quinlivan compared Jesus situation to the what the faithful of the Buffalo Diocese and dioceses across the world are experiencing 2,000 years later. Short musical verses for each station accompanied the reflections.

"Spoken word has a power, and sung words, lyrics, also seem to lend themselves to meditation, contemplation and prayer as well," Father Quinlivan



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Father Bill Quinlivan, of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in South Buffalo, performs his original work "Stations for a Suffering Church," which is based on the Stations of the Cross and created by Father Quinlivan as a vehicle for healing within the Diocese of Buffalo. Parishioners participated by walking the stations as Father Quinlivan performed.

said.

Father Quinlivan, who has written a book and recorded several of his own musical compositions, said it took about a month to write the new work, sitting down, pen in hand, a couple times each week.

"I tried to do it slowly and not hurry through," he said. "I gave it the time that I thought it needed to be thorough, recognizing what we need Christ to do for us in this time of scandal and the need for healing."

He has gone back to polish his words more than he usually does, understanding the sensitive subject matter he is dealing with.

"I didn't want to gloss over it. 'Let's pray for the suffering Church,' and not mention anything in particular," he said. "It's not graphic or offensive language, but the topic is a painful one for everyone to ponder."

In talking about the abuse crisis with priests as well as parishioners, Father Quinlivan has noticed the reactions mimic the stages of grief from denial to acceptance.

"It has certainly affected not only the Church in Buffalo, but through out the world. So, we're needing

to turn to the Lord to assist us and guide us," he said.

Just as the Stations end with Jesus in the tomb waiting for resurrection, the Diocese of Buffalo is waiting for a renewal of the Church.

"I particularly feel a desire to be a part of the renewal of the priesthood as a result of this," Father Quinlivan said. "I think spreading the message of Divine Mercy for most of my priesthood has certainly colored or influenced my response to try and keep in mind that everybody needs God's mercy."

The debut seemed to be well received.

"Great. Wonderful," said Martin Kennedy who came with his wife, Mary, from St. Martin of Tours. "I thought it was very prayerful, very significant."

"The music was very moving. It was definitely very personal, spiritual," added Mary Kennedy.

Maureen English, who graduated from St. Thomas School and now attends St. Martin's Parish, said, "It's the most powerful I've ever seen. I've been to a lot of (station devotions), but this was the most powerful I have ever been to. It almost brings you to tears. The passion was just so real."

# New pastor to head Our Lady of Victory Basilica

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

Our Lady of Victory Basilica will experience a changing of the guard as Msgr. Paul J.E. Burkard retires and Msgr. David G. LiPuma takes over the role of pastor for the Lackawanna parish on June 1.

Msgr. LiPuma is a Depew native, who was ordained to the priesthood in 1987 by Bishop Edward D. Head. He served as parochial vicar at St. Leo the Great in Amherst, and later at St. Philip the Apostle in Cheektowaga. In 1993, he was named director of the diocesan Office of Worship, a post he held until Bishop Henry J. Mansell appointed him as his priest secretary. Msgr. LiPuma continued in that role under former Bishop Edward U. Kmiec, who retired in 2012, and under Bishop Richard J. Malone. In 2013, Msgr. LiPuma was named pastor of St. Peter Parish in Lewiston.

“Without a doubt, he is absolutely the right guy for the job. He ticks off all the boxes that you look for from somebody to take that position,” Msgr. Burkard said of his longtime friend and former student.

This new position includes being rector of the Our Lady of Victory National Shrine and president of Our Lady of Victory Institutions.

Msgr. LiPuma has a history with Buffalo’s hometown hero Venerable Nelson H. Baker, who founded the shrine and works of charity that fall under the Our Lady of Victory banner. Twenty years ago, Msgr. LiPuma accompanied Bishop Mansell when

Father Baker’s body was moved into OLV Basilica, on the advice of Rome in March 1999. “I was in the morgue when they opened the sarcophagus that had the vials of blood and fluid that they had separated,” Msgr. LiPuma recalled. Msgr. Burkard was his professor and spiritual director in college. Msgr. Robert C. Wurtz, who led OLV for 12 years, baptized Msgr. LiPuma in 1960. “So I always had a connection to him.”

Msgr. LiPuma also began serving on the board of the Homes of Charity a few years ago.

“I feel blessed that I know a lot of the people there already,” he said. “I’m not walking into something where I don’t know anybody. I certainly don’t have the full grasp of all the moving parts; that’s the part that’s daunting me right now. My approach to everything is if you to take it step by step, pray every day, and all those pieces will start to come together.”

When Bishop Malone asked him to accept the role of pastor, Msgr. LiPuma did what any good priest would do before making an important decision – he prayed.

“When I was asked to consider it’s a little daunting at first, it still is, but I have prayed very fervently. I prayed to Father Baker. I prayed to Msgr. Wurtz. I prayed to Our Lady of Victory. I prayed to St. John Vianney. I said if this is God’s will and desire for me in my pastoral path right now, then I’m ready to accept. But, I was also able to say yes because I know and appreciate and have great esteem for Msgr. Burkard. Actually, when Msgr. Wurtz died, his name surfaced right away as the only



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Msgr. David LiPuma, of St. Peter Parish in Lewiston, is welcomed to his new assignment at Our Lady of Victory Basilica by Msgr. Paul Burkard during a meeting at the Catholic Center. Msgr. Burkard is will retire from his assignment at OLV, but will continue to help at the historic Lackawanna Church.

person at that time who really could move in and take over Our Lady of Victory. For 12 years now, he has done a yeoman’s job. It’s his passion. It’s his ministry. To be able to have him so close gives me confidence and hope. That’s what I like about this. It’s kind of a seamless transition.”

Father Baker founded OLV in 1882, first by establishing the Association of Our Lady of Victory as a benefactor organization, then he started OLV Infant Home and a hospital. In 1925, his dream of a new basilica under the Name of Our Lady of Victory was complete. Now, Our Lady of Victory

Institutions provides education services, residential services, and services to the disabled, as well as foster care, dental care and services for children.

“I’m really looking forward to the very fact that, when you think about all that Father Baker did (is) still continuing today, (and) to somehow be a part of it, that’s the humbling part of it,” Msgr. LiPuma said. “I asked Msgr. Burkard, what’s the blessing in this, and the first words out of his mouth when I asked him about that was, ‘Carrying forth the legacy of Father Baker.’ That’s exactly how I feel.”

## *Msgr. Burkard looks forward to retirement, but not saying goodbye just yet*

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

Fifty years is a nice round number for a priestly career.

Msgr. Paul J.E. Burkard, will celebrate his golden anniversary in the priesthood on May 12, and begin easing into retirement. The longtime pastor of Our Lady of Victory Basilica, rector of OLV Shrine and president of Our Lady of Victory Institutions will pass the torch to Msgr. David G. LiPuma, currently pastor of St. Peter Parish

in Lewiston. Msgr. Burkard will remain at the Lackawanna church for the near future.

“I think I can be in residence and not be pastor easily,” he said with a smile.

Msgr. Burkard grew up attending St. Mary Parish in Swormville, a small rural German parish with a strong support for vocations. It gave him a “personal desire to serve the Church” that led him to St. John Vianney Seminary in East Aurora.

“I came from a family of very deep faith,” he said. “I think a family very much influenced by the presence of St. John Neumann in the area. He used

to say Mass in the home of my great-great-great-great-grandfather. He strengthened the faith of the family.”

That influence reached far beyond Msgr. Burkard. His sister Patricia is a Sister of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, and he can count several cousins who are priests, and members of religious communities.

“The examples of the priests at my parish helped me see that priests could affect a lot of good things in the lives of people and I wanted to do the  
*See Msgr. Burkard page 7*

# Religion teachers gather for professional development day

**BY KAITLIN GARRITY**

Associate Director,  
Lifelong Faith Formation

Faculty professional development days are routine for most elementary and high schools, and provide the opportunity to refocus on aspects of a school's mission, gather in departmental cohorts, and develop or sharpen skills necessary for managing students. On March 22, area Catholic high school religion teachers and campus ministers experienced a new style of professional development.

Rather than only meeting with individuals from their specific schools, 15 religion teachers representing eight of the local Catholic high schools gathered at Sacred Heart Academy in Amherst for a day of fellowship, worship and "holy borrowing."

As teachers from the various schools arrived, the library began to transition from a quiet, peaceful place to



COURTESY OF KAITLIN GARRITY

High school religion teachers from eight Catholic high schools gather in Sacred Heart Academy's library for a professional development day.

study to a reunion hall filled with laughter, introductions, familial check-ins, and anticipatory conversations about the day to follow.

Maria Clare from Sacred Heart, one of the organizers of the gathering, started the day with a review of the planned

agenda and an icebreaker, which transitioned into a reverent, morning prayer led by Monica Saltarelli from Mount St. Mary Academy in Kenmore.

The day continued with a focused conversation about the challenges that confront

today's educators in both the classroom and wider school community, including the cultural pressures impacting students and the schools' effort to embrace Catholic identity across the entire campus, not just inside of religion classrooms. These topics sparked rich discussions and revealed a diversity of experiences amidst shared challenges.

Later in the day, teachers assembled in the school's chapel for a simple, intimate Mass presided by Father John Mack and assisted by Deacon Robb Ciezki of St. Mary's High School, Lancaster, and Mary Lou Plesac of Archbishop Walsh Academy, Olean.

The afternoon concluded with a "show and tell" of resources and activities that the teachers have used in their classrooms. Strategies were shared with the intention to learn from one another, inspire creative classroom practices, and exercise "holy borrowing" – the non-

sinful, Catholic equivalent of plagiarism.

Highlights included innovative and engaging discussion starters for morality-based conversations, shared by Nardin Academy's Denis Coakley and Renee Boltri.

While this professional development day may not have been traditional, it certainly proved worthwhile for participants. Attendees offered a wealth of knowledge, talent and support for one another, which was especially meaningful for Sacred Heart's Meghan Dandrea.

"OK, I'm not alone in feeling that way, or dealing with this situation," Dandrea said. "I walk away with new ideas for lessons and activities, new ways to approach a topic. Mostly, I walk away reinvigorated to be with my students, and grateful for the opportunity to accompany them in their life. It's nice to have others understand that, too."

## Msgr. Burkard will stay close to OLV and the cause for Father Baker

*From page 6*

same thing," he said.

Although he had thoughts of serving a parish, the bishops who make the assignments had different plans. He did spend the first five years of his ministry at Annunciation Parish in Buffalo. He moved to Ogdensburg for an 11-year run as faculty member and vice rector of Wadham's Hall Seminary College then a stint as vice rector of Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora. He then served as director of Priestly Formation for the Diocese of Buffalo from 1986-96. Finally, after nearly 30 years, Msgr. Burkard was named pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Orchard Park, a position he held until the death of Msgr. Robert Wurtz in 2006, who managed the Our Lady of Victory Institutions created by Msgr. Nelson H. Baker.

Looking back at the past 50 years, Msgr. Burkard labels his priesthood as wonderful and exciting. "I have never asked for an assignment and I've never refused an assignment from a bishop,

but every choice the bishops have made on behalf of my ministry have turned out to be wonderful for me," he said.

There are so many things about working on the same grounds as Buffalo's own Padre of the Poor that Msgr. Burkard recalls fondly.

"Certainly being part of the canonization process for Father Baker has to be the highlight of anybody who is involved in that process," he said. "It's such a narrow band of operation in the Church that to be a part of that, to advance the life of a person like Father Baker and hopefully get his presence in front of the universal Church, that's just a wonderful experience.

"The parish life here has been wonderful. We're a very strong parish. The dedication of the people who work at Baker Victory Services and Homes of Charity, those are the highlights of it. It's the personnel in a situation like that that really creates the atmosphere in which the work gets done. Working with those people who are so dedicated, that's the high point of being here."

When asked to name his favorite part of the OLV campus, he quickly names the altar. The tomb of Father Baker ranks a close second.

"My favorite place in the basilica is behind the altar in celebrating Mass, without a doubt. The rest of the basilica holds a nice fond spot in my heart. There's so many nice spots in the basilica," he said.

While he has no immediate plans after his retirement, he will remain close to OLV to help Msgr. LiPuma with the transition of leadership. He will continue to serve as vice postulator for the cause for Father Baker's canonization. He'd also like to get back to his roots in teaching.

"I'm a born teacher. I have chalk blood in my veins," he said. "One of the things I'd like to do while I still have time to do it is to return to some level of ministry formation or education in the diocese, perhaps in the permanent diaconate or one of the lay ministry formation programs. Almost 35 years of my priesthood have been in seminary education or seminary administration. I'd like to go back to that for a while."

# Catholic Charities gears up for Hope Day fundraising

By **MARK CIEMCIOCH**  
Online Content Coordinator

After the success of last year's online focused fundraising campaign, Catholic Charities is bringing back Hope Day on May 17 to attract new donors to contribute to the social service agency's \$11 million annual appeal.

Inspired by other "Day of Giving" online campaigns and a desire to spread their message to a new audience, last year's focused campaign by Catholic Charities raised \$409,000 in a single day, surpassing their own expectations. It helped get last year's appeal cross the finish line in June.

"It was a collective realization that we were nearing the end of the appeal and we had a long way to go," said Lauren Maguire, director of Appeal Advancement. "It was an opportunity for us to build some momentum and to capture the generosity of some folks who wanted to provide these matching gift. That (one-day total) represented a combination of efforts at the parish level, with our corporate givers and new donors who found us through



our online presence."

"It's trying to reach those segments of our population that are more accustomed to using technology, social media and are online and mobile," said Chief Development Officer Timothy J. Sember. "We want to expand our donor base. Our main platform is through direct mail, but that only reaches people who are registered in our parishes, or have previously given. How do you reach new donors? That's why we're trying to move to this online platform. It was a wonderful success."

Hope Day, named in honor of Catholic Charities' ongoing theme and mission, will be supported by matching donations, a live tally available on their website, and frequent updates through social media and email marketing

campaigns.

There are rising challenges for fundraising operations like the Catholic Charities Appeal, particularly competition from other online campaigns that are both professional and personal. Sember said their goal is to make personal connections through their online marketing, showing potential donors how their money would impact the lives of people.

"There's no lack of opportunity to give," he said. "Part of an online presence is how do you make the connection to people in terms of their lives. If you can let them know about the impact of their dollars directly, that helps motivate givers and it helps make the relationship more real and tangible. Our job is to enhance our online presence even more than last year."

Another issue are the ongoing investigations and news stories about the Diocese of Buffalo, but Catholic Charities is focused on its mission to serve the needy and poor.

"It's a challenge, but the need is ever present," Sember said. "The people who are served by Catholic Charities and are benefited by the Fund for the Faith haven't done anything wrong. We have an obligation as a society and as people of faith to serve others, to recognize 'what we can do to help.' Our food pantries are literally helping stretching budgets, so people who may not be able to have food every night can, because of Catholic Charities. We're here to help ordinary lives do extraordinary things. There's so much good in the Catholic Church than what we read about. We're living out the gospel."

"What inspires me to do this work is the commitment we get from our donors and parish level volunteers," said Maguire. "They are so generous and so invested in the work that it is inspiring to continue this important work every day."

Visit [www.ccwny.org](http://www.ccwny.org) for more information.

# Catholic tips to care for creation and environment

By **MARK CIEMCIOCH**  
Online Content Coordinator

As concern for the environment continues to be a talking point in the world, the celebration of Earth Day in April is one reminder that one of the most prominent Catholic social teachings is care for creation. Pope Francis made it the topic of his encyclical "Laudato Si," writing, "We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth; our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters."

"It's critical for us to care for the environment because we need the environment," said Sister Mary Jean Sliwinski, CSSF, provincial sustainability coordinator for the Felician Sisters. "We need the earth on which to live on. It's the basis of our faith."

Sister Jean offered some tips on how Catholics can be better stewards of the environment, while also finding ways to open yourself up spiritually.

1) Start your own garden, or create a community garden in the neighborhood, where you can grow your

own fresh fruit and vegetables.

2) Stop buying bottled water and fill your own containers with tap water. Install a faucet filter or use a water pitcher with a filter, and, along with a reusable water bottle, will help eliminate plastic waste.

3) Spend more time walking and biking outside, which is not only good exercise, but keeps you more connected to your community and the environment. Leave the electronics at home, to continue filtering out the noise and distractions.

4) Pick up litter when you see it.

5) Take an online carbon footprint test. There's plenty available with a Google search.

6) Reduce, refuse, reuse and recycle.

7) Pray for those working hard for the environment, and contact your elected officials to advocate for creation.

8) Read the pope's encyclical, available for free online on the Vatican's website.

"Pope Francis says we're turning our earth into an immense pile of filth," Sister Jean said. "We need to look at ourselves as consumers and do we really need

something, or do we really want it because everyone else has it. The pope is calling for us to live more simply, to take time to stop our crazy busy lives and ... realize what we're doing and appreciate nature and God's created world much more."

The Care for Creation committee is holding an open meeting to present how the diocese is reaching out to young people on social media, how people can learn the Catholic social teaching on the environment and practical ways to reach out to parishioners and community. The event will take place at 7 p.m. May 6 at the Villa Maria Convent, 600 Doat St.

"We need to take time to pray," Sister Jean said.

"We need to pray in gratitude for all that we have and the beauty all around. We need to pray for ourselves that we can change some of our behavior patterns, because that's the most difficult thing, and that's really what's called for here. That's what Pope Francis is calling for here. A real change of heart, a real conversion."

