Diocese celebrates 75 years
On Oct. 21, 1944, Pope Pius XII established the Diocese of Steubenville. This year the diocese begins a yearlong celebration of its 75th anniversary.

To open this special year, Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton will celebrate two opening Masses. They will be held Oct. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Peter Church, Steubenville, and Oct. 25, 7 p.m., at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta.

Bishop Monforton invites and encourages all of the faithful to participate in these Masses, as we celebrate this special anniversary.

News Brief
Pope appoints synod leaders

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis appointed three delegate presidents for the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon.

The pope named as delegate presidents for the Oct. 6-27 assembly Cardinals Baltazar Porras Cardozo, 74, of Merida, Venezuela; Pedro Barreto Jimeno, 75, of Huancayo, Peru; and Joao Braz de Aviz, 72, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

Though Pope Francis, as pontiff, is president of the synod, the three cardinals will take turns presiding over the synod’s daily sessions. The delegate presidents are also responsible for guiding the work of the synod and assigning special tasks to certain members, when necessary.

The special assembly on the Pan-Amazonian region will discuss the theme, “New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology.”

The main objectives, the pope has said, are to find new ways for the evangelization of the people in the region, especially the indigenous, to respond to situations of injustice in the region and to look at “the cause of the crisis of the Amazonian forest, (the) fundamental importance for our planet.”

Bishop recognizes first responders at Blue Mass

Police, firefighters and emergency personnel and their families attend the Blue Mass at St. Peter Church, Steubenville, Sept. 8. Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton celebrated the Mass, thanking the first responders for their service and praying for their safety. (Photo by Otsari)

By Dino Orsatti

STEUBENVILLE — Dozens of first responders and their families in Jefferson County gathered in prayerful and grateful remembrance of those who gave their lives in the fulfillment of their duties and for those still on the job. The Blue Mass was celebrated at St. Peter Church, Steubenville, Sept. 8.

Eric Hart, Steubenville patrolman, and his wife, Alexandra, have been organizing the Mass locally since 2009. They only missed 2012, due to the death of Msgr. George W. Yontz, who celebrated Blue Masses the first three years.

Mass in sign language is celebrated in Barnesville

Mass in sign language is celebrated at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Barnesville, and St. Mary Parish, Temperanceville, celebrates the 11 a.m. Mass at Assumption Church in both English and American Sign Language at the same time. In addition, he serves as an interpreter during the readings and hymns at the Mass.

Father Cornett said he knows there are deaf people everywhere and that there is a need for interpreters in all communities. He said deaf people are often hidden because you cannot just look at a person to know they are deaf; explaining how you must see them signing to know they are deaf. Father Cornett said: “For people with physical disabilities, we build ramps. For the deaf, we have to offer sign language. But, if it’s not offered, then they’re stuck, like a person who has a physical disability without a ramp.” Father Cornett added, “If deaf people show up at Mass, I sign.” He said that he began signing in Barnesville a little more than a year ago.

When he was 19 years old in the seminary at Divine Word College, Epworth, Iowa, Father Cornett began learning sign language. He used sign language as part of his ministry in Iowa for the Divine Word Missionaries, as well as in his work in Washington, D.C., Chicago and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where he worked for 10 years with the deaf. He noted that while he was in Chicago, he was involved in a strong deaf Catholic community. While he was in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa, Father Cornett was hired to be the interpreter for the deaf on television, he stated. In addition, while he was in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, he said he trained sign language interpreters.
Bishop recognizes first responders

From Page 1

“We pray for their families — EMTs, fire, police, probation officers... everybody. We try to honor all of them and the sacrifices they make every single day, as well as the sacrifices their families make. The families never know every day if their loved one will come home, it’s something they have to learn to live with,” said patrolman Hart.

Alexandra Hart further explained, “The first couple of years we recognized just the police officers, but since 2013 I felt a burning desire to honor all first responders and their families and ask for God’s blessing.”

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton was the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass. He began his homily expressing gratitude to the law enforcement officials and first responders.

“We owe gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, putting themselves in harm’s way so we might live in freedom and security,” he said.

The bishop reminded first responders that our safety hinges on them not “living in their comfort zone. Service comes with a cost. Faith and family are crucial to bear this cross together. Jesus in our darkest moments will never leave us.”

The Mass included the reading of the names of 15 first responders from Jefferson County who lost their lives in the line of duty over the years; followed by a ringing of a bell and then the solemn playing of “Taps.”

Mass in sign language

From Page 1

At a few seminaries

In the Diocese of Steubenville, Father Cornett said he receives calls from priests for translations when they need help with understanding sign language in their parishes. Father Cornett said he served as an interpreter at Clairsville High School, St. Clairsville.

As far as he knows, he is the only priest in the Steubenville Diocese who knows sign language. Father Cornett stated: “I am happy I can do it. We need more interpreters and more priests who can sign.” He noted he is not a certified translator.

Father Cornett said he often attends the Wheeling Deaf Club, which meets in Shadyside, and enjoys being around deaf people.

At the 11 a.m., Sept. 15, celebration of Mass at Assumption Church, five deaf people — William and Hilda Kerec, Rafael and Mary Matos, and Michele Kress — were in attendance. During an interview for The Steubenville Register, Father Cornett and the five deaf people in attendance explained some of the challenges the deaf community face.

While using sign language, Father Cornett explained, “Signs can be different. In sign language, we have accents, just like in the spoken language. ... Some of the signs are different.”

William Kerec told the story of his experiences. He said Father Cornett is only the third priest he met that understands sign language. Kerec said he doesn’t want to go to a Catholic Church unless he can understand it. He stated: “I can come to church and pray without fear.” He said the deaf can come to church and Father Cornett will lead and counsel them.

Father Cornett said: “We have a National Catholic Office for the Deaf out of Washington. They have a vocation every year, usually in January or February, and you’ll see all the Catholic priests, nuns and brothers, and laypeople that work in the Catholic deaf community come together. It’s just wonderful to experience.”

He told the story of how he met the Kerces. He said he received an email from a deaf friend who lives in Belpre, which advertised a retreat with a priest Father Cornett knew that was deaf. Father Cornett advertised the retreat to deaf Catholic communities he had contact with in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

While at the retreat, he was asked to help hear confessions because of a large crowd. There, Father Cornett met William Kerec. The Kerces began coming to Barnesville after meeting Father Cornett and finding out he was also in the Steubenville Diocese.

Rafael Matos explained how, when he was in school, sign language was forbidden. He said it is hard for him to communicate. Matos said when it comes to voting for president, he figures out who he wants to vote for by what he reads in the newspaper, since he cannot hear what they say on television. He also explained how the closed captioning on television is too fast and how the speed needs to be slowed. He explained how when a natural disaster happens, for example a hurricane, the television often does not show the interpreter standing next to the speaker.

Kerec demonstrated an application he has on his smartphone, called “stouch,” which is a video relay service for the deaf, created by Sorenson Communications. Kerec said he uses the application when he does not have an interpreter available, especially when he goes to the doctor’s office, to help avoid any confusion with medications. When he dials a person’s telephone number, a live video of an interpreter appears. The interpreter translates the sign language to the person that is dialed, conveying the message the deaf person wants to say.

