News Briefs

Father Nelson becomes a pastor

Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton installs Father Thomas A. Nelson as pastor of St. Ann Parish, Chesapeake, Jan. 30. (Photo provided)

Pope: People must never forget or repeat horrors of the Holocaust

Pope Francis embraces Edith Bruck, 90, a writer and Holocaust survivor, at his residence at the Vatican Jan. 27. A Vatican statement said the pope and Bruck spoke for about an hour, with both underlining the value of transmitting the memory of the past to those who are younger. Pope Francis said, “It is necessary to remember the extermination of millions of Jews and people of different nationalities and religious faiths. This unspeakable cruelty must never be repeated.” (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

Sacred Heart Center of Hope announces changes

Sacred Heart Center of Hope, Steubenville

STUEBENVILLE — The Sacred Heart Center of Hope, 430 Slack St., Steubenville, is streamlining services offered in 2022.

For the past year, the Sacred Heart Center of Hope, under the direction of the diocesan Catholic Charities of Southeastern Ohio, has housed a number of services including individual and group counseling, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, Al-Anon meetings, NAMI Mental Health support groups, Triumph of the Cross Parish’s free lunch program, the Christmas giving tree program, the diocesan adult emergency financial assistance program, the emergency food and shelter program through FEMA and other various community support and linkage programs.

In 2022, the Sacred Heart Center of Hope will continue to house these programs with the exception of the individual counseling program.

Rose Hawkinberry, executive director of Catholic Charities of Southeastern Ohio, explained: “While program closures are always difficult, a needs assessment has indicated that other services are more greatly needed in the area at this time. There are a wealth of counseling programs in the area that can provide these services, but there aren’t as many that are in the position to provide other needed social services programs.”

Hawkinberry said Catholic Charities will be re-directing some resources to the development of these services. The first will be taking on the management of the diocesan Project Rachel ministry. Project Rachel is a ministry of the Catholic Church to those who have been involved in abortion. She said it is a “diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, counselors and laypersons who provide a team response of care for those suffering in the aftermath of abortion. It is open to all who seek help.” The program is expected to be instituted within the next month.

Hawkinberry added, “The Sacred Heart Center of Hope and Catholic Charities of Southeastern Ohio are thriving! We are looking forward to serving the community through expanded programming for many years to come!”

Catholic Schools Week is winding down in diocese

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton visits with fourth-grade students at St. Lawrence Central School, Ironton, during Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 31. (Photo provided)

By Dino Orsatti

STUEBENVILLE — Catholic Schools Week is underway in the Diocese of Steubenville and nationally as schools continue to deal with the challenges that the coronavirus pandemic is presenting. Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton plans to visit every school in the diocese and celebrate Mass with each of the schools.

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which this year is Jan. 30—Feb. 5. The theme for 2022 is “Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.” Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.
Knowing Black Catholic history can help end racism, professor says

By Dennis Sadowski

Catholic Schools

WASHINGTON — The history of Black Catholics and other marginalized people in the U.S. church covering more than two centuries is one worth knowing and can guide the church’s response to the challenges of racism and social justice, historian Shannen Dee Williams believes.

Addressing the online opening session of the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gather- ing Jan. 29, Williams explained that the jour- ney of how people who are often overlooked have influenced church history deserves more than a footnote in historical record.

The gathering convened online for the second consecutive year because of the coronavirus pandemic, addressing the theme “Justice at the Margins.”

Williams, associate professor history at the University of Dayton, focused her comments on the history of Black women religious, who faced racism within the church from religious congregations and clergy. She highlighted the lives of Mother Mary Lange, Sister Thea Bowman, who have the title “Servant of God,” and Venerable Henriette Delille, all of whom withstood discrimination as they carried out their call to a religious vocation.

She called it an “educational journey,” as she did over the past 15 years, about the his- tory of Black Catholics since early in the founding of the United States.

Williams confessed it was a history she knew little about until she began research- ing a topic during graduate studies.

Growing up and throughout her schooling, Williams admitted that she was not interested in Black Catholic history and, although she was a lifelong Catholic, she had never seen a Black woman recognized. “In fact, the only Black sister that I knew at the time was Sister Mary Clarence, the fictional character played by Whoopi Goldberg in the critically acclaimed ‘Sister Act’ franchise,” she said.

But, while searching for a topic on which to focus her graduate work, Williams came across a story about the formation of the National Black Sisters’ Conference in 1968. She excitedly called her mother later that day to discuss her discovery.

Williams recalled that her mother was unaware there were Black nuns serving the church.

In the course of her research, Williams soon learned about the rich history of Black women who endured discrimination within the church and religious congregations in their attempts to live a religious vocation. She also found stories and documents about the Black Catholic experience overall.

“One of the powerful of those myths was my belief that Black Catholic footnotes in the story of the development of the U.S. Catholic Church, that the story of the Black Catholic community did not become significant until the 20th century, when their numbers grew significantly as African American Southerners migrated to Northern, Midwestern and Western cities and converted to Catholicism,” Williams said.

Her research led to the revelation that Black Catholics are as much a part of the story of the American Catholic Church as are Europeans.

Since then, Williams said, her work has been “grounded in the fundamental belief in the transformative power and possibili- ties of Black historical truth-telling in the fight against racism and white supremacy.”

Williams invited attendees to pray to end “individual and institutional racism and the toxic reality of anti-Blackness.”