Register for the event by calling Sister Sharon Goodremote, FSSJ, at 716-202-4872.

# St. Teresa's in South Buffalo has extra colorful Easter season

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

Eggs weren't the only things St. Teresa's parishioners had to color this Easter. The Buffalo parish has produced coloring books, with drawings of the 122-year-old church and its artwork, as a gift to its parishioners.

The idea came from Tim Hartigan, a member of the parish finance committee and a faculty coach at Bryant & Stratton College's Amherst campus, who wanted to celebrate the beauty of the church's stained glass and statuary with their youngest parishioners.

Hartigan worked with Bryant & Stratton's Career Services division to offer graphic arts students an internship opportunity by designing the contents of the book. Student Robert Larsh took photos of the stained glass windows, statuary and other gems in the church, then using Adobe InDesign traced the photos to make simple and more complicated drawings. A longtime favorite activity of children, coloring has been found to reduce stress in grown ups, thus creating a trend in adult coloring

books.

"I outlined them and gave a coloring book feel to it," Larsh explained. "I went ahead and did an adult version of the pictures, and then went a head and thickened the lines and took out some of the detail, so that way the kids also have something to color."

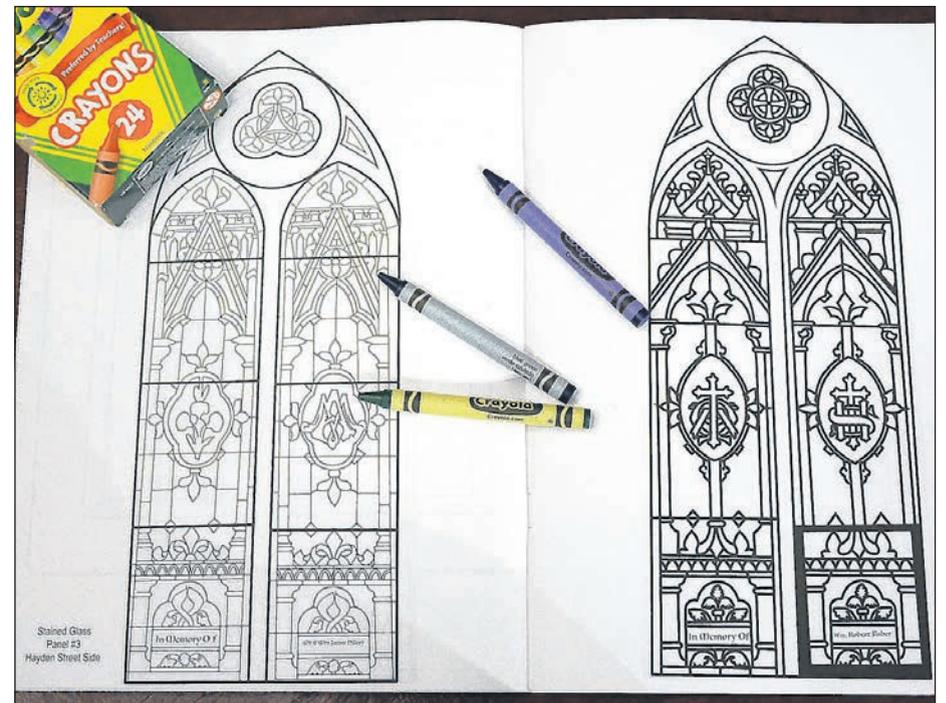
The project was actually begun by another student, who had to bow out, passing the torch to Larsh.

"Once I found out it was for the children, I felt I needed to finish that for them," he said.

Once the drawings were done, Larsh's role was finished. He graduated last December. The parish then waited on a grant for publishing and printing. A \$1,000 grant came in from the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, allowing St. Teresa's to print 1,500 copies through FedEx Office. Those books were given out at Divine Mercy Sunday. Another printing is planned for the parish's 125th anniversary in 2022.

Father James Cunningham wanted the book to "capture the beauty of the church" and feels Larsh did just that.

"The book is great. It is really very well done," he said.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The coloring book recently published by St. Teresa Church, South Buffalo was given out to children in the parish during Easter weekend, depicts the architecture, stain glass and the Catholic images that make up the church and the Catholic faith.

In the introduction to the book, Father Cunningham wrote, "This coloring book richly depicts much of the glory of this church. I wish all who will be coloring these lovely drawings

much happiness as they give 'life' through color to these pages."

The book is dedicated to Robert Kirschner, a fallen Korean War veteran from Erie County.

# Pro-lifers should plan to see the movie 'Unplanned'

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

"Unplanned" is a movie you probably wouldn't find unless you knew what to look for, but it is a movie you will tell others about. The low-budget film from Pure Flix tells the true story of Abby Johnson a Planned Parenthood clinic manager who made a 180-degree turn to be a pro-life advocate.

The movie starts out in the present, showing Johnson her husband and young daughter in a happy, healthy family dynamic, full of moral values. Even the daughter reminds Abby to eat a nutritious breakfast. Then it flashes back to Johnson as a junior in Texas A&M volunteering at Planned Parenthood, believing that by handing out birth control she would help reduce the number of abortions. Through the years, she moves up the ranks to clinic manager and even earns an Employee of the Year award. Things come crashing down on her when she challenges her boss's

request to increase the number of abortions, and when, after eight years, she finally sees an abortion take place. At that moment she quits to join the 40 Days for Life protesters who stand on the other side of the fence outside the clinic every day.

The film peppers the dialogue with facts about Planned Parenthood, portrayed as a business more than a support for women. Johnson's boss, compares Planned Parenthood to fast food restaurants, which break even on burgers, but makes a profit on fries and drinks. "Abortion is our fries and drinks," she said.

The movie is informative, not preachy. It may also be too much for some people to take. The film depicts both medical and chemical abortions. In one scene, Abby has to explain to her daughter why her shoes are covered in blood. The blood helped the movie earn an R rating, which is a good thing. "Unplanned" is a movie parents and children should see together and discuss afterwards.

"I think it's safe to say that 'Unplanned' is

the definitive movie on abortion," said Vicky Woodworth, from the local branch of 40 Days for Life, which presented the sneak preview on March 28.

Cheryl Calire, director of the diocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities, spoke briefly before the movie. "It is really important for you as your watching this movie to think of people who you might think might benefit from seeing this," she said.

Post abortion materials, as well as movie posters were available on a table outside the theater.

One moviegoer called it, "The best thing that's happened for pro-life."

"It was fantastic. Everyone should see it," said Laurie, another guest.

Virginia, a post-abortive woman, found the movie to be painful. "But it gave me hope that things will change, that no one else will have to go through what I did," she said. When asked if the film was accurate to her experience, she replied, "Absolutely."

## Buffalo Diocese and Movement Restore Trust announce reform initiatives

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo and the Movement to Restore Trust (MRT), an independent organization of Catholic laity formed to lead a movement to restore trust and confidence in the Church in the wake of the clergy sex abuse crisis, jointly announce their ongoing partnership through the creation of a Joint Implementation Team (JIT).

Buffalo Bishop Richard J. Malone suggested the creation of the joint implementation team to foster collaboration in the coming months between the Diocese and MRT to prioritize and implement the group's recommendations for reform. The group held its first meeting on April 11, facilitated by a staff member of the Leadership Roundtable, and quickly reached agreement on the following initiatives:

A commitment by Bishop Malone to hold diocesan-wide listening sessions. The diocese is expected

to announce the first two dates and locations by the end of April. The first session could be held as early as May. The bishop is committed to holding listening sessions throughout the diocese over the next several months as a means of hearing directly from Catholics about the sex abuse crisis and other matters concerning the diocese.

Several new initiatives in the handling of sex abuse cases will be undertaken by the diocese:

- Bishop Malone will continue to meet with victims and also formalize a process for meeting with victims of sexual abuse by reserving regular hours on his schedule for individual meetings with victims.

- The diocese will work with MRT representatives to review the diocese's approach to releasing the names of clergy who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse. The MRT has suggested a more detailed approach with information that is transparent

and appropriately balances the rights and interests of all parties based on best practices gathered from other dioceses in the United States.

- The diocese and MRT representatives will review the Diocese's intake processes for sex abuse claims to insure that victims of sex abuse are treated with dignity and respect and receive proper pastoral care.

- Bishop Malone will work to establish a new process for allegations of sexual abuse or misconduct that are made against a bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo. Bishop Malone intends to adopt a process modeled after other dioceses whereby complaints against a Buffalo bishop would automatically be referred to the Metropolitan Archdiocesan Review Board. This new process would remain in place until the Vatican or the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops develops a procedure applicable to all

dioceses.

- Expanding the Diocesan Finance Council. Bishop Malone has committed to appoint a lay chair of the Diocesan Finance Council (the current chair is the vicar general of the diocese, Father Peter Karalus) and have laity (particularly women) comprise a majority of the members of the council. The expanded council will be charged with reviewing and improving the current model of financial transparency for the diocese consistent with best practices.

- Expanding the Use of the Ethics Reporting Service. The Diocese will expand the use of its ethics hotline, EthicsPoint, beyond reports of financial fraud or irregularity, to include all reports of any ethical improprieties, sexual abuse or harassment, or financial fraud.

"We are pleased with the progress made over the past month," said John

*See Hurley page 12*

## Buffalo parishes to host Year of Healing Mass and Holy Hours

As part of the diocesan-wide Year of Prayer and Healing initiative, the parishes of the Southeast Vicariate of Buffalo will host a number of Holy Hours beginning the month of May, highlighted with a Vicariate Mass of Reparation and Healing at St. Stanislaus Church on May 30, the Ascension of the Lord.

The Year of Prayer and Healing was initiated by diocesan leaders as a way to help renew, revive and restore the faith in Western New York after a number of past sexual abuse cases were made public. The initiative will be celebrated by every vicariate in the diocese over the course of a year, with each area determining their own events in their given month.

The evening at St. Stanislaus will begin at 6 p.m. with confessions, rosary and May devotions, followed by a 7 p.m. Mass.

In addition to the vicariate Mass, there will be several parishes offering Holy Hours and services for reparation and healing within the area.

May 2, 7 p.m. Corpus Christi Church, 199 Clark St., Buffalo

May 3, 6:30 p.m. St. Stanislaus Church, 389 Peckham St., Buffalo

May 3, 9 a.m. Mass, Eucharistic adoration until 3 p.m., St. Teresa Church, 1974 Seneca St., Buffalo

May 3, 8:30 a.m. St. Andrew Church, 34 Francis Ave., Sloan

May 3, 8:30 a.m. St. Casimir Church, 160 Cable St., Buffalo (Mass at 8:30, exposition to 1:30 p.m.)

May 7, 7 p.m. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 115 O'Connell St., Buffalo

May 14, 6:30 p.m. St. Bernard Church, 1990 Clinton St., Buffalo

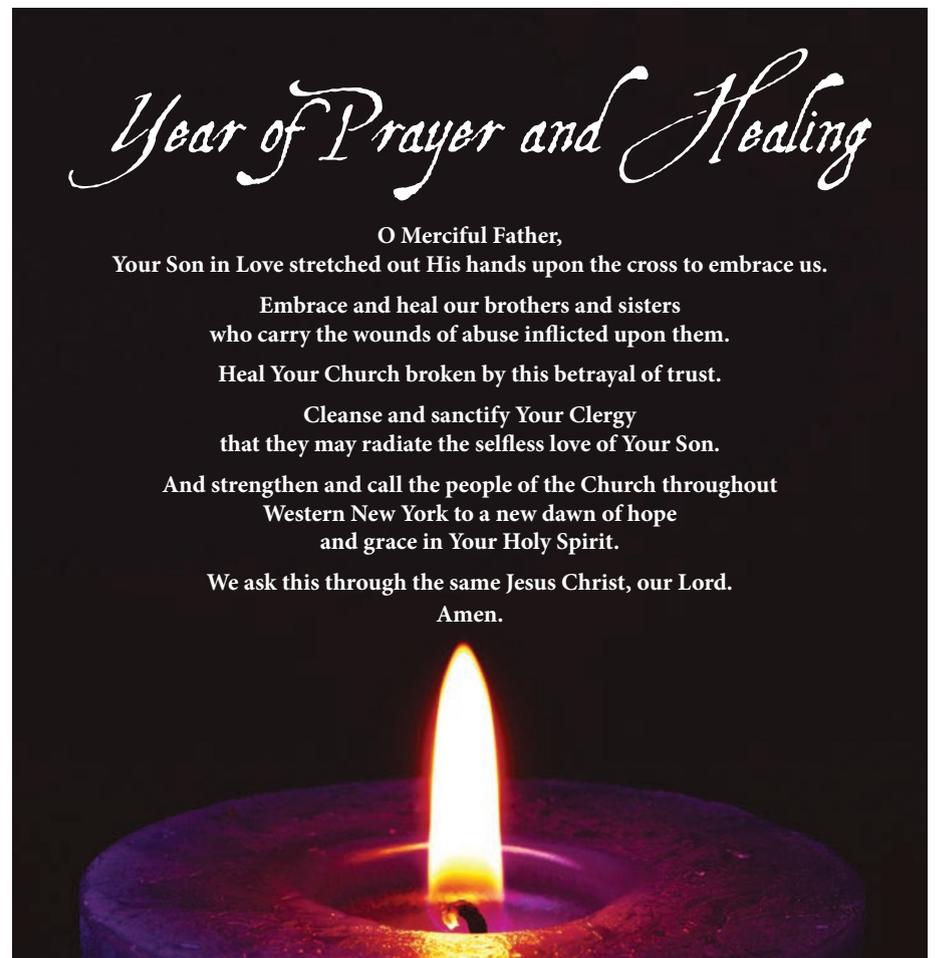
May 21, 6 p.m. Our Lady of Charity Church, 260 Okell St., Buffalo

May 24, 6:30 p.m. Our Lady of Czestochowa, 2158 Clinton St.,

Cheektowaga

June 28, 7 p.m. St. Martin and St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1140 Abbott Road, Buffalo

July 12, 7 p.m. St. John Gualbert, 83 Gualbert Ave., Cheektowaga



# Diocese of Buffalo celebrates Holy Week



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Deacon John Steiner (left) and Deacon Gary Teranna carry the Oil of Catechumens onto the altar during the celebration of the Chrism Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Deacons Moses Ikuelogbon and Gary Andolera carry the cross to the altar at St. Joseph Cathedral during Good Friday Mass.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Flanked by Fellow priests and deacons Bishop Richard J. Malone prostrates himself in front of the altar at St. Joseph Cathedral to begin Good Friday Mass.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A young boy holds a candle at St. Joseph Cathedral during the Easter Vigil Mass.

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# St. Leo's speaker series opens discussion on crisis and suffering

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

St. Leo the Great Parish in Amherst held the second session of its "Let's Talk about ..." speaker series on March 29 with a theme of "Keeping the Faith in Crisis and Suffering." Guest speakers described the suffering they have experienced and seen in others, and explained how they are able to keep their faith in the face of their pain.

"Every one of us has suffered in a different way; some emotional, some spiritual, some physical, some all of it," said Msgr. Robert E. Zapfel, STD, pastor of St. Leo's, as way of introduction. "Sometimes it can seem pretty oppressive. All of us react in different ways to suffering. I think that our faith gives us the grounds, the hope, to go on."

Each of the three panelists gave a short story explaining their suffering.

Father Roy Herberger has been a priest for over 50 years, and spent some time as assistant pastor at St. Leo's. He is well known for his work with the poor. Last year, he was accused of abuse, forcing him to be put on administrative leave and undergo an investigation into the claims, which were later determined to be false. He said he got through his exile with the love of Jesus Christ, Scriptures, and the support and prayers of family and friends.

"That is the same formula that has got me through other crises of faith, and what the Church is currently going through worldwide with its crisis," Father Herberger said.

Jacqueline Joy, victims' assistance

coordinator for the diocese, is the one who answers the calls when someone accuses a member of the Church of abuse. She provides a safe place to talk and share, listens to their stories, provides choice to the victims in making their own decisions about how to proceed in healing, and collaborates with the victims and families to empower them.

"She's the calm voice, she's the reassuring voice, she's the compassionate voice that someone hears on the phone," described Msgr. Zapfel.

Lastly, Jean O'Brien, active in her parish and homeschool association, was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer and is currently facing a healthy prognosis. She has also been deeply affected by the priest abuse crisis.

"Regarding the present sexual abuse crisis in the Church, I feel a child has been betrayed by his own parents. I'm shaken to very depths of my core," O'Brien said, adding she has removed her children from the altar server program and cut ties with Christ the King Seminary.

The audience, which came from the surrounding parishes, were allowed to ask questions of the panelists about struggles they faced or the seek advice on their own personal struggles. Mostly, they made statements or asked questions regarding Church doctrine.

"I don't understand how mental health professionals for years signed off on this debility of these men to be ordained, when they were not stable to be ordained," said one man regarding abusive priests.

Joy explained that over the years

abusive acts have been reexamined and the formation process has increased its teaching on human sexuality.

"Years ago, things were not looked at the way we look at things," Joy said. "I don't think the counselors back then had the knowledge that we have now."

Father Herberger compared pedophilia to alcoholism. It was once believed that rehab could cure both. Now it is known that these conditions are chronic and lifelong. Father Herberger said, in the past, priests would be allowed back into ministry after rehab "out of ignorance."

Prayer seemed to be the answer for those present.

Gregory, a self-labeled Prayer Warrior, has developed a cadre of a couple dozen people who feel his prayers are powerful. Arthritis prevents him from kneeling, so he prays while driving.