Following the Mass, many parishioners commented how much they enjoy attending Mass with sign language, and they are always amazed watching Father Cornett celebrate Mass in two languages at the same time. One parishioner, Sandy Smolira, said the people in the parish are happy to have the deaf people at church for Mass. She said, “You can actually feel the signs. It gives the Mass depth and makes it more beautiful.”

Father Cornett said his passion for helping the deaf began in high school. He said his passion is driven by getting the Gospel message out to people. He said, “I’m always happy to do it.”

In addition to sign language, Father Cornett said he can also speak three African languages.

When reflecting on his usage of sign language and his help and care for the deaf community, Father Cornett stated: “I think God I have a gift for language.”
Revisions made to the “Decree on Child Protection”

By Matthew A. DiCenzo
Staff writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Clerics, religious and laypeople who minister to children and young people reviewed the changes made to the Diocese of Steubenville’s “Decree on Child Protection” and “Safe Environment Program” Sept. 9 at St. Mary Church Marian Hall, St. Clairsville. The workshop was one of four held throughout the diocese. Other locations included St. Louis Church hall, Gallipolis; Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption social hall, Marietta; and Blessed Sacrament Church Sargs Hall, Wintersville.

Father James M. Dunfee, diocesan vicar general, began the session with prayer and welcomed attendees, who included active and retired priests, deacons, parochial school principals and catechetical leaders.

The decree, which was originally instituted in the diocese in 2003, was updated this year. Previous revisions were made in 2009 and 2014. The decree was drafted at the mandate of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, who wrote a “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.” The charter and decree were a response to sex abuse by some clergy, nationwide.

The decree is meant to prevent abuse. Child abuse is defined in the decree as sexual activity, endangering or injuring a child, providing a child with alcohol or illegal drugs, physical or mental abuse or using demeaning language.

Belmont County Common Pleas Court Judge Frank A. Fregiato, who chairs the Steubenville Diocese’s Child Protection Review Board, and Permanent Deacon Paul D. Ward, director, diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools, alternated with presenting a slideshow via PowerPoint, explaining the changes to the attendees at the workshop.

According to the presentation, changes have been made in the categories of screening adults, how safe environment training is conducted and completed, reporting to the diocese, investigating an allegation, how to respond when the accused is deceased and provisions concerning bishops.

Beginning this fall, background checks will be conducted electronically, utilizing Catholic Mutual Group Connect in partnership with selection.com. Background checks will be completed once every five years. With the new revisions, only Catholic school employees and volunteers who function in a capacity that requires Ohio state licensure require background checks from federal and Ohio authorities with fingerprinting, in addition to the completion of the background check conducted by Catholic Mutual Group Connect. The Safe Environment training and background check are available at https://steeubenville.cmgconnect.org and will be administrated by a site administrator. Background checks conducted by federal and Ohio authorities for all Catholic school employees will be kept on file at the diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools.

In addition, changes have been made to screening. Site administrators will no longer need to file paper copies of the applicant’s certification or the checklist for hiring employees/regular volunteers, since those forms have now been incorporated into the Catholic Mutual Group Connect registration and training process. According to Deacon Ward, the future of the Safe Environment training, screening and documentation is “paperless.” The Catholic Mutual Group Connect database will store and record forms and documentation is “paperless.” The Catholic Mutual Group Connect database will store and record forms and documentation is “paperless.”

Also, changes have been made to the checklist for hiring.

Permanent Deacon Paul D. Ward, director, Diocese of Steubenville Office of Christian Formation and Schools, presents changes to the Diocese of Steubenville’s “Decree on Child Protection” and “Safe Environment Program” during a workshop, Sept. 9, at St. Mary Church Marian Hall, St. Clairsville. (Photo by DiCenzo)
Bishop Jeffrey Monforton ordains five Franciscan Friars to diaconate

STEUBENVILLE — Five members of the Franciscan Friars Third Order Regular Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus were ordained deacons – their final step before being ordained to the priesthood – Sept. 14 at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton was the main celebrant and homilist.

“We usually hold our diaconate ordination ceremonies at the TOR motherhouse in Loretto, Pennsylvania. But, all five men have close connections to Franciscan University, and the Sacred Heart Province is excited to hold the ceremony at the university,” said Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Joseph Lehman, minister provincial.

“An ordination is always a gift and a privilege for the church, and we would love to have as many people as possible come join us for this celebration.”

Third Order Regular Franciscan Brother Daniel Maria Klimek is an assistant professor of theology at Franciscan University and teaches courses in Mariology, Christian morality, Franciscan spirituality and mysticism. Originally from Chicago, Brother Klimek lived in Poland for a few years as a child. He received his doctorate from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Third Order Regular Franciscan Brother Zachary Burns, a native of Milford, Pennsylvania, is an alumnus of Franciscan University’s sister school, St. Francis University, Loretto. He studied elementary education and worked as a public school teacher before joining the TORs. During his apostolic year of formation, Brother Burns served at Franciscan University in Steubenville as the pastoral associate in the missionary outreach office.

Also, changes to the reporting of suspected abuse were made. If the vicar general is not available, the report is to be made to the diocesan attorney. If the diocesan attorney is not available, the report is to be made to the diocesan chancellor. Also, “the bishop is also free, with appropriate public notice, to appoint another qualified diocesan official to be a point person regarding initial reporting.”

Changes were also made to investigations. All allegations of actual or suspected acts of child abuse shall be promptly reported to the vicar general and to the appropriate civil authority. “The vicar general and/or his delegates shall also conduct an immediate and initial assessment” to determine if the accusation of child abuse “has a semblance of truth.”

Also, the vicar general shall not directly conduct an investigation. Instead, the vicar general shall refer all related matters to civil authorities to investigate all alleged incidents of abuse. If the civil authorities determine that the “accusation is not credible, and/or the investigation is not warranted, the vicar general may take steps to ensure an investigation is conducted by an objective third party.” In addition, “when the accused is deceased, an inquiry or assessment may be made to determine what, if any, pastoral response shall be made to the alleged victim.”

A new provision for when the accused is a bishop was also added to the decree. In Appendix K of the decree, Pope Francis’ apostolic letter “Vos estis lux mundi” (“You are the light of the world”) is included, which provides norms that apply to clergy regarding child abuse.

The entire decree and the links to the online Safe Environment training can be found on the diocesan website at www.diosteub.org/general-information-adult-training.

Any victim or victims harmed by a priest or anyone serving on behalf of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Steubenville or anyone who suspects child abuse should contact diocesan and civil authorities. Father Dunfee, who administers the decree, can be reached at the chancery at 422 Washington St., Steubenville; via telephone (740) 282-3631; or email jdunfee@diosteub.org.

Revisions made

From Page 3 employees. New to the checklist are letters of recommendation from two previous employers being provided by the applicant and a letter from a professional reference. In addition, site administrators must send copies of the Safe Environment training to the diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools.

It was also announced that attendance at a workshop will no longer be required for completion of the Safe Environment training. Instead, everything will be completed online. Annual refresher trainings will be required, but will not be as comprehensive as the initial training. Also, site administrators will now be able to report the date trainings are completed as well as how many children attended or opted out of the instruction of youth in child protection on the Catholic Mutual Group Connect website. Forms that are still available on the Diocese of Steubenville website – www.diosteub.org – include field trip forms, option to opt out of the instruction of youth in child protection, program permission and direct contact permission forms and acceptable use and internet safety policy forms.