A second action would be to “always educate ourselves” through a reading club that includes books on anti-racism and the diversity of the American Catholic Church.

Williams suggested that events in parishes and other communities can be scheduled during Black History Month (February), Catholic Schools Week (January), African American History Month (February), National Hispanic Heritage Month (September) and Native American Heritage Month (November).

For more information, families should contact the Catholic schools their children attend (or would like to begin attending) about these tuition assistance and state scholarship programs.

The history of Black Catholics is a story about how people who are often overlooked have influenced church history.

Williams said, “This is why face-to- face instruction has been so central to our approach in dealing with the pandemic.”

I think we have enjoyed great success in this effort, despite the challenges we faced. This is a result of the joint efforts of staff, parents and students to do the best they can in following the guidelines in place.”

Deacon Ward also shared ways for families to receive tuition assistance and scholarships, stating, “A family of four, applying for their first child for school, to an annual income of $66,250 or less would qualify for the Ed-Choice Expansion (income based) scholarship. The maximum qualifying family income level increases with each additional family member.”

Deacon Ward said, “This is why face-to- face instruction has been so central to our approach in dealing with the pandemic. I think we have enjoyed great success in this effort, despite the challenges we faced. This is a result of the joint efforts of staff, parents and students to do the best they can in following the guidelines in place.”

Deacon Ward also shared ways for families to receive tuition assistance and scholarships, stating, “A family of four, applying for their first child for school, to an annual income of $66,250 or less would qualify for the Ed-Choice Expansion (income based) scholarship. The maximum qualifying family income level increases with each additional family member.”

Deacon Ward said, “This is why face-to- face instruction has been so central to our approach in dealing with the pandemic. I think we have enjoyed great success in this effort, despite the challenges we faced. This is a result of the joint efforts of staff, parents and students to do the best they can in following the guidelines in place.”

Deacon Ward also shared ways for families to receive tuition assistance and scholarships, stating, “A family of four, applying for their first child for school, to an annual income of $66,250 or less would qualify for the Ed-Choice Expansion (income based) scholarship. The maximum qualifying family income level increases with each additional family member.”

Deacon Ward said, “This is why face-to- face instruction has been so central to our approach in dealing with the pandemic. I think we have enjoyed great success in this effort, despite the challenges we faced. This is a result of the joint efforts of staff, parents and students to do the best they can in following the guidelines in place.”

Deacon Ward also shared ways for families to receive tuition assistance and scholarships, stating, “A family of four, applying for their first child for school, to an annual income of $66,250 or less would qualify for the Ed-Choice Expansion (income based) scholarship. The maximum qualifying family income level increases with each additional family member.”

Deacon Ward said, “This is why face-to- face instruction has been so central to our approach in dealing with the pandemic. I think we have enjoyed great success in this effort, despite the challenges we faced. This is a result of the joint efforts of staff, parents and students to do the best they can in following the guidelines in place.”

Deacon Ward also shared ways for families to receive tuition assistance and scholarships, stating, “A family of four, applying for their first child for school, to an annual income of $66,250 or less would qualify for the Ed-Choice Expansion (income based) scholarship. The maximum qualifying family income level increases with each additional family member.”

Deacon Ward said, “This is why face-to- face instruction has been so central to our approach in dealing with the pandemic. I think we have enjoyed great success in this effort, despite the challenges we faced. This is a result of the joint efforts of staff, parents and students to do the best they can in following the guidelines in place.”

Deacon Ward also shared ways for families to receive tuition assistance and scholarships, stating, “A family of four, applying for their first child for school, to an annual income of $66,250 or less would qualify for the Ed-Choice Expansion (income based) scholarship. The maximum qualifying family income level increases with each additional family member.”

Deacon Ward said, “This is why face-to- face instruction has been so central to our approach in dealing with the pandemic. I think we have enjoyed great success in this effort, despite the challenges we faced. This is a result of the joint efforts of staff, parents and students to do the best they can in following the guidelines in place.”

Deacon Ward also shared ways for families to receive tuition assistance and scholarships, stating, “A family of four, applying for their first child for school, to an annual income of $66,250 or less would qualify for the Ed-Choice Expansion (income based) scholarship. The maximum qualifying family income level increases with each additional family member.”

Deacon Ward said, “This is why face-to- face instruction has been so central to our approach in dealing with the pandemic. I think we have enjoyed great success in this effort, despite the challenges we faced. This is a result of the joint efforts of staff, parents and students to do the best they can in following the guidelines in place.”
Justice Barrett addresses Catholic school students

By Peter Finney Jr.  
Catholic News Service

METairie, La. — U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett said her Catholic education helped her develop a passion for reading that served as a launching pad for her future endeavors as a law student, attorney, law professor and judge.

Barrett made the comments Jan. 24 to current students at St. Catherine of Siena Elementary School in Metairie, where she graduated in 1986.

“You don’t know where your life is going to lead you,” Barrett told 650 students in the school gym, which she jokingly remarked was far better than the one she once played in.

“I never expected in a million years that I would become a U.S. Supreme Court justice. So, my advice to you is to study very hard, work hard and dream.”

Barrett said Incarnate Word Sister Marceline O’Connell, a St. Catherine of Siena teacher, had books for her to read that were a little above her class grade level. Her father, Deacon Michael Coney, who since 1981 has served as a permanent deacon at St. Catherine of Siena Church, bought her several Nancy Drew books at a parish fair to fuel her love for reading in first grade.