"I don't pray for myself. It's almost like a sideways benefit. It's better to give than to receive. You feel good about it," he said. "In prayer, if you're thinking about someone else and thinking about God helping them – you may not even know this person, you have never met this person in life – but you say things to God on their behalf that is prayer."

One woman, Mary, has had 31 operations since 2003. She was recently diagnosed with cancer.

"What I have found that helps me through everything is I stare at the crucified Christ," she said. "When I can't talk, and what I'm talking about now is not just physical pain, but I'm talking about emotional pain and spiritual dryness. All you have to do

is stare at the cross. What He went through for us. I get more joy out of that."

Mary Kate suggests people "be part of the solution" by reporting suspicious behavior.

One audience member asked Joy how she deals with hearing complaints about abuse daily. It can cause "vicarious trauma."

"I have a lot of faith in humanity and man helping man. ... We can all look out for each other, especially those who are most vulnerable, which are our children," Joy replied.

"We have to remember that the Church has gone through crisis after crisis after crisis for over 2,000 years," Father Herberger pointed out. "Crisis is nothing new for the Church, whether it was popes who had mistresses and illegitimate children or popes who have had other possible popes killed. We have quite a history. But because the Holy Spirit continues to lead and guide us, that's what keeps us going despite our human frailties, our human sinfulness. The fact is, this Church that Christ has established continues with the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. And when the Church has gone through some of these crises generations ago or centuries ago, that's when certain new religious communities started, new religious women's communities, new religious men's communities. So, this renews and reinvestigates the faith of the people."

The evening began with a Friday fish fry, followed by Stations of the Cross and music by Sydnie Perkins.

## Hurley is pleased with the progress made by the Diocese of Buffalo and MRT

*From page 10*

J. Hurley, president of Canisius College and one of the leaders of the MRT. "From the start, Bishop Malone has embraced the reform recommendations developed by approximately 150 Catholic lay people who have been working on MRT workgroups since early December. We are working in an active partnership with the diocese to bring hope and healing to the Church in Buffalo. We fully recognize that these first steps are not complete solutions, but the process of restoring trust is underway."

"The work of the JIT, bringing together

representatives of the MRT and the Diocese of Buffalo, is an excellent example of the call for co-responsibility in the church," stated Bishop Malone. "I am encouraged and energized by the work accomplished by the members of the JIT at their first meeting and pledge to continue to collaborate together. I accept and embrace their efforts to assist victim-survivors and our diocese to heal. The dedication and commitment that all the members have for the well-being of our diocese is inspiring and hope-filled in moving forward to restore trust. Over the decades since the Second Vatican Council, there

have been challenges, especially in recent times, to realize the vision the council foresaw for the Church. This is the time to fully embrace healing and also the true vision Vatican II hoped for the Church."

Members of the JIT include MRT representatives Maureen O. Hurley, Dr. Nancy H. Nielsen and Paul D. Bauer. Diocesan representatives are Father Peter Karalus, Msgr. David G. LiPuma, Sister Regina Murphy and Dennis Mahaney. Under the team's charter, developed jointly by the diocese and MRT, the team is reporting to the Bishop and Hurley on behalf of the MRT.

## A call to evangelization of mothers



BY  
**MILAGROS RAMOS**  
Director

The early Christians in England had a celebration for mothers on the fourth Sunday of Lent to honor the mother of Christ. It later included the “Mother Church” and on this day people were expected to return to the mother church from which they would get their strength from the spiritual power which gave them life and protected them from harm. Later on, a religious order made the celebration open to include all mothers and named this occasion Mothering Sunday.

In the United States, this day came to be more for political reasons. Julia Ward Howe wanted an end to the Civil War and wanted the husbands to come back from war. In 1872, Julia Ward organized a day for mothers dedicated to peace. During that time she wrote the Mother’s Day Proclamation and challenged the women of that time to “Arise, then, women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts, whether our baptism is of water or of tears!”

In the year 1907, Anna M. Jarvis a schoolteacher in Philadelphia began a movement that set up national Mother’s Day but was celebrated first in her church on May 10, 1908, and finally in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as national holiday to honor mothers.

Today we can take this opportunity to thank God for the special gift that was given to us, mothers. Especially those mothers who just give us a glimpse of what unconditional love really is.

It’s not easy being a mother today. Many mothers today have to work and sometimes have to work

more than one job in order to have a roof over their families’ heads. They work not because they want to have luxuries in their life, but because they need a warm place to live, health insurance, food, and a way to get back and forth to work. Today, we see mothers who have to endure the pain of seeing their children hurt by acts of racism. Today, we see mothers who have endured the pain of losing a child because they have taken their life or they lost them to opioid crisis. Today, we see the mothers who had to flee with their children from the land of their birth to come to a place they hoped would be better only to see their children taken away from them. How do we reach out to these mothers?

Despite all this suffering we are called to bring the Good News. These mothers’ need to hear the Good News that Jesus Christ rose so that we may have new life. Are we willing to share this with them? We are called to fill that emptiness

and loneliness with Jesus Christ, our Savior.

As Christians we are called to evangelization to witness to your children and to other mothers the truths and values of your faith. Invite mothers to pray with their children. Invite them to pray together when they gather for meals. Teach them to spend time with their children in conversations. Share with other mothers what you believe as a Christian woman. Tell of your love of God and love for your neighbor. Most importantly invite her to make time to let her children know, how much she loves them.

Jesus shared with us his Mother Mary to be our mother here on earth. May the Virgin Mary help keep alive the flame of faith, love and harmony! May the Lord protect and guide all mothers everywhere so that they are able to show their children love as you Lord have loved us. God bless all the mothers. Happy Mother’s Day!

## Un Llamado a la Evangelización de las Madres

Los primeros cristianos en Inglaterra tuvieron una celebración para las madres en el cuarto domingo de Cuaresma para honrar a la Madre de Cristo. Más tarde incluyó a la “Iglesia Madre” y en este día la gente esperaba regresar a la iglesia “madre” de la cual obtendrían su fuerza del poder espiritual que les dio vida y los protegió de cualquier daño. Más tarde, una orden religiosa abrió la celebración para incluir a todas las madres y nombró esta ocasión el domingo de cuidado maternas..

En los Estados Unidos este día llegó a ser más por razones políticas. Julia Ward Howe quería terminar la Guerra Civil y quería que los esposos regresaran de la guerra. En 1872, Julia Ward organizó una jornada para madres dedicadas a la paz. Durante ese tiempo, ella escribió la Proclamación del Día de la Madre y animó a las mujeres de ese tiempo a que “¡Pues, Levántense, las mujeres de este día! ¡Levántense, todas

las mujeres que tienen corazones, aunque sea de su bautismo de agua o de lágrimas!

En el año 1907, Anna M. Jarvis, una maestra de escuela en Philadelphia, inició un movimiento que organizó, Día Nacional de la Madre, pero se celebró primero en su iglesia el 10 de mayo de 1908 y finalmente en 1914, el presidente Woodrow Wilson proclamó el segundo domingo de mayo como El Día Nacional de las Madres. Es un día para honrar a las madres.

Hoy podemos aprovechar esta oportunidad para agradecer a Dios por el regalo especial que nos ha dado, las madres. Especialmente a aquellas madres que nos dan un vistazo de lo que realmente es el amor incondicional.

No es fácil ser madre hoy. Muchas madres hoy tienen que trabajar y, a veces, tienen que trabajar más de un trabajo para tener un techo sobre su familia. Trabajan no porque quieran tener

lujos en su vida, sino porque necesitan un lugar cálido para vivir, un seguro de salud, comida y una forma de ir y venir al trabajo. Hoy vemos madres que tienen que soportar el dolor de ver a sus hijos lastimados por actos de racismo. Hoy vemos madres que han soportado el dolor de perder un hijo porque se han quitado la vida o han perdido su vida en la crisis de los opioides. Hoy vemos a las madres que tuvieron que huir con sus hijos de su tierra natal para llegar a un lugar que esperaban que fuera mejor solo ver a sus hijos arrebatados. ¿Cómo podemos llegar a estas madres?

A pesar de todo este sufrimiento estamos llamados a traer la Buena Nueva. Estas madres necesitan escuchar la Buena Nueva de que Jesucristo resucitó para que podamos tener una nueva vida. ¿Estamos dispuestos a compartir esto con ellas? Estamos llamados a llenar ese vacío y soledad con

Jesucristo nuestro Salvador.

Como cristianos, estamos llamados a la evangelización para dar testimonio a nuestros hijos y a otras madres las verdades y los valores de nuestra fe. Invita a las madres a orar con sus hijos. Invítelos a orar juntos cuando se reúnan para comer. Enséñales a pasar tiempo con sus hijos en conversaciones. Comparte con otras madres lo que crees como mujer cristiana. Habla de tu amor de Dios y de tu prójimo. Lo más importante es invitarla a hacer tiempo para que sus hijos sepan cuánto los ama.

Jesús compartió con nosotros su Madre María para que sea nuestra Madre aquí en la tierra. ¡Que la Virgen María ayude a mantener viva la llama de la fe, el amor y la armonía! Que el Señor proteja y guíe a todas las madres en todas partes para que puedan mostrar amor a sus hijos como el Señor nos ha amado. Dios bendiga a todas las madres. ¡Feliz Día de las Madres!

# NATO military alliance incompatible with Gospel nonviolence

As foreign ministers of the 29 member nations of NATO, gathered in Washington, D.C., on April 3-4 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of this largest military alliance in the world, nonviolent peace activists across the U.S. and from around the world also gathered in Washington to proclaim: “No to NATO – Yes to Peace.”

For six days anti-war proponents participated in justice and peace workshops, rallies, an anti-NATO conference, an end to war concert and a disarmament counter summit (see: <https://worldbeyondwar.org/notonato/>).

The kickoff event was a 20-block peace march starting at Lafayette Square (across the street from the White House). Along with members of the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Washington, D.C., community, I helped carry a banner saying, “No to NATO, No to Nukes” (see video: <https://bit.ly/2WLIeCi>).

But what’s so wrong about NATO? A lot!

According to David Swanson, director of World Beyond War – a global nonviolent movement to end



## Making a Difference

By  
TONY MAGLIANO

war and establish a just and sustainable peace (see: <https://worldbeyondwar.org/>) – NATO members place more value on Russia as an enemy. Anonymous U.S. military officials describe the current cold war as driven by massive profits from weapons sales (see: <http://davidswanson.org/united-states-wants-war-with-russia/>). NATO now accounts for about three-quarters of military spending and weapons dealing on the globe.

After the breakup of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact, NATO promised Russia that it would absolutely not expand eastward. Breaking its promise, NATO added the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Slovenia, Albania and Croatia.

While it is important to note that Russia is also immorally making massive profits from arms sales and is also very militarized, nonetheless, if we are honest, it is understandable that Russia sees NATO – now on its very border – as a dangerous threat.

And with both the U.S. and Russia having hundreds of nuclear weapons aimed at each other, and on hair-trigger/launch on warning alert, we are playing an extremely dangerous game of Russian roulette.

To counter all this madness, level-headed, kind-hearted citizens should urge government leaders to appropriate much less money for NATO related operations with the pressing goal of completely dissolving the military alliance – just as the Warsaw Pact was dissolved. And to transfer these massive military dollars toward insuring that all human beings receive their basic God-given rights of life, nutritious food, clean water, improved sanitation, comprehensive health care, quality education, decent housing, and a livable wage earned in a safe working environment.

Not only would this conversion provide all people with the necessary

means to live, and to live with dignity, but unlike military violence which destroys, insuring universal human rights would also foster lasting world peace.

And most importantly as Christians, we must not be swayed by the violent ways of the world, but rather by the ways that build up the Kingdom of God – love, justice and peace.

Let’s not forget the stern warning of the nonviolent Jesus: “All who take the sword will perish by the sword.”

During his 1979 visit to the Irish people who were suffering from the violence of the “Troubles,” St. John Paul II prophetically declared “that violence is evil, that violence is unacceptable as a solution to problems, that violence is unworthy of man. Violence is a lie, for it goes against the truth of our faith, the truth of our humanity. Violence destroys what it claims to defend: the dignity, the life, the freedom of human beings.”

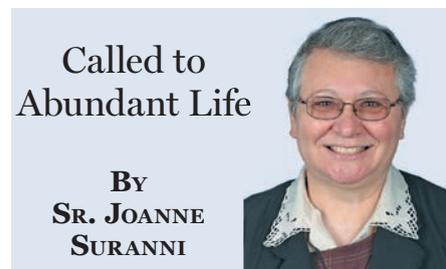
*Tony Magliano is an internationally syndicated social justice and peace columnist. He is available to speak at diocesan or parish gatherings. Tony can be reached at [tmag@zoominternet.net](mailto:tmag@zoominternet.net).*

## When God visits us, will we know?

Signs of summer are everywhere! Sunshine, patio furniture taken out, the barbecue being fired up, shedding of jackets and winter coats – elements that everyone looks forward to. These signs all point to a time of relaxation and an opportunity to vacation, maybe enjoy the water, have a picnic, and maybe even slow down and take a break.

But wait a minute! It’s still spring and the business of spring remains unfinished. There is growth and new life waiting for us as we consider the gift of mothers and the motherhood of Mary. Moving into the marvelous month of May engenders a sense of gratitude for both the women in our lives that we have been privileged to call, “mom” and the motherhood of our heavenly mother, Mary of Nazareth.

The Church gives us a special feast of Mary on the last day of May, the feast of the Visitation to crown the month



## Called to Abundant Life

By  
SR. JOANNE  
SURANNI

and serve as a bridge to the refreshing liturgical life of the summer months. In this tender episode found in the Gospel of Luke (1:39-56), the Blessed Mother travels in haste to the hill country of Judah right after she discovers that she is to be the mother of Christ. Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who although advanced in age, is soon to give birth to John the Baptist.

The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth is a tender and life-giving one. It is easy to imagine the two women greeting one

another with a warm hug, and even more likely that Mary, although with child, and much younger, immediately began to help Elizabeth prepare for the arrival of her baby.

At Mary’s arrival, the baby in Elizabeth’s womb leapt for joy, recognizing the presence of Christ. In this scene the glory of motherhood becomes so alive, and each woman recognizes the presence of God in the other. Beauty, goodness and wisdom are evident in what was surely an affectionate meeting of two women who cared deeply for each other. Elizabeth exclaims to Mary, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” Mary responds with her Magnificat, her prayer of praise which gives God glory and praise for every good she experiences.

The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth demonstrates the sacrificial love and

support of mothers. In these two great women from Scripture we are reminded of our own mothers who loved us into life, and who nurtured and supported us. Mary and Elizabeth’s affection for one another is genuine and their love for the life within them is real. They understand in a profound way, the gift of God in their midst.

The Visitation serves as a reminder that situations sometimes require us to go out of our way to help others as Mary did for Elizabeth. In moments of spiritual awareness, encounter with others becomes encounter with Christ. From time to time, our response makes a difference and we can be bearers of new life.

Moving into summer, we too may travel in haste to visit friends and relatives. Mary and Elizabeth understood that God had visited them. When God visits us will we know?

# Baptism: *Faith in Jesus, Faith of Jesus or both?*

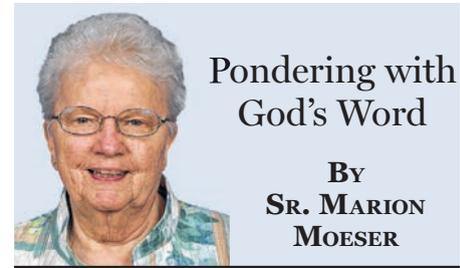
The Easter Vigil includes the Liturgy of baptism with the blessing of baptismal water and the renewal of baptismal promises. The very placement of this liturgy reminds us of St. Paul's teaching that baptism involves dying with Christ and rising to a new life, symbolized dramatically in baptism by immersion.

In the Letter to the Galatians Paul was arguing against some Christian Jews who insisted that to be saved, Gentiles must observe all the Jewish laws including those external works that distinguish Jews, such as circumcision of males. Paul's response to this was to first establish his authority, including the approval of Peter and James. Then, Paul clearly taught that one is not declared righteous by God, justified, saved, through "works of the law" but by faith in/of Jesus. The "in/of" regarding this faith has recently been brought forth as an important distinction.

Chapter 2 of Galatians contains the core of Paul's thoughts on this "faith." In 2:16 one finds "... we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be declared righteous by faith in/of Christ." This holds that we have believed in Christ Jesus, in who he is, what he has done for us and all that he teaches in the gospels. One profoundly understands that Jesus' way of life is the way of life intended by God.

What of the "faith in/of Christ?" The most recent study of the two words "faith" and "Christ" in the Greek stress that there is have no word for "by" or "of," either could hold. But the context of Paul's use of these words implies that we should read "faith of Christ."

The key verse in this regard is 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me: the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of/in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."



## Pondering with God's Word

BY  
SR. MARION  
MOESER

"I have been crucified with Christ" is a reference to baptism as dying and rising with Christ. Paul follows this with "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Christ living within him allows Paul to conclude: "the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me." Paul implies that the faith of the Son of God is within him; God's Son's faith is what he lives by. Finally, "who loved me and gave himself for me" is a reference to the death of Jesus.

One can conclude that through

baptism, one is gifted to live by the faith of Jesus, to practice and develop the "type of faith" that Jesus practiced in worship and ethical behavior, knowing that Jesus' faith led to his death and accepting to do the same. Remembering that Jesus was fully human in all but sin (Hebrews 4:15) and experienced the real trials of human life without detailed knowledge of the future, his life of faith teaches us the way to God.