Welcome to the Light of the East

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church
207 Standard St., Mingo Junction
Sunday Divine Liturgy – 11 a.m.

St Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church
814 N. 5th St., Toronto
Sunday Vigil Divine Liturgy – Saturday, 5 p.m.
weekdays/holidays – as announced at both churches
Rev. Father John Kapitan Jr, O.F.M. – revfrjohn@sbcglobal.net

Bishop celebrates White Mass at Trinity

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, back row, third from left, is the main celebrant and homilist at the ordination Mass of five members of the Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars (TOR) to the diaconate. Seated, from left, are Brothers Zachary Burns, Daniel Maria Klimek, Stephan Mary Waruszewski, Matthew Simons and Rufino Corona. Standing, from left, are Franciscan Fathers Gregory Plow, TOR, novice formation; Joseph Lehman, TOR, minister provincial of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus; Dave Pivonka, TOR, Franciscan University president; and Jonathan St. Andre, TOR, vice president of Franciscan Life at Franciscan University. (Photo provided)

Bishop Jeffrey Monforton ordains five Franciscan Friars to diaconate

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, front row, middle, with Permanent Deacons Richard G. Adams, front row, far right, and Paul D. Ward, back row, far right, gather with health care workers after the annual White Mass in the Sullivan Room at Trinity Health System, West, Steubenville. The bishop blessed and recognized the ministry of health care providers. Another White Mass will be celebrated Oct. 13 at Christ the King University Parish, Athens. (Photo by Orsatti)
New cardinals: Pope Francis’ choices stress dialogue, care for poor

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After the consistory to create new cardinals in early October, Pope Francis will have chosen more than half of the men who will enter the Sistine Chapel to elect his successor.

And despite what critics of Pope Francis filled social media with Sept. 1 about him setting up the college to elect a successor just like him, it should be remembered that then-Archbishop Jorge Mario Bergoglio was created a cardinal by St. John Paul. And he was elected pope in 2013 in a conclave where 42 percent of the cardinal electors were created cardinals by St. John Paul and the remaining 58 percent of the voters were named by Pope Benedict.

Personal opinions about the needs of the church at any given moment and about who would be the best person to lead obviously are at play in a conclave. But the cardinals also invoke the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and make a very solemn oath in casting their ballots: “I call as my witness Christ the Lord, who will be my judge, that my vote is given to the one who before God I think should be elected.”

After arriving late for the midday recitation of the Angelus prayer Sept. 1 because he was stuck in an elevator for 25 minutes, Pope Francis announced he would create 13 new cardinals Oct. 5.

Ten of the prelates he chose are under the age of 80 and, therefore, would be eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a pope. A cardinal who has turned 80 before the papacy is vacant participates in pre-conclave meetings to discuss the needs of the church but does not process into the Sistine Chapel and does not cast ballots for a new pope.

Barring any deaths or resignations, once the new cardinals receive their red hats in early October, the College of Cardinals will have 128 members eligible to vote in a conclave. Within 10 days of the consistory, four cardinals will celebrate their 80th birthdays, leaving 124 electors. Of those 124, Pope Francis will have made 66 of them cardinals, which is 53 percent of the electors. The other electors will include 16 cardinals created by St. John Paul II and 42 made cardinals by now-retired Pope Benedict XVI.

While a majority in the next conclave will have Pope Francis to thank for their red hats and new responsibilities, to be elected pope a candidate must receive two-thirds of the votes.

Announcing the new cardinals, Pope Francis said they illustrate “the missionary vocation of the church that continues to proclaim the merciful love of God to all men and women of the earth.”

A commitment to the poor, to caring for migrants and refugees and to engaging in dialogue with all people are characteristics many in the group of 13 share.

Among the over-80 cardinals is Lithuanian Archbishop Sigitas Tamkevičius, who, a year ago, joined Pope Francis on a prayerful tour of the former KGB headquarters in Vilnius.

The archbishop had been imprisoned from 1983 to 1988 for “anti-Soviet propaganda.” As a Jesuit priest, in 1972 he began publishing the Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania, an underground newsletter documenting communist repression of the church. Despite repeated questioning by the KGB, he managed to publish and distribute the chronicle for more than 10 years and, once he was arrested, others continued his work.

One of the new cardinal electors will be Guatemalan Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini Imeri of Huehuetenango, a human rights defender whose support for environmental activists has earned him death threats.

Two Roman Curia officials tapped to become cardinals led the archdiocese for only eight months in 1983 before he was arrested, others continued his work.

Pope Francis prays as he arrives for a consistory to create new cardinals in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican in this June 28, 2017, file photo. The pope announced Sept. 1 that he will create 13 new cardinals at a Oct. 5 consistory. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Two abortion clinics are closing in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI (CNA) — In response to new federal and state regulations restricting funding of abortion clinics, Planned Parenthood announced that two of its clinics in Ohio will close this month. Planned Parenthood currently operates 26 clinics in Ohio. Two will be closing in the Cincinnati area. Their last day of business will be Sept. 20.

In March, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a state law that bans state funds from going to medical providers that perform abortions, cutting about $600,000 from Ohio Planned Parenthood, The Hill, Washington, D.C., reported. The law passed in 2016, but it was immediately challenged in court.

Judge Jeffrey Sutton, who authored the majority opinion, said that Ohio had no constitutional requirement to provide funds to any private organization.

“The state may choose to not subsidize constitutionally protected activities,” wrote Sutton. “Just as it has no obligation to provide a platform for an individual’s free speech,” the state has “no obligation to pay for a woman’s abortion.”

In addition to the state funding cuts, Planned Parenthood has also seen a decline in federal taxpayer money, after the Trump administration’s Protect Life Rule went into effect earlier this summer.

The Protect Life Rule makes changes to the Title X family planning program, barring Title X fund recipients from performing or referring women for abortions. Clinics that provide “nondirective counseling” about abortion can still receive funds.

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The surprising Curia pick was Jesuit Father Michael Czerny, one of two undersecretaries for migrants and refugees in the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Cardinal-designate Czerny, who was born in 1949 in what was Czechoslovakia and who migrated with his family to Canada when he was 2, worked in a variety of social justice ministries in Canada, Central America and Africa before coming to the Vatican.

According to canon law, he will need to be ordained a bishop before receiving his red hat Oct. 5, although he could request a dispensation. He did not respond Sept. 1 to a question about his possible ordination.

Pope Francis’ choices continue to pay little attention to the large archdioceses traditionally led by cardinals, such as Milan and Venice. But he will give a red hat to Archbishop Matteo Zuppi of Bologna, Italy, where all but one of the archbishops in the last 400 years had been a cardinal. The only exception was Archbishop Enrico Manfredini, who led the archdiocese for only eight months in 1983 before he died at the age of 61.