The Supreme Court justice answered nearly 40 questions that students had prepared in advance. Her 11-year-old daughter, Juliet, served as the emcee and pitched the questions to her mother at a microphone next to the main podium.

The students’ questions ranged from asking about Barrett’s interests as an elementary school student to broader questions about her new role on the nine-member court.

Barrett was confirmed after a rigorous Senate hearing and took the bench as the fifth woman Supreme Court justice Oct. 27, 2020.

When asked if she had any hesitation about accepting the nomination to the Supreme Court, Barrett said she and her husband, Jesse, the parents of seven children, did have concerns about how the workload, the confirmation process and the loss of privacy would impact them and their children. “We talked and prayed about that,” she said.

Barrett and Justice Brett Kavanaugh are the only two justices who have children still living with them at home.

Barrett told the students she rarely reads positive or negative comments about her in print or on social media, adding that her mother told her a long time ago “that what people say doesn’t define who you are as a person.”

One of the things that most people may not know about the Supreme Court justices is that despite having to rule on complex and divisive issues, they maintain friendly interpersonal relationships.

“The only rule is we can talk about only our family or sports or other things that are not work-related — and not about the cases that are before us,” Barrett said.

Barrett said the most challenging aspect of her job is the “loss of privacy.”

She said she realized how much of a public figure she had become when she went to Home Depot one day to buy some brooms, with her hair in a ponytail and dressed in workout clothes, and she still was recognized by a customer.

Barrett said her deep Catholic faith is important to her and she does not shy away from the public knowing about it.

But, as she told the Senate under oath, her job as Supreme Court justice is to review and follow the U.S. Constitution and case law in order to make proper decisions.

She encouraged students to understand that they also might be criticized for their Christian beliefs, although probably not on such a national scale.

At the end of the gathering, one of the students came to the podium and asked Juliet what it was like to have a mom who is a Supreme Court justice.

“It’s really nice, but it’s also kind of weird,” Juliet replied, smiling. “Some people look at my mom as one of the most important people in the country, but to me she is still just my mom.”

At the end of the hourlong assembly, students surprised Barrett by singing “Happy Birthday” to her along with presenting a king cake, a New Orleans tradition, with 50 candles on it for her 50th birthday Jan. 28.

They also named her St. Catherine of Siena Distinguished Graduate for 2022.
Efforts continue in the diocese to pray and march for an end to abortion

Students in OU Catholics, Athens, join Father Matthew W. Gossett, pictured in the back row, at right, in travel to Washington to participate in the March for Life.

Parishioners of St. Louis Parish, Gallipolis, attend the March for Life in Washington, Jan. 21. (Photo provided)

We live in a world, definitely a society, which mistakenly equates civil law with natural law, as if we can manipulate natural law, when it comes to the personhood of the unborn, or those who are dying, preparing for a natural death, making them a utility instead of a person, and everyone in between.

We cannot manipulate natural law, whether it is the dignity of the person or marriage between man and woman. They can complement each other, but when it comes to civil law, we are not God. I read recently one of the biggest challenges we have when it comes to abortion and euthanasia, we divinize autonomy and we delegate solidarity to the secondary or lower level, when in fact, we are called to be together. In solidarity, we exercise mercy and compassion to which Jesus is inviting us. We also live in a world where people believe where if it is legally permissible, it must be right, whether nor not we speak of taking drugs, practicing euthanasia or procuring or supporting abortion. This is a fallacy. They cannot be further from the truth.

Jesus today reminds us we are better than that. Have we not received that spiritual upgrade, that eternal spiritual upgrade at our baptism, sealed by the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit at our confirmation, strengthened by the sacraments, especially with the Eucharist, Jesus’ body and blood? We become who we receive. In this world of ours, it is not about us. This polarization, which we have had these past two years during the pandemic, is led to a selfish stance, and we cannot allow that. We are bigger than that. We must be the adults in the room.

We come here to respect all human life, whether we are speaking about the unborn, those who are near death, our brother and sister refugees, departing a country for fear of dangers for families and death, or all those who have chronic diseases they are trying to address. We are here for them and Jesus reminds us of that today, he is Our Lord. Respect all life, from conception to natural death, and every moment in between.

Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton emphasizes respect for all life

We live in a world, definitely a society, which mistakenly equates civil law with natural law, as if we can manipulate natural law, when it comes to the personhood of the unborn, or those who are dying, preparing for a natural death, making them a utility instead of a person, and everyone in between.

We cannot manipulate natural law, whether it is the dignity of the person or marriage between man and woman. They can complement each other, but when it comes to civil law, we are not God. I read recently one of the biggest challenges we have when it comes to abortion and euthanasia, we divinize autonomy and we delegate solidarity to the secondary or lower level, when in fact, we are called to be together. In solidarity, we exercise mercy and compassion to which Jesus is inviting us. We also live in a world where people believe where if it is legally permissible, it must be right, whether nor not we speak of taking drugs, practicing euthanasia or procuring or supporting abortion. This is a fallacy. They cannot be further from the truth.

Jesus today reminds us we are better than that. Have we not received that spiritual upgrade, that eternal spiritual upgrade at our baptism, sealed by the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit at our confirmation, strengthened by the sacraments, especially with the Eucharist, Jesus’ body and blood? We become who we receive. In this world of ours, it is not about us. This polarization, which we have had these past two years during the pandemic, is led to a selfish stance, and we cannot allow that. We are bigger than that. We must be the adults in the room.