Then from verse 2:16 we understand that living by the faith of Jesus we resemble him and therefore are and will be declared by God to be blameless, upright, saved. From Paul's understanding, this is what we have done in baptism and what we pledge to do when we renew our baptismal promises, not just recite words of the creed, words of belief, but live the faith Christ himself displayed in his earthly life. We believe in Jesus Christ and live the faith of God's Son, Jesus.

# The ever-recurring confrontation between Christ and Caesar

I have recently been reading a book entitled "In Solitary Witness: The life and death of Franz Jagerstatter" by Gordon Zahn. Zahn was a professor of sociology at Loyola University, but more importantly, he had been a conscientious objector during the Second World War.

It is because of Professor Zahn's book in 1964 that a fellow conscientious objector, Franz Jagerstatter, became better known. Unfortunately, Jagerstatter suffered a more dire fate than Zahn did, being beheaded by the Nazis in 1943 for refusing to serve in the army when called up to service.

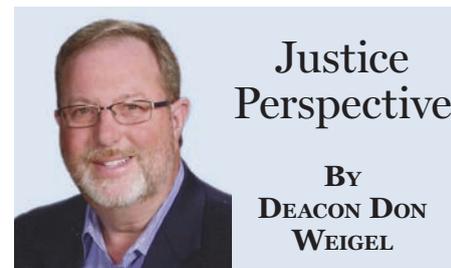
Zahn calls Jagerstatter's courageous act a "lesson set forth for us by a humble peasant giving solitary witness in a community so small that it lacks almost all the customary civil autonomies ... Yet in this unlikely setting an extraordinary act of rebellion took place ... nothing less than a repetition of an old story, the ever-recurring confrontation between Christ and Caesar."

Later this month, on May 21, we

will celebrate Franz Jagerstatter's feast day, having been beatified in 2007 by Pope Benedict XVI. A man of conscience, a man of peace, and declared a martyr by the apostolic exhortation of the pope, Jagerstatter's feast day should create some considerations in our own minds about our own willingness to object in conscience to our present culture that esteems war and funds increasingly outrageous budgets to support it.

Conscientious objection to military service has disappeared as an issue in recent years since we have an all-volunteer army. Still, we need to keep in mind the support that the Church has given to such a stand of conscience, and even the approval of those who declare themselves to be pacifists.

In the midst of the Vietnam War, the U.S. bishops issued a startling document entitled "Statement on the Catholic Conscientious Objector." In supporting conscientious objectors, the bishops said, "A Catholic viewing his tradition, the message of the Gospel statements,



## Justice Perspective

BY  
DEACON DON  
WEIGEL

could validly question and abstain from participation in war or the preparations for war."

Most notably, the bishops began their document with these words: "Since apostolic times, the Church has cherished and valued the spirit of nonviolence based on the teaching of Jesus. This is one of the reasons Christians of the early Church did not participate in military service. There was even a strong tendency toward pacifism."

These words were introduced to me in 1972 when I had received my Selective Service notice, classified 1-A and had number 65 in the lottery – almost a sure sign I would be drafted into service. I had adopted pacifism as

a part of my Catholic faith a few years before, and had been counseled by a priest who was one of my high school teachers.

Since most draft boards were not granting Catholics C.O. status, I was sure that I would be convicted and jailed. Fortunately, I was spared that fate since the war was winding down and I was reclassified and put "on hold."

Today we have the opportunity to oppose war, to object in conscience, to the incessant build-up of military budgets and weapons of mass destruction while other expenditures that reduce poverty, help the least among us, and promote human dignity are constantly being threatened.

On Blessed Franz Jagerstatter's feast day, perhaps we need to reflect on his words from prison: "Now anyone who is able to fight for both kingdoms (of God and State) and stay in good standing in both communities ... such a man, in my opinion, would have to be a great magician. I for one cannot do so."

I'm not sure any of us can.

## Poulin named director of the Office of Sacramental and Family Life

In early April, Father Peter Karalus, announced the appointment of Maureen Poulin as director of the Office of Sacramental and Family Life, a newly-created position and department.

“The office serves to support a unified vision of the family as an agent of Christian discipleship within parishes,” said Father Karalus, moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Buffalo. He explained that the office will focus on the sacramental preparation for baptism, marriage and RCIA, as well as strengthen and assist in developing ministry in family life formation to those in non-sanctioned unions, crisis and life transition.

Poulin, a native of Massachusetts who spent most of her life in Kansas City, Mo., said the Church prepares people for Communion, baptism and marriage, but doesn’t always work with them concerning what happens after that. She hopes the new office fills in the gaps for people

between the sacraments. “The focus will become development of parish/vicariate teams to better connect and accompany individuals, couples, families in living their lives as a sacramental people,” she said.

According to Dennis Mahaney, director of the Office for Evangelization and Parish Life, Poulin will work closely with parish leaders. “The role of the parish is to support the vitality of the domestic Church,” he said. “The role of the diocesan staff is to support the vitality of the parish.”

Mahaney explained that the priorities in this position, which falls under the evangelization division, are robust marriage preparation and enrichment, formation of parish leaders, pastoral care and support, and to support and encourage couples and young families.

It is likely that young couples seeking to marry in the Catholic faith will encounter Poulin or the fruits of her labor throughout their



MAUREEN POULIN

marriage years. First, they would plan for the sacrament of marriage through pre-Cana classes and later work with their parish in planning for the baptism of their children. As the years pass, the parish can assist a couple in navigating their most difficult years and possibly foster a desire for parish leaders or formation. The church is also there for pastoral care and to reach out

to those in blended families, even working with those who wish to convert to Catholicism.

Poulin has an extensive background which complements her new position. With a bachelor’s degree in education and a master’s degree in counseling and guidance, she went on to earn an education specialist degree and a degree in theology. Poulin has worked as an elementary school teacher, counselor, special education diagnostician and principal, serving in both public and Catholic schools. Her seven years as a pastoral associate in Kansas City provides her with an understanding of the demands on parish staff and the types of support that could be useful to them.

After relocating to Western New York in 2014 to be closer to her son and his family, Poulin worked in the Catholic Center as associate director in the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation until beginning her new position on April 8.

## Finding the seeds of the word in a challenging world

BY DEACON WILLIAM HYNES  
Office of Evangelization  
and Parish Life

There are profound challenges for Catholics today. It seems like the whole world is allied against what we believe. TV, movies, social media, popular music, newspapers and politicians are proclaiming things that seem diametrically opposed to what we believe. Perhaps most distressingly, our neighbors, coworkers, and even our own children, sometimes hold views about God, human life and success that run counter to our deepest convictions. We are challenged on every corner. Yet, in spite of the difficulties we face, we know that despair is never a Christian option.

So, what can we do in the face of such deep, widespread disagreement? Let’s start by remembering that for the first 300 years or so, Christians faced a situation similar to ours. Their



DEACON BILL HYNES

beliefs were not widely accepted; in fact, they were often mocked. Christianity then was far from being the cultural norm it would become hundreds of years later.

St. Justin Martyr (c. AD 150) instructed Christians to look for the “seeds of the Word.” The Word is the Son of God. It is this Word

who “became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14). Jesus alone is THE Truth, but His truthful rays are everywhere. St. John Paul II explained “seeds of the Word” in “Redemptoris mission” (56): “Through dialogue, the Church seeks to uncover the seeds of the Word, a ray of that Truth which enlightens all men; these are found in individuals and in their religious traditions of mankind.” The “seeds of the Word” are points of contact, truths we can build upon, that exist even in the midst of deep, widespread disagreement.

The evangelization writings of recent popes from St. Paul VI through Pope Francis implore us to find these “seeds of the Word” even in those with whom we most disagree. The popes call on us, time and time again, to build on these rays of truth found in the modern world.

Pope Francis recently gave us a great example. On his historic

visit to the United Arab Emirates in February, he signed “A Document on Human Fraternity with the Grand Imam of Al-Alzhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyeb. Pope Francis articulated the many “seeds of the Word” we share with Islam. Certainly, the Church has had deep and widespread disagreements with Islam historically, and many of these disagreements remain, but Pope Francis and Imam Al-Tayyeb listened deeply to each other. The document shows that they brought out the best in each other.

Can we do the same in our daily lives? Can we listen to our friends, coworkers, and children more deeply and uncover the fundamental truths that reflect God our Creator? Our faith will be strengthened in the process. They, in turn, may recognize God’s presence in their lives in a new way through you. Look for the “seeds of the Word” around you. And do not be afraid of the world’s challenges! God is there too.

# Mount Mercy Academy holds Career Day

Mount Mercy Academy's guidance department and Alumnae Association recently sponsored a career day for the students. The event featured a panel discussion with eight successful alumnae from a variety of fields. The event was titled "Girls Can Do Anything."

The panelists included Peggy Klavoon Cannan '06, Claire Kelley '07, Mary Reidy '07, Peggy Shea Sherber '04, Susan Dzierzewski Steblein '01, Jessica Turner '02, Susan Anderson Was '99 and Dr. Megan Wierchowski '06.

The alumnae provided a brief synopsis of their educational backgrounds and their career paths and then answered questions for junior student moderator, Olivia Larson.

Cannan, a physical therapist for Kaleida Health, spoke of how her athletic background led her to athletic training and then her interests expanded to include a spectrum of possibilities when she added physical therapy. She told the students to make the best of their opportunities at Mount Mercy to learn to express themselves and to gain confidence in an all-female environment.

Kelley, an assistant controller at Lawley Insurance, told the students that it was important to realize that their education will never stop, even after attaining a college degree. Kelley was inspired to follow her mother's career path.

Riedy, a clinical staff pharmacist at Oishei Children's Hospital, knew from an early age she wanted a career in the medical field, but did not have

an interest in hands on care. She followed her interests into attaining board certification in pediatric pharmacotherapy. She informed students that her position is a career, not a job, as she takes the experiences of work home with her, particularly the emotional aspects.

Sherber brought a different perspective to the panel, as she is the chief of staff for Buffalo Common Council Member Chris Scanlon. She has varied responsibilities in her job, a job that she told students she had not aspired to and initially had turned down. She counseled the students that it was perfectly acceptable not to know what they wanted to do right away and not to feel stressed out if they were uncertain. "Take every opportunity that is given to you to do your best. Always try to make a favorable impression, because you never know when that will open up an opportunity for you in the future," Sherber said.

Steblein, a certified public accountant with Freed Maxick CPAs, PC and a senior tax manager chose accounting after she was unable to find a job in her college major. She went back to school for accounting because of the plethora of jobs available and she has never regretted that decision. She encouraged students to take advantage of volunteer opportunities and shadow someone in the fields they are interested in.

Turner, a manager in business development at New Era Cap World Headquarters, found her career path through her interest in athletics. A standout basketball player in both high school and college, Turner told

the students to find something that they are passionate about and to pursue it. She advised the audience that it is perfectly acceptable not to know what they want to do right away. "Be sure to know your worth and to go into all your experiences with confidence. You don't belong in a box and you should never be satisfied just to be the only woman in a room," Turner said. She also counseled the students to turn negative experiences and struggles to push harder to achieve success.

As the director of Human Services at Curbell Inc., Was, also went back to school after graduating from college. She was able to advise the students on how to succeed in interviews and body language. "The only thing that you can control in life or a job situation is how you represent yourself," Was said.

Wierchowski, a family practice physician at Primary Care of Western New York chose medicine after helping her uncle through his cancer struggles while she was in high school. She stressed the importance of working hard in college to achieve career goals. She also advised students to take advantage of volunteer and shadowing opportunities.

Junior Natalie Redmond of Buffalo appreciated the opportunity to listen to the panel. "It was very enlightening and it definitely helped me as I prepare for my future," Redmond said.

"It was inspiring listening to so many empowered, independent and successful women," senior Alana Szumla said. "It was awesome to see how they have done so well in a male-dominated society."

## Sound Board

### A goal of post-Lenten fasting

BY MEGAN FRAWLEY  
UB Newman Center

During the Easter season, I always find myself going back to the things that I fasted from during Lent. Why do we fast from something and then just quit once Easter comes? Yes, sacrificing things is difficult and it's important for us to rejoice in Easter, but if we can survive throughout Lent with our fasting, why should we not fast from it for the rest of our lives?

When I fast, I am typically fasting from something that is not healthy for me or just something I don't need. Ever since I was little, I remember having fasted from dessert at dinner time. Dessert is something that I don't need, and because I don't need it, I want to try to permanently fast from it. It is not that big of a thing to continue doing, but it can help me be healthier.

Also during Lent, I do my best to be a generally nicer person. I try hard to fast from being judgmental. It's not that easy because, honestly, it's difficult to not judge anybody. I try to do my best to have a lighter attitude and dismiss negative thoughts as well. These are things that I believe are important for living a good Catholic life, not just a good Lenten life.

Once Lent is over, I end up going back to the way I was, being less happy and not holding back harsh words. I think it is important, especially in ways that affect other people and their overall well-being, that I keep fasting in this way.

Continuing fasting is something that I think many people could do even once Lent is over. I know that I should feel just as bad about my poor words or actions throughout the year, not only when I realize I broke my fast in Lent. With Lenten fasting, there's an end date in mind, but I think it would be more beneficial to my spirit to be able to say that the fast has become a lifetime.



COURTESY OF MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY

Mount Mercy Academy's guidance department and Alumnae Association recently sponsored a career day for the students.

# Successful 2018 Retirement Fund for Religious campaign

**SISTER JEAN THOMPSON, OSF**  
Coordinator, Retirement Fund for Religious

More than \$650,000 was collected in the Diocese of Buffalo during the 2018 Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal. This total includes donations received from throughout the United States through the "Share in the Care" website which is sponsored by the Religious Retirement Fund in the Diocese of Buffalo. Donations to this site can be made online throughout the year.

Religious congregations that have applied to the National Religious Retirement Office for funds from the 2018 National Campaign will be informed of the amount they will receive in early summer 2019. Funds are determined at the National level according to the documented needs of the religious congregations. In order to receive Direct Care Assistance religious institutes are required to submit demographic and financial

data to the National Religious Retirement Office.

In addition to providing Direct Care Assistance to religious congregations in need of funds to provide care for their retired religious, the campaign provides funds for advisement and professional assistance for those congregations in need of services to plan for their future needs. The national staff continues to be available to lend their expertise to local congregations seeking to make prudential decisions regarding living facilities, collaborative ventures and other consultation that may be necessary.

Parish collections in the diocese continue to be the most significant source of donations to the local Retirement Campaign. Online donations from around the United States are also included in the totals collected in the Diocese of Buffalo total. We are especially grateful to all who have taken an active role in making the continuing need known to

the members of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Buffalo.

On behalf of the more than 600 Women and Men Religious in the Diocese of Buffalo and the thousands throughout the United States, I thank you and ask for your continued

prayerful and financial support in 2019. May all who have contributed to this collection over more than three decades know of the gratitude and continued prayers of those who have been helped by their continuing generosity.



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**USNews**

2017-18

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9:00am, 12:00Noon, and 5:00pm  
Rosary Procession and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament, 3:00pm

**Weekday Masses**  
11:30am and 4:00pm  
Confessions heard before each Mass  
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament:  
Wed. & Fri. 12:00Noon - 4:00pm

**BIBLE REFLECTION GROUP**  
Mondays 7:30pm w/ Fr. Peter Calabrese, CRSP

**Saturday, May 4 - FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS**  
11:00am Rosary & Confessions      3:30pm Rosary Procession & Confessions  
11:30am Mass      4:00pm Mass  
12:15pm Adoration & Benediction

**Sunday, May 5 - MARY'S DAY CROWNING**  
3:00pm Rosary Procession, Crowning of Procession Statue of Mary, and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament

**Sunday, May 5 - HEALING MASS**  
6:30pm Fr. Richard Poblocki Music Ministry: Bobak Family

**Sunday, May 12 - MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST**  
10:00am - 2:00pm Mothers and Grandmothers 1/2 price

**Sunday, May 12 - MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA begins**  
Call Office at (716) 754-7489 for information and enrollment cards.

**Monday, May 13 - SOLEMNITY of OUR LADY OF FATIMA**  
7:00pm Rosary      7:30pm Mass in honor of Our Lady of Fatima

**Sat., June 1 - FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS** (See above for schedule)

**Sun., June 2 - HEALING MASS** 6:30pm Fr. Bill Quinlivan Music: Mary Palmer

**Sat., June 8 - ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA PILGRIMAGE** 12:00N - 5:00pm

**Sat., June 15 - GARDEN PARTY & FLOWER SHOW FUNDRAISER** 3:00 - 7:30pm

**FRIDAY FISH FRY** • 11:00am - 7pm  
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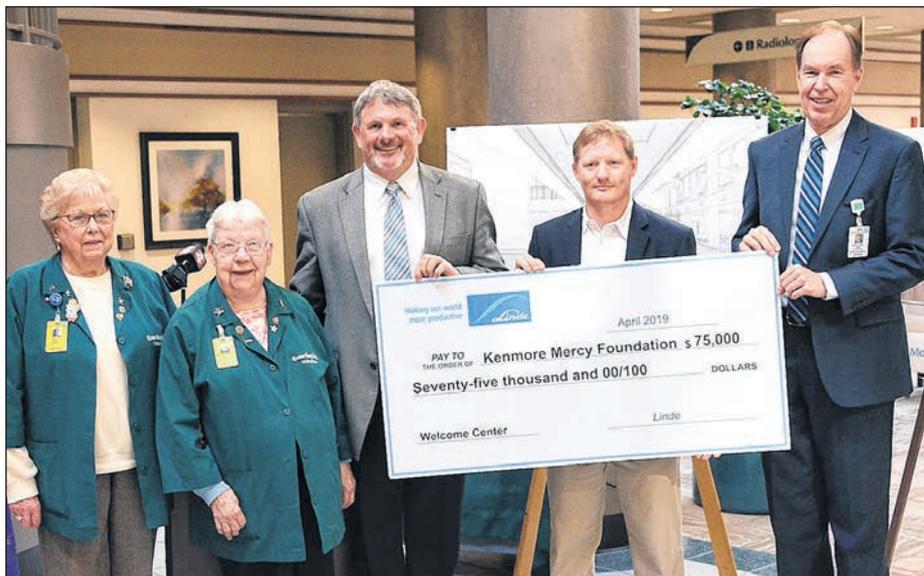


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# Linde helps Kenmore Mercy Hospital provide a welcoming first impression



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kenmore Mercy Hospital front desk volunteer Pat Farrel (left to right); Sister Norine Truax; Terry Bourgeois, Linde Technology Center Site Director; Mark Keller, Kenmore Mercy Foundation President; and KMH President and CEO Walt Ludwig gather in the main lobby of the hospital where Linde presented a \$75,000 check to the hospital to build a new reception center near the main entrance.