In selecting cardinals, Pope Francis has made it a point to increase the geographical profile of the College of Cardinals. The conclave that elected him included participants from 48 nations; the 128 electors in the expanded college will include prelates from 68 countries.
St. John Paul II
Bishop: Power and Authority

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

St. John Paul II spoke of the primary duty of bishops as that of preaching the Gospel, in keeping with the “Great Commission” he gave his Apostles before leaving this world (see, Matthew, Chapter 28, Verse 20). However, preaching the Gospel message does not complete their duties. Closely connected to preaching the word of God is applying it. That is where the other function the pope mentioned comes in, their priestly or “sanctifying” mission. The two functions are related as cause and effect: Preaching instructs and inspires; instruction and inspiration prompt acceptance and response. Acceptance is that of the offer of Christ: the offer of eternal life; the response is the will to do what is required to attain it. What is required is to avail oneself of the means to that end, specifically baptism and the Eucharist, as well as the other five sacraments that relate to the two. Where does one obtain these “sacraments?” From the Apostles, themselves, and their successors, exercising their priestly function.

Obviously, these functions imply a kind of power, a power at the spiritual and even supernatural level. When and how did Christ confer such power on the Apostles? We don’t really know. They were with Jesus for some three years (according to the accepted view of the length of Jesus’ public life). He could have done so at any time in those three years. He could have done so simply by an act of his will. After all, he was not bound to the church’s later practice of “ordination.” However, there is specific mention of some of these powers in the Gospels, e.g., when Christ commanded them, at the Last Supper, “to do this in memory of me” (Lk 22:14-20) i.e., to continue to confect the Eucharist; or when, at the evening of his resurrection, he said to them: “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven; whose sins you retain are retained” (Jn 20:23) i.e., to absolve from sin; or, immediately before his ascension, he told them to preach the Gospel to all nations ... “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 29:20).

The church would later identify these powers specifically in the form of seven sacraments. We have already seen those of the Eucharist, baptism and reconciliation (penance). Among the rest, two refer to one’s state of life: matrimony and the priesthood; one has to do with strengthening especially the gift of faith, confirmation. The final one has to do with spiritual strength in illness, especially that in time of death, anointing of the sick (extreme unction). It is interesting to note that, inasmuch as these powers touch on the supernatural realm of divine grace, they are powers which not even the highest order of angels possess. That God gives such power to mere human beings is indeed remarkable! Why so? For the same reason that God became man: So that man, made to his own image and likeness, with the abilities to know and choose, would have a major part on his own redemption and salvation!

“Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And, whoever rejects me rejects the One who sent me” (Lk 10:16). Another endowment of the Apostles – and their successors – is authority. Our Lord spoke of it, not in terms of prestige or status, but in terms of service. We recall his words in this connection: “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all” (Mk 9:35). We are reminded also of Pope Innocent I’s letter to the patriarch of Constantinople. The patriarch signed his name with all his titles. Innocent signed his: “Innocent, servant of the servants of God.” We think also of the public official who agonizes over the “burden of office,” and the military commander who complains of “the loneliness of command.” St. Paul spoke of the authority that the Lord had given him as that to “build up, and not to tear down” (2 Cor 13:10). Pope John Paul says that such requires “patience and leniency,” ... that the office of bishop is more of a service than an honor. Most bishops would heartily agree, especially those caught up in the turmoil of the recent crisis in clerical sexual abuse. The traditional symbol of Christ is applied also to the bishop: that of the Good Shepherd, one who knows and loves his sheep and puts himself out in their service.

The Word on Fire Retreat and God’s Wonderful Providence

By Bishop Robert Barron

Something on clear display in the Bible and in the history of the church is that a mission that is authentically from God tends to draw people to itself. When Peter and his companions were overwhelmed by the miraculous draught of fishes, other fishermen rushed to the scene to help them. When Mother Teresa made her way into the streets of Calcutta to care for the sick and dying, she was joined, within weeks, by many of her former students. One of the great privileges of my life has been my involvement with the Word on Fire apostolate. Something I have watched with fascination and deep spiritual joy is that so many people from around the country have been drawn by God’s providence into this ministry. This past week, for the first time ever, we gathered in Santa Barbara (California), all 25 members of the Word on Fire team, for days of reflection. They came from New York, Chicago, Dallas, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles, to the lovely Franciscan mission in Santa Barbara to pray, to commune with one another, to plan for the future.

Father Steve Grunow, the CEO of Word on Fire, was there, of course. Father Steve was a student of mine at Mundelein Seminary, outside of Chicago, in the mid-1990s when I had just begun my teaching ministry. He was head and shoulders above the other students: brilliant, insightful, dedicated. In the early years of Word on Fire, he was a close collaborator and advisor, and then, in the late 2000s, Cardinal (Francis) George formally assigned him as my assistant.

Jared Zimmerman, the director of the Word on Fire Institute, was on hand for the retreat. I had met Jared through Father Steve, who had come upon him online. Father of six, powerlifter extraordinaire, doctoral candidate in humanities, Jared very competently coordinates the increasingly complex work of our institute, which is dedicated to forming an army of lay evangelizers.

Robert Mixa was an enthusiastic participant in the retreat. Many years ago, when I was running Word on Fire out of the Chicago office, Bobby emailed me out of the blue. He told me he was a recent philosophy graduate of St. Louis University (St. Louis, Missouri) and a follower of my ministry. He wondered whether he could help in any way.

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We Give Thanks to God for Our Priests

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

He said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Mt 4:19).

The above quote is quite clear that Jesus invites and we respond. A vocation to the priesthood is an invitation extended by Jesus Christ. This Christian vocation does not simply participate personally in the universal call to holiness, but is the very instrument by which Jesus calls all to holiness. As I have remarked time and time again, the domestic church, namely the family, is a vocational nursery. It is the interaction of mother and father, husband and wife, establishing the foundation by which children become adults. The sacrifice parents make for their family directly determines how their children will approach their vocation as a self-giving existence and not simply a 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. job. Furthermore, as I recognized time and time again, as a seminary rector/president, men need healthy male models that are male heroes.

As discernment to the priesthood begins at home, the priestly vocation is best discerned in the formal setting of a seminary in which one’s spiritual GPS is sharpened and gains laser focus on his encounter with Jesus Christ. However, our brothers must first hear the call, even in the midst of our present world’s distractions, which are not short in number as you and I know so well. From texting to blogging, even old school of speaking on the phone, we experience a polyphony of communication almost every minute, and each one of these areas can provide unhealthy and unwanted distraction. Think about it. How many of us have witnessed people texting at a restaurant dinner, even couples, and we suspect they’re not texting one another? Attentive presence is crucial in answering any vocation.

To put it another way, how many future spouses accepted a proposal from their future spouse while texting and providing a verbal answer of “yes, whatever?”

If we do not pay attention to the Lord or encourage our brothers to do the same, we will allow the world’s external influences and expectations to distract their inner selves. Courage is a necessary virtue in any man’s response to Jesus’ invitation to follow him.

We thank the Lord for our priests as they bring us the Eucharist and the sacraments. I personally believe there are men out there who have the vocation to the priesthood, but distractions have become too great for them to hear “the call.” Yes, more male heroes, especially in the forms of dads and husbands, are needed in order to foster and strengthen the priestly vocation in our local church and throughout the world.

Pray for our priests. Pray for our men who are preparing for the priesthood and pray for those men who have just begun their discernment to the priesthood, that they may keep their heart wide open to our Lord’s words. It comes down to encounter, for how can you and I hear Jesus’ invitation if we’ve decided to place other priorities before him?