We come here to respect all human life, whether we are speaking about the unborn, those who are near death, our brother and sister refugees, departing a country for fear of dangers for families and death, or all those who have chronic diseases they are trying to address. We are here for them and Jesus reminds us of that today, he is Our Lord. Respect all life, from conception to natural death, and every moment in between.

Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton emphasizes respect for all life

We live in a world, definitely a society, which mistakenly equates civil law with natural law, as if we can manipulate natural law, when it comes to the personhood of the unborn, or those who are dying, preparing for a natural death, making them a utility instead of a person, and everyone in between.

We cannot manipulate natural law, whether it is the dignity of the person or marriage between man and woman. They can complement each other, but when it comes to civil law, we are not God. I read recently one of the biggest challenges we have when it comes to abortion and euthanasia, we divinize autonomy and we delegate solidarity to the secondary or lower level, when in fact, we are called to be together. In solidarity, we exercise mercy and compassion to which Jesus is inviting us. We also live in a world where people believe where if it is legally permissible, it must be right, whether nor not we speak of taking drugs, practicing euthanasia or procuring or supporting abortion. This is a fallacy. They cannot be further from the truth.

Jesus today reminds us we are better than that. Have we not received that spiritual upgrade, that eternal spiritual upgrade at our baptism, sealed by the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit at our confirmation, strengthened by the sacraments, especially with the Eucharist, Jesus’ body and blood? We become who we receive. In this world of ours, it is not about us. This polarization, which we have had these past two years during the pandemic, is led to a selfish stance, and we cannot allow that. We are bigger than that. We must be the adults in the room.

We come here to respect all human life, whether we are speaking about the unborn, those who are near death, our brother and sister refugees, departing a country for fear of dangers for families and death, or all those who have chronic diseases they are trying to address. We are here for them and Jesus reminds us of that today, he is Our Lord. Respect all life, from conception to natural death, and every moment in between.
Official helps schools understand their Catholic identity makes them unique

By John Woods
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — Linda Mele Dougherty said she is old enough to remember when many Catholics identified where they lived by their parish affiliation.

In her family’s case, the parish was Our Lady of Mercy in Forest Hills in the New York borough of Queens.

“I’d like to see that again,” she said in an interview with Catholic New York, the archdiocesan newspaper, about her responsibilities as the associate superintendent for Catholic identity in the archdiocese.

The lessons she learned at home from watching her parents living their faith by helping their neighbors, friends and relatives made a big impression on her and her two siblings, who all actively practice their Catholic faith today.

“I saw their faith and beliefs in action,” she said. “That spoke to me and made me want to continue that in any way I could. I chose teaching.”

Since taking over her new post last August, Dougherty has met with newly named principals and those in a couple of school regions around the archdiocese.

One of the first things she often asks principals is how someone just walking in would know that their school is Catholic. Follow-up questions might include: “Who greets them?” and “What is the culture of your school?”

The queries are designed to start a discussion about “what makes their school Catholic,” she said.

During a long career in the classroom and as a school administrator, Dougherty served at both Catholic and public schools. She was principal of three Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, before she came to the archdiocese in 2016 as regional superintendent.

Along with education and administrative degrees, she holds a master’s degree in pastoral ministry from Boston College in the Brooklyn Diocese, she also served as chair of the diocese’s Catholic identity committee.

Her interest in Catholic identity is sparked by “a desire to maintain the strength and uniqueness of our schools.”

She encourages administrators and teachers to look at their school’s charism, realizing the word is normally associated with religious communities. Essentially, she is asking them to answer this question: “What’s special or unique about your Catholic school?”

Discussion points also can look at the religious community or pastor who founded the school. Dougherty said she has been working regularly with the vicar for religious in the archdiocese to explore these avenues.

She said these questions coincide with society’s great interest in ancestry and Dougherty believes that the schools’ own histories offer a compelling story of their own.

“Let’s hear about what makes this Catholic school distinctive,” she said.

Rediscovering a school’s charism and sense of its own history is more important since members of the religious communities who founded them likely may no longer be present today, she said.

In many cases, the traditions and practices they instilled remain present in the life of the school.

A school’s Catholic identity is not a cookie-cutter approach. She said the key is “how do we discover the uniqueness of each school” and continue to do the good things inspired by the vowed religious women and men, even if they are no longer present.

“We still have great stories about our Catholic school students and what they accomplish and bring to the world,” Dougherty said.

Part of her job, as she sees it, is to build up the schools and give them suggestions for improvement.

She also understands that not all teachers are in exactly the same place in their depth of understanding and ability to teach religion. For some, the courses they take for their spirituality,” Catholic schools are able “to offer the real person of Jesus,” she said.

“People know they can count on her to help create and prepare prayer services and liturgies for meetings as well as presentations for special topics such as Advent and Lent.

Having many non-Catholic students in some Catholic schools is both a challenge and an opportunity that makes strengthening the school’s Catholic identity even more important, she said. While society offers a “secular spirituality,” Catholic schools are able “to offer the real person of Jesus,” she said.

“We have many dedicated teachers and staff members who work tirelessly to show the students and their families that this is our faith and this is how we live it,” Dougherty said.