Kenmore Mercy announced a major gift from the industrial gases group Linde to the Kenmore Mercy Foundation. The \$75,000 gift, which comes from Linde's Global Giving Program, is earmarked to construct a new welcome center at the front entrance of the hospital.

Having a warm and inviting space at the first point of entry is a high priority for health care facilities like Kenmore Mercy that see thousands of patients and visitors each day.

"First impressions matter. Whether walking into a hotel, a department store or a hospital, your first experience stays with you throughout the entire visit," said Walt Ludwig, president and CEO of Kenmore Mercy Hospital. "Our patients and their visitors deserve no less than our best."

Not only will the new welcome center provide better sight lines to visitors entering the hospital,

it will improve patient and visitor flow to their final destination. It will also provide additional space and a more comfortable setting for volunteers and security personnel to respond to inquiries during peak times at the hospital's main information desk.

"Linde is proud to provide support in the community where we live and serve," Terry Bourgeois, Linde Technology Center site director, said. "We are pleased to continue to help our neighbor Kenmore Mercy Hospital enhance its patient experience. The hospital is a vital part of the local community."

"We are both thrilled and grateful for Linde's generosity and commitment to the Kenmore community," said Susan Jandzinski, executive director for the Kenmore Mercy Foundation.

The hospital has slated June 2019 as the construction start date.

## South-East Buffalo Vicariate

*'Behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you...  
Then he led them out, raised his hands, and blessed them.'*  
(L.K. 24:49-50)

### Vicariate Mass of Reparation and Healing at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr

May 30, 2019

The Ascension of the Lord

6:00 p.m. Confessions, Rosary and May devotions

7:00 p.m. Mass

### Parish dedicated Holy Hours and Services to Reparation and Healing in the Vicariate

Thurs. May 2 at 7:00 pm Corpus Christi • 199 Clark St. Bflo.

Fri. May 3 at 6:30 pm St. Stanislaus Church • 389 Peckham St. Bflo.

Fri. May 3 at 9:00 am-3:00 pm St. Teresa • 1974 Seneca St., Bflo.

Mass & Eucharistic Adoration

Fri. May 3 at 8:30 am St. Andrew • 34 Francis Ave., Sloan

Fri. May 3 at 8:30 am St. Casimir • 160 Cable St., Bflo.

Mass Exposition to 1:30 pm

Tues. May 7 at 7:00 pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
115 O'Connell St., Bflo.

Tues. May 14 at 6:30 pm St. Bernard • 1990 Clinton St., Buffalo

Tues. May 21 at 6:00 pm Our Lady of Charity • 260 Okell St., Buffalo

Fri. May 24 6:30 pm Our Lady of Czestochowa • 2158 Clinton St.,  
Cheektowaga

Fri. June 28 at 7:00 pm St. Martin/St. Thomas Aquinas  
1140 Abbott Rd., Buffalo

Fri. July 12 at 7:00 pm St. John Gualbert • Gualbert Ave., Buffalo

*Year of Prayer and Healing*

# ‘Nones’ rise amid declining church attendance, survey shows

WASHINGTON D.C. — Church membership in the United States has dropped considerably in the last two decades, and the number of people who say they have no religion has increased, a new report from Gallup shows.

The decline in “membership” of a specific church or parish community appears especially pronounced among Catholics and young people.

Nearly one out of three millennials, defined as people born between 1980 and 2000, describe themselves as having no religion. Of the 68 percent who said they do have a religious faith, only 57 percent said they belong to a church.

Twenty years ago, when members of “Generation X” were the same age as millennials, 62 percent — nearly two out of three — were members of a church. Today, 54 percent of Generation X members belong to a church, and 79 percent said they have a religious belief of some sort.

Those born in 1945 or earlier were the most religious age group surveyed. Only 9 percent said they did not have a religion, and nearly three out of four believers consider themselves to “belong” to a church.

Since 1998-2000, the percentage of Catholics who say they belong to a church has dropped by 13 points. In 1998-2000, 76 percent of Catholics said they were members of a church. By 2016-2018, this figure had dropped to 63 percent.

Church “membership” is difficult to tabulate among Catholics. Parish membership is primarily defined in canon law according to residence in the territory of a parish.

While many parishes operate registration programs for sacramental or pastoral purposes, “registration” does not actually define or confirm belonging to the parish community, which is conferred de facto by domicile within the territory of the parish.

In Catholic theology, Church “membership” is not ordinarily defined by registration or self-identity.

Even without taking this into account, according to the data American Catholics still appear belong to churches at higher rates than nondenominational Protestants. Only 57 percent of Americans who call themselves “nondenominational” are members of a church.

Both of these figures lag behind Protestants affiliated with a denomination, as well as Mormons. Seventy percent of denominational Protestants, and 90 percent of Mormons say they belong to churches. Mormons, unlike Catholics and Protestants, have kept relatively stable church membership numbers of the past 20 years.

Women were considerably more likely than men to say they belong to churches, with 58 percent of women

and 47 percent of men identifying themselves as church members. Membership among men and women experienced a large decline in the last 20 years, with men dropping by 17 points, and women by 15.

All demographic categories now say they belong to churches at a lower rate than they did 20 years ago.

The demographics that experienced the smallest decline were Protestants (which Gallup combined with people who identify simply as “Christian”) and Republicans, who dropped six points and eight points, respectively.

Conversely, Hispanics and Democrats both dropped 23 percentage points in church membership over the last 20 years. Democrats dropped from 71 percent to 48 percent, and Hispanics from 68 to 45. Those between the ages of 18 and 29 were not far behind, declining by 22 points from 1998.

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Moms may choose a \$4.99 entrée from the menu above with the purchase of any entrée \$9.99 or greater. Valid at Tully's Buffalo and Clarks Summit locations only. Rules and restrictions apply. Visit [TullysGoodTimes.com](http://TullysGoodTimes.com) for more details.

## New location, later date for the Rev. Bednar Golf Tournament

### Event benefits Christ the King Seminary and will be held at Brookfield Country Club

EAST AURORA – The 16th annual Rev. Merrick Bednar Memorial Golf Tournament to support Christ the King Seminary is moving from May to June and is also switching to a new venue. The 2019 event will be held on Monday, June 17, at Brookfield Country Club in Clarence.

Last year's tournament netted \$58,000 and organizers report this year's goal is to raise close to \$61,500. Proceeds from the tournament help educate men and women studying at the seminary in East Aurora to become priests, deacons and lay ministers.

There are several ways supporters can participate in this tournament, including becoming an event sponsor or taking part in many golfing opportunities. Golf sponsorship packages range from \$200 to \$5,000.

Father Bednar, an Olean native and an avid golfer and athlete, graduated from Christ the King Seminary and was ordained on May 12, 1990. He overcame numerous health issues including heart transplant surgery, post-transplant lymphoma, and a pre-leukemia condition requiring a bone marrow transplant before his untimely death at



the age of 33 on May 12, 1997, while waiting for a suitable match for a second heart transplant. Most remarkably, Father Bednar died on the seventh anniversary of his ordination.

Registration will take place at 10:30 a.m. lunch will begin at 11 a.m. A noon shotgun start will kick off the tournament. Cocktails and dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m.

This year's tournament chair is Keith Waldron, president and owner of Schwabel Fabricating Company. Personal Touch Food Service is this year's tournament sponsor.

Christ the King Seminary is a graduate school of theology and pastoral ministry. Its main mission is to educate sponsored candidates for ordained priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church. The seminary also serves in the formation of permanent deacons and lay ecclesial ministers and provides the theological education necessary for students to help carry on the mission of the Church. Christ the King Seminary is located at 711 Knox Road, East Aurora.

For more information contact Laura DeMizio, special events coordinator of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, at 716-847-8373, [ldemizio@buffalodiocese.org](mailto:ldemizio@buffalodiocese.org) or visit [www.bednargolf.com](http://www.bednargolf.com).

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COURTESY OF THE CENTER FOR RENEWAL

Denise Turcotte, Norman Comtois and Dorothy Landry will present the Mystical Perspective of Early and Cosmic Consciousness at the Center for Renewal June 19-25.

## Mystical Perspective of Earth and Cosmic Consciousness Retreat at Stella Niagara

STELLA NIAGARA — Stella Niagara's Center of Renewal invites the public to the Mystical Perspective of Early & Cosmic Consciousness retreat week June 19-25.

Presented by the team of Norman Comtois, OMI; Dorothy Landry, CAGS; and Denise Turcotte, CSC, this retreat stresses the interrelatedness of the spiritual journey and the evolutionary story. It will explore foundational topics of ecology, mysticism and cosmology. The retreat will involve group meditation and Four Directions body prayer; daily teachings on a particular theme, including Sacredness of Creation, Paradigm Shift, Awakening Consciousness, Centration, Cataclysm and Radiance; reflective exercises to personalize and integrate daily themes; rituals, sharing, ample time for reflection and pensive exploration of over 100 scenic acres at Stella Niagara.

Pre-registration due by June 5. The spiritual retreat will begin with

Wednesday dinner on June 19 and end with lunch on June 25. Call 716-754-7376, ext. 2 for a detailed flier and/or to pre-register by phone.

Currently celebrating its 45th anniversary year in retreat center ministry, Center of Renewal Retreat & Conference Center at Stella Niagara is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, Holy Name Province. Located only two miles north of the Village of Lewiston and Artpark, Stella Niagara's Center of Renewal is an all-in-one-building retreat house that can provide overnight retreats and conferences for almost 100 individuals with multiple meeting rooms for groups of varying sizes. Enjoy over 100 acres of tranquil, natural beauty located on the Lower Niagara River adjacent to the Stella Niagara Preserve of the Western New York Land Conservancy.

More details on these and other 2019 retreats are available by calling 716-754-7376 or by visiting [stellaniagararetreats.org](http://stellaniagararetreats.org).



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Official Diocesan Shrine to St. Jude

PASTORAL MINISTRY TO THE  
 BUFFALO NIAGARA  
 MEDICAL CAMPUS

### MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday 11 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 3:30 p.m. Harlan/Swift Auditorium at Buffalo General Medical Center

4:30 p.m. St. Jude Center

Sunday 8:45 a.m. • 10 a.m. (Hungarian) • 11:15 a.m. • 12:30 p.m. (English)

Novena to St. Jude every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Every First Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### ONGOING EVENTS

Bereavement Support Group every first Tuesday from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

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## Courage & EnCourage

Courage and EnCourage are respectively two spiritual support groups helping Catholic men and women - and their families - to live in accordance with the Catholic Church's pastoral teaching on homosexuality.

Courage was founded in 1980 by His Eminence Cardinal Terence Cooke, Archbishop of New York, and continues to be sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York. There are now approximately 90 chapters of Courage and EnCourage in the United States, Canada and worldwide.

### Next Meeting Dates

EnCourage Sunday, May 12, at 2pm • Holy Angels Church, Buffalo

Courage Thursday, May 16, at 7pm • (call for location)

To contact the Buffalo, NY Chapter please call (716) 559-3099

All Contacts Confidential

"Each Christian's everyday life is not only a gift from God, but also a life that he or she can return to the Divine Giver. One's labor, toil and sorrow, along with one's rest, triumph and joy become a prayerful offering ... dedicated to union with God" ("The Spirituality of Courage").

# Come celebrate Pentecost with the Sisters of St. Mary at a multi-cultural festival and 200th anniversary

How do you celebrate 200 years of God's fidelity, of faith, of following the Gospel, of outreach to the poor, of seeking change through gentleness, of mission, and of devotion to discovering the mystery of the Incarnation?

You do it "in simplicity and joy."

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur are celebrating the 200th anniversary of their founding with a special Pentecost event, a coming together of all the nations. This Pentecost event on June 9, will be a wonderful sharing of gifts. For 200 years, the sisters have witnessed God's creative gifts given, received and shared. And now they wish to join in offering them back to God in a colorful quilt of song, dance, story and music.

An international congregation, serving in nine countries on four

continents, the Sisters of St. Mary have invited various musical, singing and dancing groups from Western New York to come to Mount St. Mary Academy's auditorium, 3756 Delaware Ave., Kenmore. This free event is being organized to highlight humankind's connectedness. Whether it be through joyous songs, hymns or dances, with men and women's choruses, gesture groups, high school and elementary school choirs, poetry and story all express the diversity, the unity and the humanity that the sisters have experienced.

There will be a narrative surrounding the performances. Refreshments will be served in the cafeteria following the entertainment.

The following groups have graciously accepted to share their

gifts:

Mount St. Mary Academy, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, St. Andrew's Country Day School, Kenmore's St. John the Baptist School, DeSales Catholic School, The Buffalo Chorale Arts Society,

St. Martin de Porres Choir, The African-American Cultural Center, Clann Na Cara Irish Dancers, St. Martin de Porres Parish Choir, Holy Cross Gesture Group, SGTV Edelweiss and Our Lady of Hope Parish Music Ministry.



iSTOCK PHOTO

COME  
CELEBRATE  
WITH US:

The 200th  
Anniversary  
of the  
Founding  
of the Sisters  
of St. Mary  
of Namur

## June 9, 2019 - Celebration of the Spirit

A Pentecost celebration of gratitude from the Sisters featuring multi-cultural artistic groups. Mount St. Mary Auditorium 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. All our families, friends, former students and associates are welcome. No reservations required.

## Sept. 29, 2019 - Mass of Thanksgiving

3:00 pm Mass of Thanksgiving and Re-Commitment presided by Most Rev. Richard J. Malone at Our Lady of Hope, Buffalo.

## Future Events:

**June 2, 2019** - St. John the Baptist, 12:00 pm Mass followed by a reception in the Reina Community Room in honor of the Sisters for current and former members of St. John's Parish and students of St. John's School

**June 23, 2019** - St. Paul, 11:00 am Mass followed by a reception honoring the Sisters of St. Mary in the new Parish Center for current and former parishioners and students.

**August 27, 2019** - Anniversary of the Arrival of the Sisters in Lockport in 1863 4:30 pm Mass in All Saints Church followed by Supper For more information contact Sr. Mary Asarese 716-433-3966.

**Sept. 15, 2019** - Mount St. Mary Alumnae 9:00 am Mass and Honors. Contact Joan McDonough jmcDonough@mamacademy.org for more information



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# St. Gianna Center opens new Cheektowaga location

BY PATRICK J. BUECHI  
Staff Reporter

The Office of Pro-Life Activities welcomed a new addition to its family of services to mothers and families in need with the opening of St. Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Center's newest location on April 2. The former Infant of Prague School in Cheektowaga will serve as a sorting and distribution center for clothes, toys and other needs for wee ones.

"We're going to service families from here," explained Cheryl Zielen-Ersing, coordinator for the center. "It will give us some additional storage space as well, but it will definitely be an active center. We'll serve families from here. We'll have appointments. We'll also have volunteers coming here every week to help sort things and take care of incoming donations."

St. Gianna's now has locations in Niagara Falls, Olean and Fredonia run by volunteers, as well as the main center in downtown Buffalo, next to St. Joseph Cathedral, run by two full-time employees.

Father Ryszard Biernat, secretary for Bishop Richard J. Malone, filled in for the bishop and blessed the new center, located off of Cleveland Drive near the I-90. They prayed for the people who built the school and for those who will come through the doors seeking help with their babies.

"May all who come here know the presence of Christ, experience the joy of his friendship, and grow in His love," Father Biernat said before sprinkling holy water through out the room.

Cheryl Calire, director of Pro-Life Activities for the diocese, thanked the couple dozen volunteers who attended the opening.

"People often ask, 'What can I do?' First and foremost, please keep us in your prayers. Prayers are what has gotten us this far, I'm certain of it. And depending on what you are able, the biggest things you can do for us really is to spread the word that we are here and let people know that they can help, they can volunteer, they can knit blankets, they help with the pieces of our drapes that we need



PATRICK J. BUECHI/STAFF

Cheryl Zielen-Ersing (left), coordinator of the St. Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Center, speaks to Adambu Ejimadu who is looking to volunteer at the new St. Gianna's location in the former Infant of Prague School in Cheektowaga. The new location was blessed April 2 with many volunteers and donations ready to be given to needy mothers and children.

to get done. There's always a project," Calire said.