Thank you, my dear brother priests, for your “yes.” Please thank our priests.

The Other Side of the Door

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C (Sept. 29)

By Father Paul J. Walker

The first reading gives us a sharp picture of the prosperous northern kingdom of Israel at the time of Amos the prophet: Society had become numb to the plight of the people in their very midst. The lives that people were living had become disjointed from the reality of the shape of the nation. The people living there were utterly unconcerned for the real condition of their nation. The prophet himself feels like an outcast, for the lives of the rich and powerful were utterly alien to God’s covenant.

Needless to say, the prophet’s message is not warmly welcomed. He is warned to take his prophesying to Judah (the southern kingdom): “earn your bread there ... but, never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, (the southern kingdom): “earn your bread there ... but, never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, (the southern kingdom): “earn your bread there ... but, never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary...” (Am 7:12-13). The Jews were fierce nationalists, thus the merger of God’s sanctuary and the king’s sanctuary sounds dangerously close to the “God and country” rhetoric that has remained to our own day to confuse or eliminate any distinctions between the will of God and the polity of nations. Israel’s prophetic tradition is at pains to point out this blurring of loyalties.

Jesus of Nazareth stands firmly within this tradition. His preaching and his deeds often carried the elements of surprise and reversal. Many of his parables (and deeds) were a source of comfort for the afflicted and a source of affluence for the comfortable. Whether or not you were disturbed by such words and deeds depended on where and who you were. The religious nationalism common to Jesus’ time saw the world in rather clearly defined black and white, “either or” categories. To be set for the reign of God meant belonging to the nation of Israel as well as sound physical health and wholeness along with financial prosperity. Being blessed or “beloved of God” were further associated with righteousness or right living – morality. Religious people could therefore easily connect their wealth with God’s favor. Their wealth was theirs to enjoy themselves. Jesus is spreading out this scene for the Pharisees who would most likely have placed themselves in this class of those graced of God and righteously headed for eternal life. The scene could not be any sharper than Luke paints it for us – who is “in” and who is “out.” Open, festering sores cover the skin of Lazarus and, in obvious contrast, the rich man is covered in stylish garments of expensive materials. The feast spread out before him is a banquet – one that he apparently enjoys daily, by himself, far out of the reach of Lazarus.

The scene shifts, and on the other side of this life their positions are reversed. Lazarus rests in the bosom of Abraham – a place of honor, rest and happiness in the afterlife. In sharp contrast is the rich man, who from his torment sees Lazarus on the other side of a great chasm, having been carried by angels to a place of peace, rest and eternal happiness. After death, their fates have been completely reversed. With all the coloring of an oriental story, the glaring inequalities of life in this world are evened out. But, the story doesn’t want to speak solely about the afterlife. He is not simply informing his listeners how the future would unfold for folks when they had died, but he presents a shockingly reversal of fortune grounded in the decisions of this life.

It is important to note that the rich man is not overtly cruel or hostile to Lazarus. One could say that the rich man’s sin is one of “not noticing.” He accepted Lazarus and his plight as part of the landscape and simply thought it perfectly natural that someone alone, in distress and headed toward starvation, was lying right outside his door. The scene in the next life simply brings to light the situation already present here in this life. It is very easy to journey though life in the midst of such glaring inequalities and be numb to it all, or even worse, to assume such prosperity is a sign of divine favor! The parable suggests that quite the opposite (the reversal) is true. It is at this point where we round the corner and the story takes a surprising turn: The rich man begs to have Lazarus (whom he now knows by name) sent to his five rich brothers to warn them lest they share the same fate after they have died. From his torment the rich man, perhaps not so self-centered, has begun to think about his brothers, headed for a like torment. He assumes if Lazarus (returning from the dead) warns them they will listen and repent. Abraham points out they have not listened to “Moses and the prophets” – perhaps a shorthand way to sum up the message of the whole Old Testament, leading them to refocus their vision. After all, the message has been there all along. If they haven’t heard that message then they haven’t heard the call. It is at this point where we round the corner and the story takes a surprising turn: The rich man begs to have Lazarus (whom he now knows by name) sent to his five rich brothers to warn them lest they share the same fate after they have died. From his torment the rich man, perhaps not so self-centered, has begun to think about his brothers, headed for a like torment. He assumes if Lazarus (returning from the dead) warns them they will listen and repent. Abraham points out they have not listened to “Moses and the prophets” – perhaps a shorthand way to sum up the message of the whole Old Testament, leading them to refocus their vision. After all, the message has been there all along. If they haven’t heard that message

To Page 8
some capacity. Initially we took him on as a research assistant, and since then, he has worn many hats at Word on Fire. Now he is playing a key role in the institute office in Dallas.

Rozann Carter Lee participated in the retreat. I first met Rozann in 2002 when I was on sabbatical at the University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, Indiana). During my time at the university, I taught one undergraduate course in theology, and Rozann, a sophomore at the time, was the brightest kid in that class. I was charmed by her smile, her constant cheerfulness and her very sharp questions. Some years later, we advertised for a position at Word on Fire, and I was delighted to see that Rozann had applied. We hired her right away, and she has supervised almost all of our graphic design work for the past 10 years. Some years after Rozann joined us, Sean Lee came aboard. A gifted graduate of Ave Maria University (Ave Maria, Florida), Sean worked for some years in marketing and now basically runs operations for the entire ministry. More importantly, about six years ago, Sean invited Rozann to accompany him to a Bulls game on a Friday night – and the rest is history. They married five years ago and now have three kids, Kolbe (named for Maximilian Kolbe), Mary Flannery (named for Flannery O'Connor) and Francis George (named for the cardinal who was a sort of grandfather to Word on Fire).

Joseph Gloor was on retreat with us as well. A well-known bodybuilder, model and MTV star, Joe had undergone a conversion to the faith some years ago. And then, through the influence of his dad, he came into contact with my work – which he then proceeded more or less to memorialize! The day of the press conference announcing that I was coming to Los Angeles as a bishop, Joe raced to the cathedral to meet me. After performing a number of different tasks for Word on Fire, he now uses his extensive knowledge of film and photography in his role as producer for our ministry.

Cassie Pease took part in our days of reflection. When Rozann was looking for some help in the graphic design department, she looked online and found Cassie’s extraordinary work, which is simultaneously deeply Catholic and remarkably contemporary in style. Cassie has brought her creative verve and energy to our DVDs, our books, and the Word on Fire Institute Journal.

I could tell you many more stories, but I hope you see what I’m driving at. Like a great artist, the Holy Spirit, in the course of many years, has drawn together a variety of strands, colors and textures to produce something beautiful. Because God is non-competitive with his creation, he doesn’t supplant our efforts, but rather delights in including us in his work. I do indeed take a Father’s pride in Word on Fire, and I felt this especially during our retreat, when the whole family was gathered around me. But, much more I take an apprentice’s delight in seeing what the Master is up to.

Bishop Barron is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He is also the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, headquartered in Des Plaines, Illinois. A nonprofit global media apostolate, additional information is available at www.wordonfire.org.

The Other Side

by now, the ghost of Lazarus is unlikely to make them into generous givers sensitized to the plight of the poor.