Tornado recovery efforts in Kentucky expected to last two to four years

OWENSBORO, Ky. (CNS) — Families across western Kentucky continue to face the impact of the December tornadoes that roared through several communities as one Catholic Charities agency accompanied them along the way.

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky, said that tornado recovery is both “short-term and long-term.” Recovery efforts are expected to take two to four years, she told The Western Kentucky Catholic, the diocesan newspaper. Short-term needs include shelter, clothing and medical assistance.

Long-term needs include repairing and rebuilding homes damaged or destroyed by the storms. Catholic Charities has been providing financial assistance through gift cards distributed by parishes. Aid also is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and through a Small Business Administration loan program.

The deadline to apply for both is Feb. 11. Montalvo-Gesser said the average FEMA award that people receive is about $9,000, but that the maximum FEMA award for those who have lost “absolutely everything” is $36,000. “Now, can you rebuild a house on that? No, you cannot,” she said. This is where Catholic Charities will step in, helping people throughout western Kentucky to help heal and slowly rebuild their lives.

Montalvo-Gesser said the outpouring of monetary donations from across the country has been incredible, but noted that because the work will be continuing for years, she hopes cash donations will continue.

Monetary donations may be given digitally via https://owensborodiocese.org/give. Checks may be mailed, with “Tornado Disaster Relief” written in the memo, to Catholic Charities, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY, 42301.

For additional information, telephone the McRath Catholic Center at (270) 683-1545.
Mary Queen of Peace

By Father Nicholas S. Ward

In 1918, Pope Benedict XV commissioned the relatively obscure sculptor Guido Galli to craft one of the most magnificent Marian statues ever made. The work “Ave Regina Pacis” was meant to be a prayer in a work of art, a cry to Our Lady, Queen of Peace at a time when the world was wracked with conflict.

The original version of the statue was completed in 1920. It was intended as a gift to Pope Pius XI for his birthday on November 21. However, the statue was never presented to the pope due to the outbreak of World War II. Instead, the statue was displayed in a modest chapel in Rome until it was finally dedicated as the first chapel of the new Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in 1943.

The statue depicts Mary holding a child in her arms, with a halo of light surrounding her. Her face is serene and peaceful, a reflection of her role as Queen of Peace. The statue is a beautiful representation of the Queen of Peace, reminding us of her role in bringing peace to the world.

The statue is a powerful symbol of Mary’s intercession for peace. It serves as a reminder to all who see it of the importance of praying for peace and working towards a world without conflict.

By bringing the statue to the United States, Pope Benedict XV hoped to strengthen the ties between the Vatican and the American Catholic community. The statue was ultimately dedicated as the first chapel of the new Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in 1943.

The statue has since become a beloved symbol of Mary’s role as Queen of Peace, serving as a source of inspiration and comfort for those who visit the basilica.

Mary Queen of Peace

By Father Nicholas S. Ward

In 1918, Pope Benedict XV commissioned the relatively obscure sculptor Guido Galli to craft one of the most magnificent Marian statues ever made. The work “Ave Regina Pacis” was meant to be a prayer in a work of art, a cry to Our Lady, Queen of Peace at a time when the world was wracked with conflict.

The original version of the statue was completed in 1920. It was intended as a gift to Pope Pius XI for his birthday on November 21. However, the statue was never presented to the pope due to the outbreak of World War II. Instead, the statue was displayed in a modest chapel in Rome until it was finally dedicated as the first chapel of the new Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in 1943.

The statue depicts Mary holding a child in her arms, with a halo of light surrounding her. Her face is serene and peaceful, a reflection of her role as Queen of Peace. The statue is a beautiful representation of the Queen of Peace, reminding us of her role in bringing peace to the world.

The statue is a powerful symbol of Mary’s intercession for peace. It serves as a reminder to all who see it of the importance of praying for peace and working towards a world without conflict.

By bringing the statue to the United States, Pope Benedict XV hoped to strengthen the ties between the Vatican and the American Catholic community. The statue was ultimately dedicated as the first chapel of the new Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in 1943.

The statue has since become a beloved symbol of Mary’s role as Queen of Peace, serving as a source of inspiration and comfort for those who visit the basilica.
By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

“But Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these’” (Mt 19:14).

The Integrity of Our Catholic Schools
As we bring to completion National Catholic School’s Week, we do so in gratitude to Our Lord Jesus Christ. In his 2013 address, Pope Francis underscored the profound value of the family as a necessary pillar for a healthy society: “The family stands at the center of society’s hopes and struggles. It needs to be appreciated, valued and protected as it puts its energy at the service of society.”

Regardless the school chosen, every school is an alternative school. Parents or guardians make the choice what they believe is best for their children. It is the parents or the guardians of the children who are the principal determiners in how to educate their children. The rest of us are members of the supporting cast.

Thank you to all who have chosen to send their children to our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Steubenville. In fact, we have 1,844 students in our diocesan Catholic schools. This is not bad for a small Appalachian diocese in a perpetually struggling economy.

While extracurricular activities from the fine arts to sports augment a Catholic schools’ character, not to mention how to boost enrollment, is it the Eucharist, the body and blood of Christ and the schools’ promotion of church teaching that makes it Catholic.

Upon first arriving in the Diocese of Steubenville over nine years ago, I instructed that every Catholic school in the diocese celebrates a school Mass each and every week during the school year. That mandate continues. I personally live out that instruction this week for, as long as the snow fall permits, I will celebrate Mass for every school in our diocese.