Volunteers and donations are the lifeblood of St. Gianna's.

"I got into it because I retired from being a school teacher on July 1. I just love my faith and my Church, and I was looking for something to do. A friend who volunteers down there invited me to go and I was hooked," explained Marie Chudoba, who began volunteering last summer.

Her main role is to sort clothes by age and sex to make outfits that parents can pick up.

"We'll take a 2-year-old boy top and 2-year-old boy pants and that matches. We'll roll it up and make little outfits for the kids," she said. "It's very fulfilling because you know you're taking what could have been discarded clothes and you're giving them to people who can't afford to buy things. There is a lot of camaraderie among the volunteers. We look at these clothes and we actually get excited. 'What a cute outfit. Let's put this together.' And we can just picture these little ones wearing these outfits."

The St. Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Center is a pastoral outreach of the Office of Pro-Life Activities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo. The center follows

the example of St. Gianna Molla, who placed her unborn daughter's life before her own, in respecting, protecting and cherishing all human life as a precious gift from God. The center provides material, emotional and spiritual support to mothers, fathers and families in need from pregnancy through the first years of life.

"The need is there, and, thankfully, you see the generosity of the people here," said Zielen-Ersing. "People are on board to help families in need. With all of the recent legislation that has been passed in New York that does not respect or honor life, it's important now more than ever that people are aware of these centers and that they know about the support that is out there for expectant moms and families in need."

Before assistance can be provided, a referral slip must be completed by a worker or mentor and submitted to [Pro-LifeOffice@buffalodiocese.org](mailto:Pro-LifeOffice@buffalodiocese.org), (fax) 716-847-2206 or mailed to 795 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14203. The family will be contacted for an appointment. Referral forms can be found at [www.buffalodiocese.org/st-gianna-molla-center](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/st-gianna-molla-center).



PATRICK J. BUECHI/STAFF

Father Raymond G. Corbin, pastor of Infant of Prague Parish in Cheektowaga, hands a check to Cheryl Calire, Cheryl Zielen-Ersing and Maren Lelonek to support the new location for the St. Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Center located in the former Infant of Prague School.

# D'Youville College awarded competitive Active Learning Center Grant by Steelcase Education

D'Youville has been awarded a Steelcase Active Learning Center grant which will transform space at the intersection of D'Youville and Leonardo da Vinci High School PS 212 into a living laboratory to support learning strategies that promote engagement, creativity and collaboration, while helping researchers better understand processes of active learning.

Leonardo da Vinci High School is located in Madonna Hall on the D'Youville campus, at Porter and Fargo avenues. D'Youville and da Vinci have collaborated on a number of partnerships, including one that allows Buffalo Public School students to earn college credits while still in high school.

The educational arm of Steelcase, manufacturer of office furniture and architectural and technology products, awarded one of its competitive Active Learning Center grants to a team led by Dr. Leah MacVie, director of D'Youville's Institute for Teaching Innovation. Out of more than 1,000 proposals submitted, the partnership between D'Youville and Buffalo Public Schools was one of only 12 education institutions across the nation and Canada to receive the funding. Additionally, the partnership was the first accepted application from New York state since Steelcase began awarding funding in 2015.

"The state-of-the-art center will support evidence-based educational

## D'Youville

practices which focus on the 21st-century skills of communication and collaboration," said D'Youville President Lorrie Clemo, Ph.D. "The center will also help the broader educational community better understand the effectiveness of new and innovative techniques for teaching active learning pedagogy to instructors. More specifically, D'Youville will be focusing on the development of a unique simulation-based teacher professional development.

"However, our more deeply rooted objective is to build a highly functioning learning and training ecosystem capable of connecting high school students through college and into areas of critical workforce demand, particularly within the health care sector which D'Youville is recognized for regionally and nationally."

The ALC will be located in a busy ground level space, that is transparent to the high school lobby and the corridor connecting the two institutions. The location was strategically selected in order to cultivate a showcase for modeling exemplary social, cognitive and behavioral aspects of active

classroom teaching and learning across institutions.

"I thank D'Youville President Dr. Lorrie Clemo for proactively seeking the Steelcase Active Learning Center grant," said Buffalo Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Kriner Cash. "The ALC's learning laboratory setting will allow our teachers to finetune practical engagement for Leonardo da Vinci students in the health sciences and give deeper insight to D'Youville educators in shaping effective pedagogy. We would love to see our partnership with D'Youville College expand to even more BPS schools."

From the students' perspective, the ALC will provide new opportunities for community building through intertwined teaching and learning experiences. Additionally, the central and transparent classroom design will provide the high school students an unparalleled vantage into what future possibilities exist as they navigate the challenging transition toward higher education environments.

From the instructional and administrative perspectives, the ALC will provide a communal space for stimulating professional learning

communities and be a home for continuing education courses, programs and seminars. These activities all aim to transfer rigorous educational curriculum and pedagogy from D'Youville to the Buffalo Public School District.

The project will also provide opportunities for Leonardo da Vinci High School students to be observed by D'Youville and affiliated higher education partners in ways that support reflection upon the important questions of, "Who are the future students of higher education?" and, "How can we build more efficient ecosystems fulfilling critical workforce demands?"

"This project will further connect the D'Youville College and Leonardo da Vinci High School academic communities and contribute to the college's objective to develop a comprehensive pipeline that helps meet workforce demands in the health care sector. Steelcase Education is excited to partner with D'Youville to create a space that supports this mission," said Craig Wilson, Steelcase Education director of market development.

The purpose of the grant is to improve the field of education by developing more effective, rewarding and inspiring learning environments. The Steelcase Active Learning Center will be constructed in the summer of 2019. Following completion, research will be jointly conducted with Steelcase for two years.

## D'Youville

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D'Youville



# First-graders purchase Pasta-A-Plenty for those in need

KENMORE — First-graders at St. John the Baptist School recently participated in a service project to help them understand the Lenten goal of giving alms. Organized by their teachers Jill Parrino and Melissa Richey, the students were asked to do chores and other odd jobs around their homes to earn some extra money. With this money, the classes went on a walking field trip to Dash's Market on Colvin Boulevard, a local supermarket just a block away from school, to purchase boxes of pasta for those in need. These boxes, along with many more brought in by other St. John's students, were donated to the Response to Love Center. St. John's Junior High Student Council holds an annual pasta drive for the Response to Love Center in Buffalo's East Side.

Parrino, first came up with this idea for the students to engage in service and sacrifice as a way to journey through good practices this Lent. Along with Richey the

two worked together to create the project for their students. Each class spent time discussing the value and importance of sacrificing their time in order to serve others. The students were each asked to take on some extra jobs at home to earn some money.

The teachers incorporated skills that the students are working on in other classes into the project as well. Students practiced writing skills by responding to reflection questions both before and after the project and worked on math skills, adding up the time it took them to complete each chore. Additionally, the students learned about the importance of community helpers, such as the police officer who helped them to cross the busy road and the store clerk who scanned each order at Dash's. Finally, the project was put into context with a religion lesson about sacrifice and service during Lent. The classes read and reflected on the Bible passage from Luke 9: 23, "And He said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let

him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'"

"This really allowed my students to take ownership over their Lenten sacrifice," said Parrino. "They had a hand in each step. From finding the chores to do at home, to doing the work, all the way to picking out the pasta and using the money they earned to buy it themselves."

As a culminating activity, Parrino asked her students to reflect on how the work made them feel – happy, grumpy, or excited. Many of the first-graders were happy to do this extra work at home because it meant

that others wouldn't go hungry. Altogether, the first-grade classes collected 150 pounds of pasta for the Response to Love Center.

St. John the Baptist School is a Diocese of Buffalo STREAM School, with a commitment to enhancing its commitment through connections with community partners. Service projects for local organizations such as Response to Love Center and field trips to local businesses like Dash's give students the chance to make real-world connections and understand the value of what they are learning in the classroom every day.



COURTESY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL

First-grader Sophia Privitera shops for pasta for the Response to Love Center at Dash's Market on Colvin Boulevard.

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# Catholic Charities brings grandparent's care into Buffalo schools

BY PATRICK J. BUECHI  
Staff Reporter

Kids need grandparents. Retirees need something to do with their days. And to be honest, teachers could use a little help in the classroom. Catholic Charities addresses all these needs with their Foster Grandparent program.

Through this longstanding program, volunteers work in the classrooms, not as teachers or aides, but as, well, grandparents. They observe the children, the way a loved one does, to see if everything is OK, offer support and even tie shoes as needed.

"I also observe a lot of the kids that sometimes come sad from homes," said Ruth Quinones, known as Grandma Cookie. "I like to catch them in the hallway and say something positive that will change the beginning of their day."

The volunteers are assigned to work one on one with up to three children who have developmental,

behavioral or home needs. Some children are assigned based upon low attendance rates. The volunteers are there for all the children in class when a need arises. The foster grandparents do not babysit or chauffeur the children, they only help in the school.

The program engages seniors over the age of 55, with low incomes to volunteer with children in the Buffalo School District to support the academic needs. Volunteers receive a stipend of \$2.65 an hour and it keeps them engaged in community, active and close to their peers. Seventy-four percent of students who work with a foster grandparent show an academic improvement, and 72 percent show an improvement in their social and emotional skills according to Catholic Charities.

Quinones speaks Spanish and spends her days in a bilingual second-grade classroom, interpreting for children who come from Puerto Rico who do not speak English.

"I help them make the transition. Let them know the difference of how



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ruth Quinones, Zoraida Montilla and Carman Rivera speak during the In-service for Foster Grandparent program at the Catholic Charities Garden Room at 128 Wilson St., Buffalo. The three work in schools throughout Western New York.

it is done in Puerto Rico and how it's done here, so they won't be lost. I help them with the schoolwork. I read to them. I give the support that grandmother's give to their grandchildren," she explained.

"It can be rough when a child comes in and doesn't speak the language, doesn't know the culture, and is thrown into a classroom. So, the volunteer will work with them to bring them up to speed," explained Erin R. Pustulka, Catholic Charities program coordinator.

Buffalo public schools have over 84 different languages being spoken in the classrooms and hallways. The teachers are mostly white English-speakers who miss some of the cultural nuances that the students bring. When one student wanted to perform a rap for his class, the teacher didn't see any harm in it, but Grandma Bonnie Miller found one word that had a double meaning that when mixed with a certain dance move would not be appropriate for her class at Dr. Martin Luther King School #48.

"I love being there with the kids, helping them out," said Miller. "They need a lot of help in math. I sit there with them one on one and we do math. Some of them, maybe they don't like to sit still, so I encourage them to

sit still. I say, 'This is how Grandma Bonnie sits. This is how you should sit.' It's very rewarding just to see their smiling faces."

Susette Mines has been a mental health advocate for years. She has a daughter of her own with special needs, and now identifies the needs of students in her classroom and helps those kids succeed in school. She knows one little boy who has an attention deficit.

"He doesn't have it two seconds and you lost him. So, what I did, I gradually worked with him. He started trusting me. We try to make them independent, where they can handle their own behaviors and deescalate themselves," she explained.

She designed three calming corners in her classroom. Students can sit with the class or, if they feel disruptive, can sit in a calming corner. Sometimes this kid will sit with Grandma Mines who will mimic the teacher and give him his lesson.

Usually, the volunteer grandparents work with one teacher for a number of years, so they develop a rapport over the years. Mines has worked in a number of classrooms up in all grades.

"Every teacher that she's worked with has had nothing but praise because she can adapt," said Pustulka.

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# Volunteer grandparents work with teachers and students

“She can adapt to the situation, to the way the room is flowing, the children who are there, the child she is assigned to. She just finds a way to mold herself into the classroom and to do that in multiple different classrooms over the course of the years is a really unique talent.”

The Foster Grandparent Program has been in Buffalo for 85 years, and part of Catholic Charities Department of Older Adult Services

for 35. They currently have 76 volunteers, but hope to expand into the suburbs. Volunteers receive a small stipend, as well as food and transportation expenses. The stipend does not count as income, so it will not affect any other services the grandparent may receive, such as public housing, DSS, SNAP, Social Security. Volunteers need to be 55 years of age or older and make less than \$25,000 annual income.

Being an actual grandparent is not a prerequisite. Catholic Charities provides monthly trainings and Protecting God’s Children updates. Volunteers can work between 5-40 hours a week.

“You’re making a difference in a young kid’s life. I’m with kindergarteners. You can really teach them something, and they can carry it all the way through life,” said Mines.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Susette Mines takes notes during the In-service for Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent program. Mines, who has worked at West Hertel Academy for four years, said, “I became an empty nester and it was suggested by a friend that I help out school kids, I started with third-and fourth-graders. It made me feel that I was doing something that mattered. Something I love to do. It gave me a very deep fulfillment and it inspires me.”



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Catholic Charities program director Erin Pustulka speaks to a room of foster grandparents.

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# Don't let your cell phone become an addiction, Pope Francis warns high schoolers during Spring meeting

VATICAN CITY/CNA — Pope Francis met with a group of high school students this weekend, encouraging them to monitor their cell phone use, so as not to create obstacles to a culture of encounter.

Students from Visconti High School visited with the pope at Paul VI Hall on April 13. The meeting comes a month after the 450th anniversary of the birth of St. Aloysius Gonzaga. The saint was known for his charitable work with the poor, which resulted in him contracting the plague and dying at the age of 23.

The school's building in Rome houses the remains of Gonzaga, who is the patron saint of the youth. Gonzaga himself attended the school. Pope Francis praised the saint for his willingness to encounter those around him, particularly those in need.

In modern times, the pope warned, we must be cautious of anything that tears us away from encounter and authentic relationships. While cell phones can be a valuable tool for communication, they can also reduce our freedom and present an obstacle to true dialogue, he said.

"Free yourself from dependence on your mobile phone, please!" Francis said. "You have certainly heard of the drama of addiction ... This one is very subtle."

"Be careful, as there is the danger that, when the telephone is a drug, communication is reduced to simple 'contacts.' But life is not for 'contacting,' it is for communicating!"

The pope emphasized the importance of the school system as a place of communication, especially between cultures. The Church promotes fraternity, he said, noting that this requires a foundation of freedom, truth, solidarity and justice.

"The dialogue between different cultures and different people enriches a country, enriches the homeland and enables us to move ahead in mutual respect, enables us to go ahead looking at one earth for all, not just for some," he said.

Pope Francis also commented on the important role modesty and fidelity have within friendships. He stressed that love is not solely an emotional reality but a responsibility.

"The sense of modesty refers to a vigilant

conscience that defends the dignity of the person and authentic love, precisely so as not to trivialize the language of the body. Faithfulness, then, along with respect for the other, is an indispensable dimension of every true relationship of love, since one cannot play with feelings."

Pope Francis' concerns about cell phone addictions echo those of technology experts in recent years, as computer and phone use have become more prevalent among children and teens, raising concerns about academic performance, social wellbeing and overall quality of life.

Psychologist Jean Twenge, author of "iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy — and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood," spoke to CNA last September about trends in technology.

The average daily screen time for teenagers is high above the recommended two hours, Twenge noted. "Beyond that, the risks increase, topping out at the highest levels of use," she said.

She pointed to a 2015 study from the research group Common Sense Media. It stated that over half of teens in the U.S. spent at least four hours in front of a screen and 25 percent were reported to have been in front of a screen for more than eight hours a day, with detrimental effects.

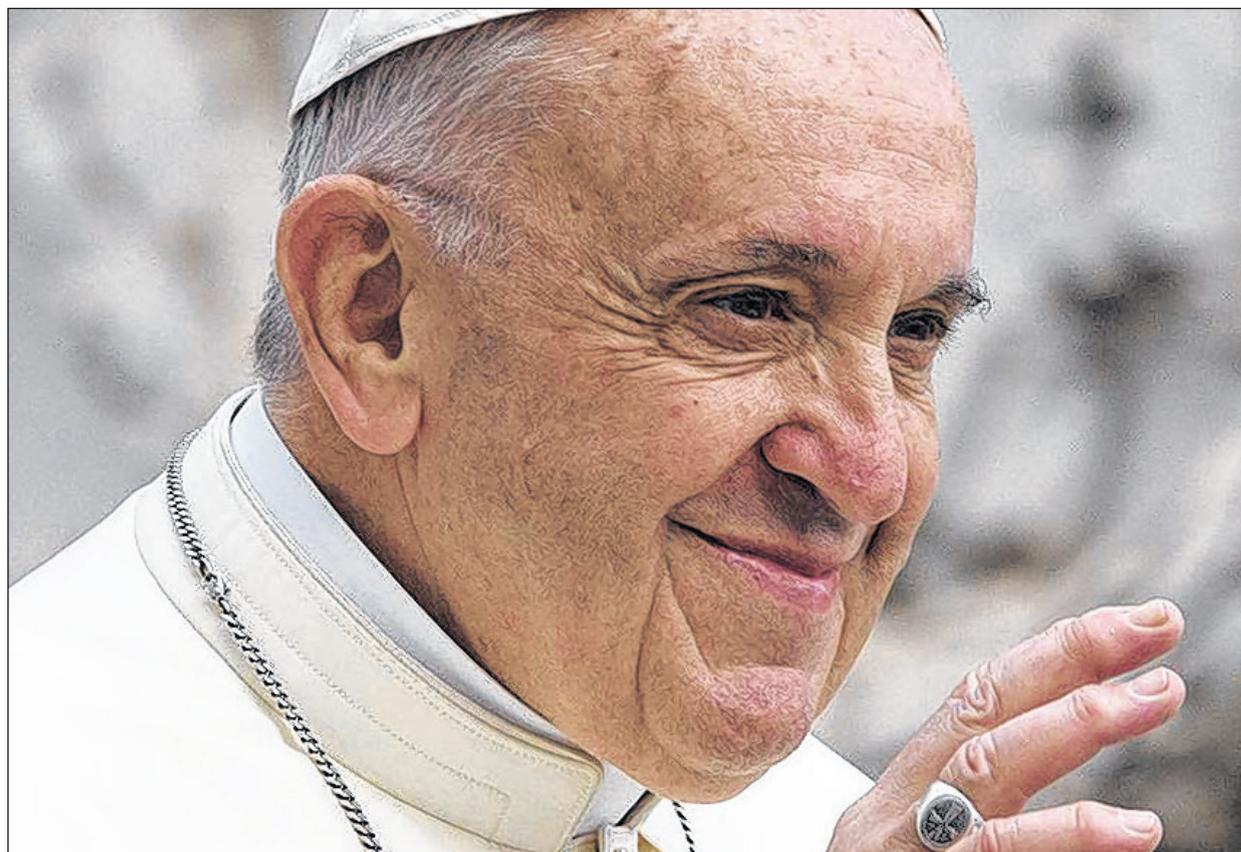
"For example, teens who use electronic devices five or more hours a day are 71 percent more likely to have a risk factor for suicide than those using devices less than an hour a day," Twenge said. "They are also 51 percent more likely to not sleep enough. Teens who are online five or more hours a day are twice as likely to be unhappy as those online less than an hour a day."