We can move this scenario out of first century Israel and more uncomfortably close to our 21st century world. Luke’s story begins with sharp contrasts: extravagant luxury over against utter destitution. The rich man is not stingy or miserly – he is just numb to the presence of the poor and inattentive to their needs.

Theparable is about responding to an ongoing invitation (warming?) to see our

21st century world with God’s eyes. What we catch is indeed a warning, a warning that arrives in a call to realize our accountable-ability as God’s stewards, not owners, of this world’s gifts. The warning sharpens our vision: If we refuse to care for others’ needs while pretending to care for the things of God, if we fail to address those needs out of our abundance, we will one day discover that we are living far from God, no matter how perfect our external religious observances were. Practicing religion is revealed as genuine or false in very specific situations – many times those

we don’t choose.

We need a closing thought from Father John Shea:

“The Christian message always searches for creative disciples who can translate spiritual truths into social facts. On one side of the door, the rich man feasts; on the other side – Lazarus starves. Who holds the key to open the door? The answer ... begins with the universally recognized truth that doors are locked from the inside.”


Father Walker is a Diocese of Steubenville priest and a former director of the diocesan Office of Worship. Retired from active parish ministry, he continues to reside in his hometown, McConnelsville, where he often celebrates Mass at St. James Church. Father Walker regularly writes a column for The Steubenville Register.

St. John Paul II grieved with America after 9/11 terrorist attacks

VATICAN CITY (CNA) — As three airliners smashed into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, and Flight 93 crashed into a Pennsylvania field on Sept. 11, 2001, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, at the time the director of the Vatican press office, delivered the news to Pope John Paul II.

“I remember that terrible afternoon as if it were yesterday. I called the pope, who was at his vacation home in the mountains, and informed him of the news. He was shocked not only by the tragedy itself, but also because he could not explain how man could achieve this abyss of evil ...” he recalled in a 2011 interview with the Vatican Insider.

Pope John Paul II, who had grown up to watch his native Poland overrun first by Nazis and then by the Soviets, and who as pope navigated the dangerous international waters of the Cold War, was no stranger to tragedy and war.

Still, the terrorist attacks on the United States shook him deeply.

“He was deeply shaken, saddened. But, I remember that he asked himself how so heinous an attack could happen. His dis-may, in front of those images, went beyond pain,” Navarro-Valls recalled.

“He stayed for a short time in front of the TV. Then he retired to the chapel, which is only a few steps away from the TV room. And he remained there a long time in prayer. He then drove himself away, accompanied by George Bush, to communicate his support, his pain, his prayer. But it was not possible to contact the president, who for security reasons was flying on Air Force One.”

Instead, Pope John Paul II decided to send his message of condolences and assurance of prayers via telegram, and was among the first of the world leaders to do so that day.

“I hurry to express to you and your fellow-citizens my profound sorrow and my closeness in prayer for the nation at this dark and tragic moment,” the pope wrote.

In a 2011 article in the Catholic Register, James Nicholson, who was the new United States ambassador to the Holy See in 2001, recalled his first meeting with Pope John Paul II, just two days after the terror attacks.

“...The first thing the pope said to me was how sorry he felt for my country, which had just been attacked and how sad it made him feel. We next said a prayer together for the victims and their families.

Then the pope said something very profound and very revealing of his acute grasp of international terrorism. He said, ‘Ambassador Nicholson, this was an attack, not just on the United States, but on all of humanity.’ And, then he added, ‘We must stop these people who kill in the name of God.’”

Sept. 11, 2001 was a Tuesday.

The next day, Wednesday, is when the pope is scheduled each week to address the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

What day Pope John Paul II normally used this as a time for catechesis on the family or other issues, he set everything aside on Sept. 12 to address the tragedy from which the world was still reeling.

The pope said, “I cannot begin this audience without expressing my profound sorrow at the terrorist attacks which yesterday brought death and destruction to America, causing thousands of victims and injuring countless people. To the president of the United States and to all American citizens I express my heartfelt sorrow. In the face of such unspeakable horror we cannot but be deeply disturbed. I add my voice to all the voices raised in these hours to express indignant condemnation, and I strongly reiterate that the ways of violence will never lead to genuine solutions to humanity’s problems.”
Pope Francis says at audience that African trip planted new seeds of hope

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Having gone to Africa as a pilgrim of peace and hope, Pope Francis said he hoped the seeds planted there by his visit would bear abundant fruit for everyone.

Following in the footsteps of evangelizing saints before him, the pope said he sought to bring with him “the leaven of Christ” and his Gospel, which is “the most powerful leaven of fraternity, justice and peace for all people.”

Speaking in St. Peter’s Square, the pope recalled his fourth apostolic journey to Africa. He dedicated his general audience talk to a review of some of the highlights from his visit to Mozambique, Madagascar and Mauritius Sept. 4-10.

The pope said he wanted to “sow the seeds of hope, peace and reconciliation” in Mozambique, which had experienced two devastating cyclones recently and 15 years of civil war.

While the church continues to guide the nation along the path of peace, the pope made special mention of the Rome-based Community of Sant’Egidio, which had facilitated the mediation process that resulted in the nation’s 1992 peace agreement.

The pope said, “I would like to take a moment to thank” the lay community for their hard work in this peace process.

He said he also encouraged Mozambique’s leaders to keep working together for the common good, and he noted how he saw that kind of cooperation in action at a hospital he visited that helps people, especially mothers and children, with HIV and AIDS.

“I saw that the patients were the most important thing” at the Sant’Egidio-run center, which was staffed by people of different religious beliefs, including the director of the hospital, who was Muslim, he said.

Everyone worked together, “united, like brothers and sisters,” he said.

Reflecting on Madagascar, the pope noted how beautiful and rich in natural resources the country is, but that it is still marked by tremendous poverty.

He said he asked that the people there be inspired by their “traditional spirit of solidarity” in order to overcome the obstacles they face and foster development that respect both the environment and social justice.

In fact, “one cannot build a city worthy of human dignity without faith and prayer,” he said when he spoke to contemplative religious women.

Pope Francis said he wanted to visit Mauritius because it has become “a place of integration between different ethnicities and cultures.”

Not only was interreligious dialogue well-established there, he said, there were strong bonds of friendship among the leaders of different religions.

“It would seem strange to us, but they have this friendship that is so natural,” he said, explaining how touched he was to find a large bouquet of flowers sent to him by the grand imam “as a sign of fraternity.”

He said he encouraged government leaders to stay committed to fostering harmony and to protecting democracy.
Amsterdam — St. Joseph Parish CWC will sponsor an annual soup and sandwich sale from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Oct. 6, at the school hall, 348 Main St. Takeout will be available. Auctions and a bake sale table will also be part of the event. For more information, telephone Cindy Stewart at (740) 768-2138.

Buchtel/Gloster — St. Mary of the Hills Church hall, Buchtel, and Holy Cross Church hall and parish office, Gloster, no longer have telephone numbers. Calls should be made to the Athens Catholic community parish office, located at Holy Family Center, 75 Stewart St., Athens, at (740) 592-2711.