You see, when we receive the body of Christ in the Communion Rite of the Mass, we become who we receive. In doing so, as members of the body of Christ, the Eucharist provides us the necessary foundation as our youth go out and share the good news of the Gospel in their Christian service, from serving the poor and those on the periphery to other guideable Christian missionary endeavors. I just recently celebrated Eucharistic adoration at Steubenville Catholic Central High School, which occurs every other Wednesday evening during the school year. I am edified by the number of students willing to participate, on a school night, in prayer with one another in the sacred presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

When people ask me about the future of the Catholic Church, I’m happy to explain how I am profoundly hopeful for our future as I witness the sacred nature of so many in the present. Please join me in prayer for the health and well-being of our Catholic schools, especially as their very integrity is founded in the body and blood of Jesus Christ himself.

The Universal Synod on Synodality
A “shout out” to our parishes and church institutions is timely as we are in the midst of the Universal Synod on Synodality as instructed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. It is my hope that our parishes have embarked in the small group meetings as we listen to one another, especially how the church may more effectively reach out to those who find themselves on the periphery or even ostracized. These small group meetings should focus on how we may better evangelize in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ with all whom we encounter. While this does entail extra work for some in the parish, it is my intention that the results of these meetings will benefit the diocese in years to come.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan
Speaking of the future, we have embarked in the early stages of information gathering that will benefit our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. We have employed the services of the group Greater Mission to provide the necessary support in the effectiveness of our Pastoral Plan. We employed Greater Mission back in 2017, when it came down to establishing the four priorities of the diocese which remain:

- reach out more effectively to our youth and young adults;
- strengthen our Catholic schools and religious education programs;
- assist our clergy; and
- provide additional formation to the parish community.

These priorities certainly will help provide direction how we address future pastoral initiatives in the diocese. More information will be forthcoming in the next few months, for all will have a say in this process from lay to religious to clergy.

As we see with the present church synod, all begins with Christ and the individual. From individual we go to family, family to parish, from parish to diocese. Whenever each one of us talks about our diocese, we also are talking about ourselves. I am grateful to be your shepherd and as I often say in this Extraordinary Ordinary Time, for Jesus Christ has made it so through his passion, death and resurrection, each one of us by virtue of our particular Christian vocation have a role to share Christian hope with all whom we encounter. It all begins our common Christian love.

Stay holy; stay healthy; stay safe.

By Bishop Robert Barron

Along with many other cultural commentators, I have been tracing for the past many years the phenomenon of religious disaffiliation, the sobering fact that armies of religiously disaffiliated would identify as atheists or strict materialists. In fact, a large number of them would embrace its power to transgress” (Page 121).

The thousand predictions of its disappearance, continues to decline. Not only has this hypothesis been proven wrong though they disdain the traditional churches, remain hungry for meaning in their shared commitment to social justice and their concomitant disdain for those individuals and groups who stand athwart the achievement of racial, political or gender equity. Among some radical feminists, witchcraft has taken on a tremendous spiritual significance: “Combining progressive feminist politics with a fervent opposition to institutional Christianity ... modern witchcraft embraces its power to transgress” (Page 121).

In the course of her well-written and fascinating study, Burton gives many more examples of the sometimes wacky contemporary quasi-religions that have supplanted the traditional institutional faiths. Though it might surprise my readers a bit, this Catholic bishop would like to say something positive about all of this. The secularization hypothesis, first proposed by atheists and skeptics in the 19th century and reiterated ad nauseam by elite commentators today, holds that, as secularist science, technology and education advance, religion will inevitably decline. Not only has this hypothesis been proven wrong in many parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America, where various forms of traditional religion are booming; it has also been proven wrong in the West, where religion, despite the thousand predictions of its disappearance, continues to reassert itself. What we see in Harry Potter religion, New "New Age." Think of the communities and rituals that have formed around “UFOs, Reiki, acupuncture, crystal healing and the kind of creative visualization ubiquitous in the New Thought movement” (Page 123). Others discover meaning in their shared commitment to social justice and their concomitant disdain for those individuals and groups who stand athwart the achievement of racial, political or gender equity. Among some radical feminists, witchcraft has taken on a tremendous spiritual significance: “Combining progressive feminist politics with a fervent opposition to institutional Christianity ... modern witchcraft embraces its power to transgress” (Page 121).

In the course of her well-written and fascinating study, Burton gives many more examples of the sometimes wacky contemporary quasi-religions that have supplanted the traditional institutional faiths. Though it might surprise my readers a bit, this Catholic bishop would like to say something positive about all of this. The secularization hypothesis, first proposed by atheists and skeptics in the 19th century and reiterated ad nauseam by elite commentators today, holds that, as secularist science, technology and education advance, religion will inevitably decline. Not only has this hypothesis been proven wrong in many parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America, where various forms of traditional religion are booming; it has also been proven wrong in the West, where religion, despite the thousand predictions of its disappearance, continues to reassert itself. What we see in Harry Potter religion, New...
How to Help the Elderly and Those Who Serve Them

By Sister Constance Veit

Soon after he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, Pope St. John Paul II initiated the celebration of World Day of the Sick to show solidarity with the ill and their caregivers, and to encourage the faithful to pray for them. Thirty years later, we still celebrate this special day each year on Feb. 11.