Pope Francis has spoken on the moderation of technology in the past. During a 2016 homily, he highlighted the damages television and cell phones can have on family encounters.

"In our families, at the dinner table, how many times while eating, do people watch the TV or write messages on their cell phones? Each one is indifferent to that encounter. Even within the heart of society, which is the family, there is no encounter."

He said it is the responsibility of the family to seek out dialogue in which the person is truly seen and heard rather than treated as an object of indifference.

"We are accustomed to a culture of indifference and we must strive and ask for the grace to create a culture of encounter, of a fruitful encounter, of an encounter that restores to each person his or her own dignity as a child of God, the dignity of a living person," he said.



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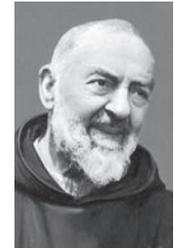
Pope Francis met with a group of high school students recently and asked them to monitor their cell phone use.



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## Eastern Orthodox parishes host discussion

Every Sunday evening during Lenten the Eastern Orthodox parishes in the Buffalo area gathered together to worship.

They pray in the service of Vespers, have a Lenten meal and then have presentations from various ministries in the Buffalo area. On April 7, Cheryl Calire (center) was invited to attend Vespers, share a meal, and speak with the gathering including many of the priests with

their parishioners.

Joining Calire are (from left) Father Christos Christakis, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church; Father Vladislav Golic, St. Stephen's Serbian Orthodox Church; Father Volodomyr Zablotsky, Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church; and Father John Hutnyan, Greek Orthodox Church (from left to right) Father Rafael Barberg, St. George Antiochian

Church; Father John Boddecker, St. Theodore Russian Orthodox Church; and Deacon Andrew Hammond, St. Theodore Russian Orthodox Church.

All plan joint efforts for upcoming March for Life in Buffalo as well as in Washington, D.C. Much of the discussion during the Q & A period centered around the Mother Teresa Home and the five locations of the St. Gianna Pregnancy Outreach Centers.

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# Omaha artist paints one-of-a-kind Paschal candles

BY DEACON TIMOTHY F. McNEIL  
Catholic News Agency

OMAHA — Michelangelo, Rembrandt and Caravaggio have blessed mankind with stunning works of art. They gave themselves ample space to create. For Michelangelo, it was the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. For Rembrandt and Caravaggio, often it was large canvases.

Omaha artist Robert Faulhaber doesn't have the luxury of space when he paints. The medium on which he works is the slender surface of a Paschal candle.

The ritual of the Paschal candle

This candle is an integral part of services during the Easter season, and beyond. It is lit each day during Mass throughout the Easter season until Ascension Thursday, and then again for baptisms and funerals.

Made of beeswax, it represents Christ, the sinless Light of the World. The wick signifies his humanity, and the flame his divinity.

Five grains of incense embedded in the candle in the form of a cross recall the perfumed spices that prepared Christ's body for the tomb, and his five sacred wounds.

During the Easter Vigil, the priest or deacon carries the candle in procession into the dark church. A new fire symbolizing our eternal life in Christ is kindled, which in turn lights the candle.

As he chants a prayer, the priest blesses the candle. He carves in it a cross, the first letters and last of the Greek alphabet (Alpha and Omega, "the beginning and the end") and the current year; then he inserts the five grains of incense.

The size of a Paschal candle can range from 3 to 4 inches in diameter and 48 to 61 inches high. The actual space Faulhaber has to paint is a mere 7 by 24 inches.

Most parishes get their candles from a church supply store, and the decorative features on them look mostly the same.

However, each of Faulhaber's candles is a one-of-a-kind creation.

"I begin each new project by praying to the Holy Spirit," Faulhaber said. "I want every candle to glorify God."

Although some of Faulhaber's candles may have the same central design, no two share the same borders, colors and details. "There are no other candles like mine in the entire world."

## A faith-based childhood

Faulhaber, 52, was born in Davenport, Iowa, and moved to Rock Island, Ill., when he was 10. His youth was shaped by a love of drawing, sketching, and painting.

"I started drawing when I was 3 years old," he said.



COURTESY CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

Artist Robert Faulhaber uses the wax surface of a candle as his medium.

Faulhaber grew up in a household where the Catholic faith was expressed and witnessed. He often attended daily Mass with his mother, and his parents frequently talked about religious vocations. Two of his uncles were priests, and an aunt was a nun.

He failed the first grade because of a learning disability, making him the target of his classmates' jokes.

Every day his mother sent him with a homemade lunch and the instructions to "take Jesus to school with you."

He says his mom's advice changed his life. "It no longer mattered what my classmates might say to me. I knew Jesus loved me."

## Developing valuable relationships

In Rock Island, many of Faulhaber's friends were Native Americans. It was through those friendships that he developed a passion for their culture and music.

Soon he was a regular at powwows, the Native American cultural event that features group singing and dancing. Before long, he was participating in the ceremonies.

When he was 16, he used his artistic talent to make his first rawhide drum. He still makes drums today, in addition to the outfits and beadwork he wears when performing in powwows throughout the U.S. and Canada.

After graduating from Rock Island High School, Faulhaber moved to Des Moines and continued to attend daily Mass with his mother. He also accompanied her to Thursday night prayer meetings at the Basilica of St. John in Des Moines.

It was there he met Msgr. Frank Chiodo, who introduced him to monastic life. Msgr. Chiodo was living at the basilica at the time.

At 33, Faulhaber had no life plan. After his move to Des Moines, he held various jobs with a Midwest grocery store chain. It was good work, but he wanted more out of life, and he knew more awaited him.

Faulhaber decided to give up his few possessions and walk away from the only life he knew to join the Society of St. John, a religious order founded by Msgr. Chiodo.

While part of that community, he painted his first Paschal candle — a depiction of Christ sitting on a throne holding a book titled "I AM."

"I'll always remember my first candle," Faulhaber said. "I had to pray hard for God's help."

He found himself in uncharted waters, so he put to good use his familiarity and experience with icon writing when painting on beeswax the first time.

When he finished, Faulhaber remembers stepping back from that first candle and whispering to himself, "What did I do?"

# Easter brings a 'new world,' Pope Francis says in Urbi et Orbi

By HANNAH BROCKHAUS  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Christ's resurrection ushers in a new world — one of peace, love and fraternity, Pope Francis said on Easter Sunday, as he prayed for the many people who are suffering throughout the world.

"Christ is alive and he remains with us. Risen, he shows us the light of his face, and he does not abandon all those experiencing hardship, pain and sorrow," Pope Francis said April 21.

"Yet Easter is also the beginning of the new world, set free from the slavery of sin and death: the world open at last to the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of love, peace and fraternity."

Pope Francis gave the traditional Urbi et Orbi blessing from the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica following Easter Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square.

He forwent giving a homily at Mass this year, and instead paused for a moment of silent reflection following the Gospel.

"Urbi et Orbi" means "To the City (of Rome)



COURTESY OF CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

Pope Francis gives his traditional Urbi et Orbi blessing following Easter Sunday Mass.

and to the World" and is a special apostolic blessing given by the pope every year on Easter Sunday, Christmas, and other special occasions.

Christ's resurrection is "the principle of new life for every man and every woman," the pope said in his blessing, explaining that "true renewal always begins from the heart, from the conscience."

Francis prayed for the many people throughout

the world living in places experiencing conflict, tension, and violence.

Beginning with Syria, he said there is a risk of becoming resigned and indifferent to the ongoing conflict in that country and emphasized that now is the time for a renewed commitment to a political solution for the humanitarian crisis in the country.

People there are hoping for "freedom, peace and justice," he said, urging solutions for a safe re-entry to the country for those who have been displaced, especially in Lebanon and Jordan.

The pope prayed for Christians in the Middle East, particularly in Yemen, that they would continue to "patiently persevere in their witness to the Risen Lord and to the victory of life over death."

"May the light of Easter illumine all government leaders and peoples in the Middle East, beginning with Israelis and Palestinians, and spur them to alleviate such great suffering and to pursue a future of peace and stability," he stated.

He begged for an end to conflict and bloodshed in Libya, and for peace on the entire African conflict, particularly in the countries of Burkina Faso, Mali,

*See Pope page 34*

## Creating the Paschal candle is 'A prayerful, leisurely experience'

People stood in line inside the basilica to admire the candle. "It was the first time they had ever seen candle art. It was my first time, too."

### Studying iconography

Faulhaber, or Brother Bob as he was known then, transferred in 2002 to Mount Michael Abbey in Elkhorn, Neb. He painted several Paschal candles for the abbey.

The abbey supported Faulhaber's interest in other art forms and sent him to the prestigious Prosoyon School of Iconology in Wisconsin.

There he learned the Russian method of icon writing, which uses a paste made of raw materials, egg yolk, vinegar and wine.

Two of his icons are at St. James Parish in Omaha. Other pieces are at St. John Parish in Duluth, Minnesota, and St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Ind.

Faulhaber eventually ended up departing religious life in 2010 and was dispensed from his vows.

"I owe a lot to religious life," he said. "The priests and brothers know how to cultivate and hone a person's

skills. They are able to identify and develop your talents. In my case, it was art."

### 'A prayerful, leisurely experience'

It takes Faulhaber 40 to 50 hours to paint a Paschal candle. Before he begins, he photographs the inside of the church where the candle will be displayed, researches the church's patron saint, and studies the history of the church.

When the research is finished, he carves a design on the beeswax, and fills it with acrylic paint. He describes the process as a "prayerful and leisurely experience ... Sometimes I listen to music while I'm painting."

The Easter Vigil liturgy itself is an emotional experience for Faulhaber. He watches from a pew as the candle is carried in procession into the dark church, then prominently displayed in the candle stand in the sanctuary.

It is when the priest or deacon intones one of the most evocative and poetic hymns of praise in all liturgy, the Exsultet — also known as the Easter Proclamation — that his eyes fill with tears and his heart overflows

with joy.

"It's powerful knowing my hand is involved in some small way in the Church's most meaningful act of worship," Faulhaber said. "At the same time, I want to hide and just do my art. It's about Jesus."

### A multi-dimensional artist

Faulhaber and his wife, Jeanna, are members of St. Bernard Parish in Omaha. He has painted St. Bernard's Paschal candles since 2014. His candles are also used in Omaha churches St. Stephen the Martyr and St. Thomas More.

It was Faulhaber's idea to paint a candle for St. Bernard. He recognized how the church's regal interior colors, dark wood pews, and floor tile design worked together to direct a person's mind and heart toward the sanctuary.

He told Father Walter Nolte, St. Bernard's pastor at the time, that like an icon, a Paschal candle should point to something beyond itself.

"Robert spent hours in the church, praying and sketching," Father Nolte said.

Faulhaber presented him with

several design concepts.

"He wanted me to choose from his ideas," the priest said. "I refused. I told him I had complete trust in him, and I would graciously receive what he brought to us from his prayer."

The finished design skillfully uses the small church's Spanish mission style colors and spiral columns to depict Christ the King.

When he's not working in the maintenance department at St. Stephen the Martyr Church, Faulhaber paints.

He considers himself a multi-dimensional artist; besides paint, his tools include chalk, pencil and airbrushes. He's also a wood carver.

While Michelangelo, Rembrandt, and Caravaggio's biggest art pieces have endured over time, Faulhaber is one of only a few artists who knowingly sets out to create something that will eventually melt from the heat of a flame.

Yet because of the role they have in the sacramental life of the Church, his creations will, in a sense, share in eternity.

# Pope urges use of communication tools to spread the good news

*From page 33*

Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Sudan and South Sudan.

Recalling the spiritual retreat held at the Vatican earlier this month for several religious and political leaders of South Sudan, he prayed for the opening of “a new page” in the history of the country.

Francis prayed for the peace of Easter to bring comfort to the people of the eastern regions of Ukraine.

For the American continent, he invoked the joy of the resurrection for all those experiencing difficult political and economic situations.

Underlining the situations in Venezuela and Nicaragua, he asked the Lord to “grant that all those with political responsibilities may work to end social injustices, abuses and acts of violence, and take the concrete steps needed to heal divisions and offer the population the help they need.”

Let there be an end to the arms

race and to the “troubling spread of weaponry,” he added.

“Before the many sufferings of our time, may the Lord of life not find us cold and indifferent. May he make us builders of bridges, not walls,” Francis stated.

He added: “May the Risen Christ, who flung open the doors of the tomb, open our hearts to the needs of the disadvantaged, the vulnerable, the poor, the unemployed, the marginalized, and all those who knock at our door in search of bread, refuge, and the recognition of their dignity.”

“Today the Church renews the proclamation made by the first disciples: ‘Jesus is risen!’ And from mouth to mouth, from heart to heart, there resounds a call to praise: ‘Alleluia, Alleluia!’” he rejoiced.

Quoting from *Christus vivit*, his recently-published apostolic exhortation on young people, the pope said, “Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! He is in you, he is with you

and he never abandons you.”

“However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for your to return to him and start over again.”

At the end of the blessing, Pope Francis expressed his sorrow for several bombings which took place in churches and hotels in Sri Lanka Sunday morning. More than 100 people were killed and hundreds injured in explosions at three luxury hotels and three churches.

St. Anthony’s Shrine in Colombo and St. Sebastian’s Catholic parish in Negombo were targeted, as well as the evangelical Zion Church in Batticaloa.

Francis entrusted to the Lord those who have died and been wounded, and all who are suffering because of the attack: “I wish to express my affectionate closeness to the Christian community, struck while it was gathered in prayer, and to all the victims of such cruel

violence,” he said.

The pope wished all those gathered in St. Peter’s Square, and all those participating via radio or television, a happy Easter, noting that it was on Easter Sunday 70 years ago that a pope spoke for the first time on television.

Venerable Pope Pius XII addressed the viewers of French TV, “underlining how the eyes of the Successor of Peter and the faithful could also meet through a new means of communication,” he said.

“This occasion offers me the opportunity to encourage Christian communities to use all the tools that the technique makes available to announce the good news of the risen Christ.”

“Enlightened by the light of Easter, we carry the scent of the Risen Christ into the solitude, into the misery, into the suffering of so many of our brothers, reversing the stone of indifference,” he concluded.

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HAMBURG – Hilbert College is pleased to announce a new partnership agreement with M Square Media to support outreach and recruitment of international students. MSM is a leading organization supporting the international education sector with offices around the world.

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“Hilbert College is looking forward to working with MSM to deliver high-quality programs to international students,” Hilbert President Michael S. Brophy, Ph.D., said. “We are very impressed with MSM’s team and look forward to learning from them as we

bring outstanding students to our private college.”

Through this partnership, MSM will offer its services to Hilbert College through their Global Marketing Office. MSM has a true global reach and is currently working in countries and regions such as India, Africa, China, Philippines, Vietnam, Latin America and Europe. Their GMO partner institutions are recognized in the market and will lead the increase in international student applications from across the world.



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	←----- C-Band G1-11, Direct TV 370 and Dish Network 261 -----→							
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<b>St. Leo the Great</b>	Saturday 4:30pm and Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am & 11:00am
	<a href="http://www.stgregs.org">http://www.stgregs.org</a>
<b>St. Gregory the Great</b>	Daily 7:00am, 8:00am & Noon, Saturday 4:00pm & 5:30pm and Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am, 12:30pm & 4:30pm

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Batavia	Mass (first Sunday of the month)	WBTA-AM (1490)	Sunday	10:30am
Buffalo	Father Justin Rosary Hour www.rosaryhour.net	WLOF-FM (101.7)	Sunday	7:00am
		CIAO-AM (530)	Saturday	8:00am
		WXRL-AM (1300)	Sunday	3:00pm
Dunkirk	Mass at St. Stanislaus	WLOF-FM (101.7)	Sunday	Noon
	The Ukrainian Catholic Hour	WJL-AM (1440)	Sunday	2:00pm
Hornell	Mass from Holy Trinity Church	WDOE-AM (1410)	Sunday	8:30am
Jamestown	Marian Hour Radio Rosary	WLEA-AM (1480)	Sunday	7:00am
Wellsville	Catholic News and Views	WJTN-AM (1240)	Sunday	7:00am
	Crossroads	WLSV-AM (790)	Sunday	9:00am
	Lift Your Heart	WLSV-AM (790)	Sunday	10:00am

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Adoration

**Alden** — Adoration is held at St. John the Baptist Parish, 2021 Sandridge Rd., every Friday in the church at 7:30 a.m., followed by Mass with the schoolchildren at 8:30 a.m. First Friday Adoration 7:30 a.m. to 8:25 a.m., followed by Mass at 8:30 a.m. Resume Adoration from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., closing with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Arcade** — Adoration is held at St. Mary Parish, 417 West Main St., Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. 585-492-5330

**Buffalo** — Exposition of the Holy Eucharist takes place at Corpus Christi Church, 199 Clark St., Wednesdays to Fridays with a 10 to 11:30 a.m. Mass, and the first Thursday of each month in the church from 7-10 p.m.