Carrollton — Our Lady of Mercy Parish will hold a concert by the Astralis Chamber Ensemble at 7 p.m., Sept. 25, at the church, to celebrate the second anniversary of the dedication of Our Lady of Mercy Church. Admission is free for the concert; donations will be accepted. For additional information, telephone the parish office at (330) 627-4664.

Little Hocking — A “Renew Your Spirit Ladies Retreat Day” will be held from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Oct. 5, at St. Ambrose Church. Speakers at the retreat will include Chams Edelman, owner of Chams Lebanese Cuisine restaurant, Parkersburg, West Virginia, and Kathy Reis, a parishioner of St. Ambrose Parish, a retired nurse. Music will be provided by Kay Carter, a parishioner of St. Mary of the Hills Parish, Buchtel, director of the music ministry. The day will include confessions, group discussions, Divine Mercy chaplet and lunch. Admission is a $10 donation. For more information or to make reservations by Sept. 27, contact Rita Rodgers by telephoning (740) 423-5697 or emailing drrdrg3214@gmail.com; or Becky Hennen by telephoning (740) 989-2460 or emailing becky1097@windstream.net.

Lowell — Beginning the weekend of Sept. 21-22, Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. on Saturdays and at 9:30 a.m., Sundays, at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Marietta — Visitation Deanery Council of Catholic Women will meet Sept. 22 at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption. A prayer service will begin at 2 p.m.; the meeting will follow. For more information, telephone Donna Archer at (740) 305-5088.

Marietta — The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption and St. Mary School will hold a three-weekend fall festival at the St. Mary School Msgr. Kacskic Parish Center. The events begin Sept. 27 with a chili dinner and live auctions. Tickets cost and admit two people. Super Bingo will be held Oct. 12 at 7 p.m.; doors open at 2 p.m. A free meal will be served and door prizes will be available. On Nov. 17, a chicken dinner will be served from 1-6 p.m., sponsored by the basilica Catholic Woman’s Club and Knights of Columbus Council 478. For additional information, telephone the school office at (740) 374-8181 or email Tammi Bradley at tammi-bradley@stmaryscatholic.org.

St. Mary School Boosters will sponsor a “Fall Back 5K Run/Walk” at 2 p.m., Nov. 3, at East Muskingum Park gazebo, Front Street. Preregistration costs $20, if registered by Oct. 18, is $25 the day of the race and after Oct. 18. Cost is $15 for students ages 18 and under. Checks can be made payable to St. Mary Boosters and mailed to Danielle Eagan, 330 Marion St., Marietta, OH 45750. For additional information, email Danielle.eagan@gmail.com.

Richmond — St. John Fisher Parish will hold an annual Octoberfest celebration from noon-4 p.m., Oct. 13, at the church, 7457 Ohio Route 152. The menu includes roasted turkey and pork loin, halskeuni, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and gravy, creamed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, applesauce, salad, bread and desserts. Coffee, tea, punch and water will also be available. Cost for the dinner is $10 for adults; $5 for children ages 4-12; children 3 years of age and under eat for free. Takeout is available by telephoning (740) 423-6212. Live music, 50/50 raffle, basket raffle and country kitchen will be part of the event.

St. Clairsville — A marriage preparation workshop will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 19, at St. Mary Church. A workshop will also be held March 14, 2020. Cost is $50 per couple; a light breakfast and full lunch will be served. The deadline to register is seven days prior to the workshops. The workshop fulfills diocesan marriage requirements. For additional information, contact Michal Zabrecky, director of religious education, by telephoning (740) 695-9993 or emailing dre@stmaryschurchstc.com.

Steubenville — St. Peter Parish book club will meet at 10 a.m., Sept. 21, in the church hall. The discussion will be “A Time to Die: Monks on the Threshold of Eternal Life,” by Nicolas Dust.

Steubenville — Catholic Central High School, 320 West View Ave., will hold a homecoming weekend on Sept. 20. A barbecue will be held from 6-8 p.m. in the school cafeteria. A bonfire begins at 9 p.m. Dinners cost $5 for students in eighth grade and under, $10 for a high school student and older or $50 for a family. On Sept. 21, Mass will be celebrated at CCHS Berkman Theater, Lamman Hall, followed by tailgating at DiGregory’s parking lot. A homecoming parade to Harding Stadium will begin at 6:15 p.m. Following the 7 p.m. game, a fish fry will be held at the school cafeteria.

Tiltonsville — St. Joseph Parish will sponsor a cream puff sale from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sept. 28, at the church hall. Cream puffs cost $1.50 each. For additional information or to preorder, telephone (740) 859-4018, (740) 298-0048 or (571) 242-4873.

Wintersville — Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will begin at Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes. Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith can telephone Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, pastor of Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes, at (740) 264-0868.

Woodfield — Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, at St. Sylvester Church.

St. Mary School alumni receive scholarships

Katie Bennett, left, and Grace Crosby. St. Mary School, Marietta, alumni, were both recently presented $500 checks from the Irish Booster organization based on their applications, answer to essay questions and references. Bennett is a junior at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, studying sociology. Crosby is a sophomore at Marietta College, Marietta, studying biochemistry. (Photos provided)

Beverly — A benefit for Jillian Harlow will be held from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sept. 22, at St. Bernard Church hall. Jillian is 2 years old and has only half of her heart working. For a donation, a dinner will include pulled pork, Italian chicken, mashed potatoes, noodles, green beans, salad, roll, dessert and beverage. The event will include music, raffles and auctions. For additional information, telephone (740) 336-5715.

Mingo Junction — Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 436 will sponsor an all-you-can-eat pasta dinner from 1-6 p.m., Sept. 22, at the council hall, 117 Legion Drive. Tickets cost $10 for adults and $5 for children; children under the age of 4 eat for free. Dine in or carryout is available. For additional information or to place an order, telephone (740) 535-8037.

Steubenville — Faith-sharing and fellowship will be held from 1-2 p.m., Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, at the Samaritan House, 424 Washington St. Mondays will feature a grief group; Tuesdays, Narnia book club; Thursdays, faith class; and Fridays, Scripture. For additional information, visit www.samaritanhouse thriftstore.com.

Steubenville — Mass will be celebrated at 2 p.m., Sept. 22, in extraordinary form, at Christ the King Chapel, located on the campus of Franciscan University of Steubenville. Father Vincent J. Huber, a Diocese of Steubenville priest retired from active parish ministry, will celebrate the Mass. The Schola Cantorum will sing during the Mass.

Steubenville — Mass will be celebrated in honor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at 10 a.m., Sept. 28, and every last Saturday of the month, at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Oratory, 700 Lovers Lane. For additional information, telephone (740) 346-2625.

Wheeling, W.Va. — An annual novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague will be prayed at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 1300 Eoff St. The novena will begin Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. and will be prayed on nine consecutive Monday evenings, concluding Nov. 18. Each week consists of exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a homily given by a guest priest, music and prayers to the Infant Jesus of Prague. The theme for this year will be “The Church on the Path ofUnity.”

Around and About

ST. GEORGE'S PARISH

Mass will be celebrated at 7 a.m., Saturdays, at the basilica and at 8 a.m., Sundays, at St. George’s Parish. For additional information or to preorder, telephone (740) 695-9993 or emailing dre@stmaryschurchstc.com.