In preparation for the annual World Day of the Sick, the pope publishes a message setting a theme for the day. This year, Pope Francis has given special recognition to caregivers: “I think of all those physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians, the support staff and the caretakers of the sick as well as the numerous volunteers who donate their precious time to assist those who suffer.”

The pope is encouraging them to recognize the beauty of their mission. “Dear healthcare workers, your service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of your profession and becomes a mission,” he wrote. “Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, may be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father. Be mindful of the great dignity of your profession, as well as the responsibility that it entails.”

I am grateful for Pope Francis’ encouraging words to healthcare workers, for they deserve our admiration and gratitude.

Sister Veit

As we enter into our third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am growing increasingly concerned about the devoted staff in our homes across the country and around the world—and about the widespread shortage of caregivers in the field of elder care. The lack of qualified caregivers has already reached crisis proportions and is only growing worse.

Older persons living in communal settings have suffered disproportionately during the pandemic, being stricken with COVID at higher rates than younger people, experiencing disruptions in their daily routines and enduring long periods of isolation and separation from their loved ones.

But, geriatric caregivers have also borne a heavy burden, often working long shifts in understaffed, uncertain conditions, often while trying to care for their own family members at the same time.

At times frail seniors have suffered due to shortages that caused both body and soul suffering, and a significant exodus of staff from many facilities across the country.

In an article published in December 2021, “Skilled Nursing Home News” reported that since the beginning of the pandemic, 14% of the skilled nursing workforce, or 220,000 care givers, has exited the profession.

There was already a shortage of geriatric caregivers before the pandemic and, with rapidly increasing population of seniors, experts in gerontology estimate that the need for qualified care staff will increase by 2.5 million by 2030. An inadequate and unstable geriatric workforce will definitely lead to higher costs and serious concerns about access and quality of care.

It has long been said that a society can be measured by how it cares for its elderly citizens, and yet in “Fratelli Tutti,” Pope Francis refers to the “trashing” of the world of the elderly in public opinion.

In another recent Vatican document, we read, “Those living in residential facilities deserve special attention: We hear terrible news about their conditions every day and thousands of people have already lost their lives. The concentration in the same place of so many frail individuals and the difficulty of finding protective equipment devices have created situations that are very difficult to manage notwithstanding the selflessness and, in some cases the sacrifice, of healthcare personnel.”

Just as the elderly themselves, those serving seniors deserve special attention and support. This can take many forms:

• lend your voice to advocacy for better training, wages and benefits for long-term care staff, better financing of long-term care and more positive working conditions, including provision of sufficient PPE;
• take the opportunity to show caregivers esteem, appreciation and gratitude for all they do. Just as we thank members of the military for their service, thank caregivers for the indispensable service they render in society;
• share with caregivers the message of Pope Francis about the dignity of their profession; and
• foster intergenerational encounters in your family and encourage young people to consider careers in geriatric healthcare.

Finally, this Feb. 11, please join me in praying for an end to the pandemic, for healing for the sick and the elderly and for the transformation of our society into a culture that will cherish every human life, no matter how old or how frail.

Sister Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Mary

From Page 6

might on a fallen world. Her total devotion to God has brought about the submission of all things to divine providence. Mary’s intervention is the same as divine intervention, because Mary’s will is so closely tied to the divine will. Mary’s belief that God’s will is justice is righteous, and his vengeance is right.

The fact that God listens to and responds to the desires of his mother should set an example for all of us. Jesus answered it on his terms.

Our quest is real and it can be holy, as transcendent. We can blithely condemn the fact that God listens to and responds to the desires of his mother, but there are other prayers through which we can unite our own efforts to hers.

Principal among these is the holy rosary, but there are other prayers through which we can join in Mary’s mission of crushing Satan and fostering peace. The Litany of Loreto, prayed since the middle ages and formally endorsed by Pope St. Pius V in 1557, is a great Marian devotion for any age spirituality, Wicca and witchcraft, Age spirituality, Wicca and witchcraft, etc., are attempts to find community and purpose precisely in a ritualized relationship to some power appreciated as transcendent. We can blithely condemn the fact that God listens to and responds to the desires of his mother, but there are other prayers through which we can unite our own efforts to hers.

St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, G.K. Chesterton and Pope Benedict XVI did in their own day, meet it and engage it with the word of revelation. One of the marks of the natural religious attitude is that the seekers are always in control of the conversation: they set out to find ultimate meaning on their own terms. Burton in fact argues that this tendency is especially prevalent today, when seekers claim the right to rewrite sacred texts and reconfigure sacred rituals to suit their personal preferences. But, a revealed religion, like Catholic Christianity, holds that God has spoken. Our quest is real and it can be holy, but what finally matters is that God has answered it on his terms.

Strange Rites’

From Page 7

Age spirituality, Wicca and witchcraft, etc., are attempts to find community and purpose precisely in a ritualized relationship to some power appreciated as transcendent. We can blithely condemn the fact that God listens to and responds to the desires of his mother, but there are other prayers through which we can unite our own efforts to hers.

Just as the elderly themselves, those serving seniors deserve special attention and support. This can take many forms:

• lend your voice to advocacy for better training, wages and benefits for long-term care staff, better financing of long-term care and more positive working conditions, including provision of sufficient PPE;
• take the opportunity to show caregivers esteem, appreciation and gratitude for all they do. Just as we thank members of the military for their service, thank caregivers for the indispensable service they render in society;
• share with caregivers the message of Pope Francis about the dignity of their profession; and
• foster intergenerational encounters in your family and encourage young people to consider careers in geriatric healthcare.