**Buffalo** — SS. Columba-Brigid Parish, 75 Hickory St., offers Eucharistic adoration every First Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Buffalo** — St. Michael Church, 651 Washington St., offers Eucharistic adoration at the Sacred Heart Shrine each day. Weekdays, 7:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., and Sundays from 12:45 to 5 p.m. Confessions weekdays from 11:30

a.m. to noon, and 4:30 to 5 p.m. On Saturdays, confessions will be heard from 11:30 a.m. to noon; 1 to 2 p.m.; and 3:30 to 5 p.m. Handicap accessible and on-site parking. www.stmichaelbuffalo.org.

**Buffalo** — St. Stanislaus Parish holds a Holy Hour with Eucharistic adoration every First Friday of April through December, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the church at 123 Townsend St.

**Canaseraga** — Eucharistic adoration takes place every Thursday at St. Mary Parish, 6 North St., with exposition at 10 a.m., followed by all day adoration and benediction at 7 p.m. Confession available from 6 to 7 p.m. First Friday exposition is at 9:30 a.m., after 9 a.m. Mass, followed by the rosary for life and silent adoration, with benediction concluding at 10:30 a.m.

**Depew** — Eucharistic adoration is held on the First Friday of every month at Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish, 496 Terrace Blvd., beginning with the 8 a.m. Mass and concluding at noon. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is recited at 11 a.m.

**Kenmore** — Eucharistic adoration is held in the St. John Neumann Chapel at St. John the Baptist Parish,

Englewood and Belmont Avenue, Monday through Friday, 2 to 4 p.m.; Holy Hour Fridays, 1 to 2 p.m.; Holy Hour Sundays, 3 to 4 p.m.

**Lancaster** — Our Lady of Pompeii, 158 Laverack Ave., holds adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every First Friday from noon to 6 p.m. The Divine Mercy chaplet is prayed at 3 p.m.

**Lancaster** — St. Mary of the Assumption holds Eucharistic adoration every First Friday from 12:30 to 5 p.m. at the church at 1 St. Mary's Hill (corner of N. Aurora St. and St. Joseph St.) 716-683-6445.

**North Tonawanda** — St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 800 Niagara Falls Blvd., holds Eucharistic adoration on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. 716-694-0540.

**North Tonawanda** — Our Lady of Czestochowa, 57 Center Ave, North Tonawanda NY 14120, Every Tuesday From 9 am to 8 pm, Adoration Room, In The Ministry Center.

**Orchard Park** — Eucharistic adoration takes place at Nativity of Our Lord Church, 43 Argyle Place, 24/7. 716-998-0593 or 716-662-9339.

**Orchard Park** — St. Bernadette Church, 5930 South Abbott Road, offers 24/7 Eucharistic adoration.

Entry code needed after 3 p.m. Everyone welcome. 716-649-3090.

**Snyder** — The Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Christ the King Church, corner of Main Street and Lamarck Drive, is open to the public from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week, for anyone who wishes to spend time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Enter the church through the door under the arch between the school and church.

**South Buffalo** — St. Martin of Tours Parish, 1140 Abbott Road, provides daily Eucharistic adoration 24/7. Anyone interested in being a weekly adoror or a substitute, call Don Graham at 716-822-0283. A security code is needed from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

**Tonawanda** — Night of Two Hearts, all night adoration, honoring the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, takes place at St. Amelia Church, 2999 Eggert Road, from 8 p.m. each First Friday of the month to 8 a.m. Saturday.

**Tonawanda** — Blessed Sacrament Church in the Town of Tonawanda, at 263 Claremont Ave., offers Eucharistic adoration in the Divine Mercy Chapel every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. until 6:10 p.m., followed by

a Mass. 716-834-4282.

**West Seneca** — Queen of Heaven Parish, 4220 Seneca St., provides daily Eucharistic adoration 24/7. Anyone interested in being a weekly adoror or a substitute, call Nancy at 716-907-5368. Visitors are welcome. A security code is needed from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

**Williamsville** — St. Gregory the Great Parish, 200 St. Gregory Court, offers adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 24/7. A security code is needed from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. 716-688-5678.

## Charismatic Prayer Meeting

**Buffalo/Black Rock** — A Charismatic prayer meeting, Prayer and Praise, will take place in the church hall at Assumption Parish, 435 Amherst St., (use the Peter Street entrance) every Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m.

**North Tonawanda** — A Charismatic prayer meeting takes place at St. Jude the Apostle Parish every Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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month, 7pm at St Vincent's Church. 716-652-3972 God has something special for you!

## Magnificat Breakfast

Magnificat Breakfast June 15, 2019 Millennium Hotel 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Call Maureen 716-683-2290.



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**SISTER ELIZABETH KOVACS, SSS**

Sister Elizabeth Kovacs, who was imprisoned by the Russian Army during its invasion of Hungary, died March 29, 2019, at the age of 89 at the Clarence residence of the Sisters of St. Joseph.



She was born in a village of Western Hungary on Nov. 16, 1929, to a Catholic family.

When she was a teenager Jesus called her to His service and she was eager to respond. At that time Elizabeth was attending a Catholic high school in Veszprém.

Young Elizabeth joined the local Catholic Youth Organization to grow in her faith by learning more about Jesus. However, when the Russian Army occupied Hungary, difficult times followed politically. Soon, all Catholic schools and religious orders were abolished. It was impossible to enter religious life. Still, the "call" lived deep in Elizabeth's heart and she hoped to become a religious sister.

She started to work in an office and gave religious instructions to grammar school and high school students in underground classes because such activities were outlawed.

On Dec. 26, she was arrested and taken to prison.

In the prison she was kept in complete isolation, basic rights were denied of her, and she lacked food, even fresh air, and she was interrogated day and night. It was very difficult to hold up under such circumstances. Prayer, faith in God and the hope for an end to the suffering gave her strength.

Her joy was great when she received a cellmate, a woman she already knew from the Catholic Youth Organization: Sister Lenke, who was a Sister of Social

Service. From her, Elizabeth began to learn more about religious life, especially about the SSS community. She was determined to join it as soon as she was released from prison. After the Hungarian revolution at the end of 1956, Elizabeth escaped to the free world. She

arrived to the United States in May 1957. She continued her novitiate there and made her first vows on Pentecost 1960. So her dream of becoming a sister came true.

Sister Elizabeth's first assignment was to work with children at the House of Providence in Syracuse as group mother. This assignment lasted from 1958 to 1969.

Sister Elizabeth made her final vows at Pentecost 1967. Half a year earlier she became U.S. citizen.

She was still a group mother in Syracuse while she took undergraduate courses at Le Moine College, Syracuse, as a part-time student. Later she studied at D'Youville College in Buffalo, and graduated in 1972 earning a bachelor's degree in social work. After completing her studies, she ministered at St. John the Baptist Parish in Syracuse, until 1980.

From 1982 to 2007, plus many more years beyond retirement, Sister Elizabeth was working with the elderly and the sick of St. Aloysius Parish in Cheektowaga.

In her religious community, Sister Elizabeth has been treasurer of the U.S. District from 1980 on. She served on the District Council several times and she was Chapter delegate in 1975 and 1991.

A funeral Mass was offered April 2 at Blessed Sacrament Church in Buffalo, followed by burial at Holy Cross cemetery in Lackawanna.

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## OBITUARIES

**BROTHER XAVIER O'NEILL, FMMA**

Brother Xavier O'Neill, who has spent 75 years living out the Brothers of Mercy mission of serving the sick and elderly, died March 18, 2019, at the Brother's Clarence residence. He was 94.

Born Donald Arthur O'Neill on Aug. 16, 1924, he was raised in Wyandotte, Mich. Brother Xavier realized he had a vocation to the brotherhood when he was in 11th grade. He joined the Brothers of Mercy after his high school graduation, without ever having visited the community. In 1943, he professed his first vows and enjoyed dedicating 75 years of his life to serving the mission of the Catholic congregation.

Brother Xavier's work has touched countless lives, spanned the generations and taken him around the globe. He has cared for newborn infants, the sick and dying, and everyone in between. In his early days, he served as private duty nurse. Hours on end were spent providing pain relief, administering medications, bathing and grooming the patients.

In addition to serving in Buffalo, Brother Xavier worked in his home state of Michigan as a nurse

anesthetist, where he specialized in newborn care for 13 years. He spent time in the 1960s at a Brothers of Mercy mission hospital in Africa. He ran the Brothers of Mercy's 100-bed retirement home in Kansas City, Mo., and on two occasions served as a nursing home supervisor in their facility in Oklahoma City. He also served as provincial superior of the Brothers of Mercy North American Province from 1960 to 1963.

After over seven decades of full- or part-time work, Brother Xavier retired to the Brothers of Mercy Clarence headquarters.

Brother Xavier's 75th Jubilee was celebrated in a special commemorative Mass at Brothers of Mercy's Sacred Heart Chapel on Sept. 9, 2018. He renewed his vows in front of family, friends and fellow brothers. A reception to celebrate the occasion followed at the brothers' residence.

Brother Xavier was predeceased by his parents Arthur J. and Clara (Vasher) O'Neill, and a sister Glee McCormick. He is survived by siblings Roseceline Cowan, Mary Ann Kowalski, Pat O'Neill, Dick O'Neill and

Terry O'Neill.

A funeral Mass was held Saturday, March 23, at 10 a.m. at the Brothers of

Mercy Sacred Heart Home Chapel in Clarence. Burial took place at Clarence Fillmore Cemetery, Clarence.

**SISTER ANN MARIE STRIEGL, GNSH**

Sister Ann Marie Striegl, GNSH, who spent more than 40 years in the Diocese of Buffalo, died March 25, 2019, at the age of 84. She was formerly known as Sister John Bosco.

The daughter of the late Joseph and Helen Wyborski Striegl, was born Oct. 27, 1934, in Buffalo. She attended St. Gerard School, Buffalo, and graduated from Sacred Heart Academy, Amherst. She received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from D'Youville College in 1957, then entered the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart that same year.

Her service as a certified and licensed social worker spanned more than 40 years at Catholic Charities in the Dioceses of Buffalo (1975-2015) and Ogdensburg (1973-75). She previously spent 10 years in the field of education at St. Mary's in Potsdam and Holy Angels School in Buffalo; Christ the King in Atlanta, and Grey Nun Academy



in Yardley, Pa.

In 1983, she was named Religious Educator of the Year. She received the Pro Vita Award from Bishop Edward U. Kmiec in 2010. Sister Ann Marie was a frequent contributor to the Buffalo News, authoring several articles for the "My View Column" on a variety of topics. She also had an article published in Sisters Today, "Remembering – During My Annual Retreat."

She is survived by her sister Margaret Piniewski. She is predeceased by her parents and her brother John.

A funeral Mass took place at the Redeemer Sisters' Chapel in Huntingdon Valley, Pa. Burial followed at Resurrection Cemetery, Bensalem, Pa.

A memorial Mass will be held Friday, May 24, at 11 a.m. at Holy Angels Church, 348 Porter Ave., Buffalo.

**MSGR. DONALD R. WANGLER**

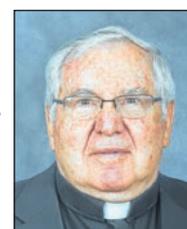
Msgr. Donald R. Wangler, who served the Diocese of Buffalo for over 60 years, died March 22, 2019, while at Father Baker Manor in Orchard Park. He was 87.

Born June 10, 1931, in Buffalo to Charles and Marion (Schmitt) Wangler, Msgr. Wangler attended St. Matthew Elementary School in Buffalo and St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Kenmore, before entering Niagara University, where he earned a bachelor's degree. He attended the University of Innsbruck for graduate studies.

He was ordained July 26, 1957, in Innsbruck, Austria, by the Most Reverend Paul Rusch.

In September 1957, Msgr. Wangler received his first assignment to Sacred Heart Mission in Angelica. This was followed by assignments at St. Mary of Sorrows, Buffalo; St. Joseph, Buffalo; St. Agatha, Buffalo; St. James, Buffalo; and Nativity of Our Lord, Orchard Park. In the fall of 1973, he was named chaplain of Rosary Hill College in Buffalo.

In 1977, he was named director of



Pastoral Formation, at Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, where he also served as director of the House of Prayer. The following year, he was named coordinator of the Transitional Deacon Supervision Program, and first director of the St. Columban Center in Derby after the diocese acquired it from the Columban fathers.

In 1988, Msgr. Wangler received his first pastorate at Holy Name of Mary, Ellicottville. This was followed by eight years as pastor of St. John the Baptist, Lockport. He retired in July 2002.

Msgr. Wangler was a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, a member of Alhambra Society, Innsbruck Alumni, DePorres Club and Kolping Society.

In 1993, he was named a prelate of honor by Pope John Paul II.

Msgr. Wangler is survived by his loving sister, Jeanette Donohue, and predeceased by brothers, Robert and Raymond, and his parents.

Bishop Richard J. Malone celebrated a funeral Mass March 27, at St. John the Baptist Church in Lockport.



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*God of endless love,  
ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave your only Son  
to save us by his blood on the cross.*

*Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,  
join to your own suffering  
the pain of all who have been hurt  
in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.*

*Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters  
who have been gravely harmed,  
and the cries of those who love them.  
Soothe their restless hearts with hope,  
steady their shaken spirits with faith.  
Grant them justice for their cause,  
enlightened by your truth.*

*Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal your people's wounds  
and transform brokenness into wholeness.  
Grant us the courage and wisdom,  
humility and grace, to act with justice.  
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.  
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

## BELIEVE IN THE POSSIBILITY OF HELP AND HEALING: THERE IS HOPE.

Your local Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to help you or anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church. We will listen to your needs and support you. We will help you make a formal complaint and arrange a personal meeting with the bishop, or his delegate, if desired. We encourage you to come forward and speak out.

Contact:

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## PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN UPCOMING CLASSES

*Parish and Catholic school employees and volunteers, over the age of 18, who work with children and young people in the Diocese of Buffalo, are required to attend a child sexual abuse awareness session.*

• Immaculate Conception School of (Wellsville)  
May 6 at 6:00 pm

• St. Mary Church (Canaseraga)  
May 11 at 12:30 pm

• Blessed Sacrament Church (Tonawanda)  
March 20 at 6:00 pm

• Catholic Center (Buffalo)  
May 23 at 12:30 pm

• Catholic Center (Buffalo)  
June 13 at 12:30 pm

• Catholic Center (Buffalo)  
July 11 at 12:30 pm

**Note:** Please be sure to check online at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) for updates to this list. Additional classes may be added as parishes and schools request to host a class.

**Register online at:**

[www.buffalodiocese.org/protecting-gods-children](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/protecting-gods-children)



“So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say, ‘Thank You.’ That’s all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.”

— Excerpt from “What is a Vet”  
by Father Dennis Edward O’Brien, USMC



St. Michael Veterans' Plaza  
at Mt. Olivet Cemetery

Please join us at one of our Memorial Day Masses  
as we salute our military heroes.

## Saluting Our Heroes Memorial Day Masses

**Saturday, May 25, 2019, 10am**

### Mount Olivet

*Holy Family Chapel Mausoleum*  
4000 Elmwood Ave., Kenmore  
Rev. Msgr. Francis G. Weldgen, Retired

### Holy Cross

*Holy Cross Chapel Mausoleum*  
2900 South Park Ave., Lackawanna  
Rev. John R. Gaglione, Retired

### Gate of Heaven

*All Saints Chapel Mausoleum*  
500 Riverdale Ave., Lewiston  
Rev. Msgr. J. Thomas Moran, Retired

### Holy Sepulchre

*St. Francis of Assisi Chapel Mausoleum*  
3063 Harlem Rd, Cheektowaga  
Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Popadick, Pastor  
St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Cheektowaga

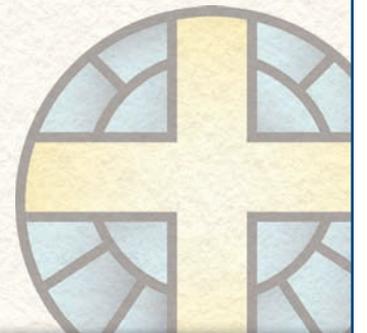
**Monday, May 27, 2019, 10am**

### Queen of Heaven

*Queen of Heaven Chapel*  
6843 Tonawanda Creek Rd, Lockport  
Rev. James A. Waite, Pastor  
St. John the Baptist, Lockport

### St Adalbert's Cemetery

*St. Adalbert's Chapel*  
6200 Broadway, Lancaster  
Rev. Paul S. Gygan, Parochial Vicar  
St. Gregory the Great,  
Williamsville



Catholic Cemeteries

873-6500

Put your faith in us.