St. Mary School Boosters will sponsor a “Fall Back 5K Run/Walk” at 2 p.m., Nov. 3, at East Muskingum Park gazebo, Front Street. Preregistration costs $20, if registered by Oct. 18, is $25 the day of the race and after Oct. 18. Cost is $15 for students ages 18 and under. Checks can be made payable to St. Mary Boosters and mailed to Danielle Eagan, 330 Marion St., Marietta, OH 45750. For additional information, email Danielle.eagan@gmail.com.

Saint Paul’s Chancery Office, 300 Court Ave., Room 201, Steubenville, no longer has a telephone number. Callers should make calls to the community parish office, located at Holy Family Center, 75 Stewart St., Athens, at (740) 592-2711.

St. Thomas More Parish, 788 Madison Ave., Steubenville, no longer has telephone numbers. Calls should be made to the community parish office, located at Holy Family Center, 75 Stewart St., Athens, at (740) 592-2711.
ChristLife training conference is planned for Oct. 11-12 in Latrobe

LATROBE, Pennsylvania — The Diocese of Greensburg is sponsoring a ChristLife – Catholic Ministry for Evangelization – training conference Oct. 11-12 at St. Vincent Basilica, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

ChristLife is described on www.christlife.org as a method of fostering new evangelization to help people discover, follow and share Jesus Christ as members of the Catholic Church, creating a culture of missionary discipleship in parishes. The ministry was founded in 1995 as an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

According to the conference flyer, the conference will help participants revitalize Catholics in the pews, reach fallen-away Catholics and evangelize all people to Jesus Christ.

Blessed Newman letters are released

OXFORD, England (CNS) — Thousands of documents relating to England’s 19th-century convert-cardinal, Blessed John Henry Newman, are being released ahead of his Oct. 13 canonization, highlighting his role as a pastor and evangelist, said church experts.

Although 32 annotated volumes of the cardinal’s letters and diaries have been published over the past two decades, the new material includes letters and correspondence to the future saint.

Father Ignatius Harrison, provost of Birmingham’s Oratory of St. Philip Neri, said Cardinal Newman “wasn’t just a lofty philosopher – he was primarily a priest and prophet, who foresaw the difficulties facing Catholicism in a secular world.”

The first of 250,000 folios of letters and photographs preserved at the oratory were published for the first time, under a digitization program co-organized by the National Institute for Newman Studies, Pittsburgh.

In a statement on its website, the National Institute for Newman Studies said its published over the past two decades, the new material includes letters and correspondence to the future saint.

Cardinal Newman helped found a Catholic university in Ireland – University College Dublin – and was influential in Catholicism’s revival in England after three centuries’ repression and restriction.

He wrote poetry, hymns and novels, while his major works on church history, ecclesiology, the rights of conscience and role of laypeople are widely believed to have anticipated the 1962-65 Second Vatican Council.

in mid-August, would include handwritten papers and previously unseen manuscripts. The first release is expected over the holidays, followed by letters, prayer lists, notebooks and photographic albums totaling more than 40 terabytes.

John Henry Newman was raised in the Church of England, graduated and taught at Oxford University and served as vicar of its St. Mary’s Anglican Church, 1828-1843.

Having co-led the 1830s Oxford Movement, which sought to revive the Church of England’s pre-Reformation beliefs and ecclesiology, the rights of conscience and role of laypeople are widely believed to have anticipated the 1962-65 Second Vatican Council.

The registration fee for the training conference is $165. Anyone who has had experience presenting ChristLife can volunteer at the conference and the registration fee will be waved. For more information or to register for the conference, visit www.christlife.org/Greensburg or telephone (724) 539-8629.

Students celebrate Patriot Day

WHEELING, W. Va. — Wheeling University, Wheeling, West Virginia, has announced plans to reinstate several academic and athletic programs that had been temporarily eliminated in March.

Wheeling University will resume offering majors in biology, engineering science and English. To help facilitate the reinstatement of these programs, two full-time faculty members in engineering and biology will be hired to teach new classes.

Several athletic programs will also be reinstated in 2020, including mens’ golf, mens’ and womens’ lacrosse, and mens’ and womens’ swimming.

The university will also introduce competitive cheerleading as a new sport for students in 2020. Wheeling University competes athletically in the Mountain East Conference of National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II.

Academic and athletic programs reinstated at Wheeling University

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The university will also introduce competitive cheerleading as a new sport for students in 2020. Wheeling University competes athletically in the Mountain East Conference of National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II.

“Eliminating these programs last March was a difficult decision for our previous administration, and we are very happy to be able to offer them once again to our students,” said Ginny Favede, Wheeling University board chair. “The return of these popular programs, along with our growing enrollment, the creation of new and returning positions in our faculty, and the addition of exciting new offerings like our online programs and our cheerleading team all help demonstrate Wheeling University’s continued commitment to educational excellence, as well as our return to financial and administrative stability after a brief period of transition.”

Wheeling University is the only independent Catholic higher education institution in West Virginia. Its recently expanded and reinstated course offerings are developed based on projected career demand and growth opportunities within the Ohio Valley region and beyond, according to a Wheeling University press release.

Obituaries

Alice E. Casini, 94, Steubenville, Holy Family, April 21.
Lena Corvi, 91, St. Lucy, Yorkville, July 24.
Thomas O. Cucarese, 72, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Sept. 6.
Robert Fahy, 93, St. John, Bellaire, Aug. 29.
Antoinette Galowinia, 98, Steubenville, Holy Family, March 11.
Myra L. Gotch, 71, Steubenville, Holy Family, April 21.
Irene K. Harda, 96, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Sept. 3.
James “Jim” L. Horton Jr., 61, Adena, St. Casimir, Sept. 4.
Sophie Indovina, 95, Steubenville, Holy Family, Sept. 9.
Mary A. Irvin, 85, Steubenville, Holy Family, Sept. 6.
Richard Kempla, 89, St. John, Bellaire, Aug. 31.
Loretta Kochalko, 81, Corpus Christi, Belle Valley, Aug. 30.
John J. “Scotty” Littlejohn, 77, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, Aug. 30.
Betty A. Masters, 84, Steubenville, Holy Family, June 27.
Reginald Mitchell, 90, Steubenville, Holy Family, April 4.
Harold Reeves, 88, St. John, Bellaire, Aug. 29.
Jean Rhodes, 91, St. Joseph, Tiltonsville, Aug. 22.
Amy M. Guy Scott, 48, Irondale, St. Francis of Assisi, Toronto, Sept. 12.
Yvonne Siebert Triebsch, 88, Basilsca of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Aug. 27.
Margaret L. Gibson Vendetta, 87, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Sept. 7.
John J. Volan Sr., 77, Bridgeport, St. Anthony of Padua, Sept. 3.
Mark R. Walker, 80, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Aug. 27.
Mabel Zeno, 88, St. John, Bellaire, Aug. 31.
Dolores Zirille, 93, Steubenville, Holy Family, Sept. 2.
DPSC tops $2 million for eighth consecutive year; pledges can still be made

Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton said, “Your generosity enables our diocese to educate our youth and young adults, reach out to those in the greatest of need, strengthen our parishes and instill hope in our diocesan pastoral footprint proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. God bless you for your charity and compassion.”

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>% OF PLEDGED GOAL</th>
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<td>15,490</td>
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