Finally, this Feb. 11, please join me in praying for an end to the pandemic, for healing for the sick and the elderly and for the transformation of our society into a culture that will cherish every human life, no matter how old or how frail.

Sister Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

O Mother of the Word, but graciously hear and grant my prayer. O merciful, O kind, O sweet Virgin Mary, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Amen.”

Father Ward is parochial vicar to Father Michael W. Gossez, pastor of Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes, Wintersville.

Bishop Barron is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He is 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.
Retired Pope Benedict XVI corrects statement for Munich abuse report

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Amending a written statement made to a panel investigating clerical sexual abuse in his former Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, retired Pope Benedict XVI said he was present at a 1980 meeting to discuss the transfer of a priest accused of misconduct.

“He did attend the meeting on Jan. 15, 1980,” said a statement issued on Pope Benedict’s behalf by his secretary, Archbishop Georg Ganswein.

“The statement to the contrary was therefore objectively incorrect. He would like to emphasize that this was not done out of bad faith but was the result of an oversight in the editing of his statement,” the archbishop said Jan. 24.

The 94-year-old Pope Benedict, he said, is still going through an almost 1,900-page report, which was released Jan. 20 and looked at the handling of cases in the archdiocese between 1945 and 2019. The former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger headed the Munich Archdiocese from 1977 to 1982.

The report identified 497 victims and 235 abusers, but the lawyers who conducted the study say they’ve convinced the real numbers are much higher. In the report, the lawyers said that, on four occasions, then-Archbishop Ratzinger mishandled abuse allegations.

Particularly regarding the case of repeat offender Peter H., a priest sent to Munich from Essen in 1980, lawyer Ulrich Wastl described Pope Benedict’s statements as “not very credible.”

The law firm Westpfahl Spilker Wastl, conducted the investigation for the archdiocese; the retired pope had sent an 82-page statement to the investigators while they were doing the investigation.

In the statement, the former pope had said he did not take part in a decisive meeting on the case of Peter H.

But, at the news conference where the legal report was presented, Wastl read out the minutes of that meeting. In it, then-Archbishop Ratzinger is mentioned in several places as a rapporteur on other topics.

Once the retired pope has had the time to thoroughly read the Westpfahl Spilker Wastl report, Archbishop Ganswein said, “he will explain” how the editing error occurred.

“He is very sorry for this mistake and asks pardon,” the archbishop said.

At the same time, Archbishop Ganswein said, the retired pope’s assertion that “in this meeting no decision was made about a pastoral assignment of the priest in question” remains “objectively correct.”

The 1980 meeting, he said, dealt only with “the request to provide him (Peter H.) with accommodation during his therapeutic treatment in Munich,” a request that was granted. Later the priest was assigned to provide pastoral care in Bavaria and continued to sexually abuse minors.

Archbishop Ganswein assured the people of the archdiocese of Pope Benedict’s closeness, “especially in these days,” and his support of efforts “to clarify the situation.”

“He is thinking especially of the victims who have experienced sexual abuse and indifference,” he said.

Pope Francis to meet with university students as part of synodal process

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

ROME — Highlighting the importance of a church that truly listens, Pope Francis will participate in a virtual meeting hosted by Loyola University in Chicago with students from North, Central and South America.

The Feb. 24 virtual meeting, titled “Building Bridges: A Synodal Encounter between Pope Francis and University Students,” will be an opportunity to “address the salient challenges of our times,” the university’s website said.

“The pope will dialogue with these university students who will share concrete educational projects that seek to justly transform environmental and economic realities,” as well as discuss the challenges of migration, it said.

Speaking with Catholic News Service Jan. 28, Michael Murphy, director of Loyola’s Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, said he and several colleagues, including Emelice Cuda, an official at the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, discussed the idea of an event for university students in preparation for the upcoming Synod of Bishops on synodality.

In November, he said, while discussing possible speakers for the event, he kind of joked, “Hey, let’s see if Pope Francis is free.”

Unbeknownst to him, Cuda presented the idea to Pope Francis who agreed to participate.

It was “not a whim on his part,” because it fits his vision and priorities, Murphy said. “We knew that so many universities have been asking him, ‘What is our role and how can we support’ the synodal process.

In preparation for the virtual meeting, students were divided into seven regional groups from North, Central and South America to talk about the thoughts, questions and dreams they would like to discuss with the pope, he said.

“I think it accomplishes what Pope Francis is trying to do: to be a listening church,” Murphy told CNS. “We want to make sure other students feel invited, too, and not be so exclusive in this.”

While the discussions will focus on issues ranging from migration to climate change, he said, bringing the young adults from different regions is important in itself, especially at a time of increased division, including because of the digital revolution.

He also hoped it would help build a bridge between the two continents where, often, colonial and indigenous “past and present collide.”

“What the pope wants to do is look at boundaries and see what we know and to remove as much as we can; to say, ‘Let us walk together,’ conscious of the brokenness of the past, but hopeful in the present,” he said.

Murphy told CNS he hopes the meeting will address the increasing polarization and “the sense of exceptionalism” that prevents one from listening to the needs and wants of others.

“I’m not trying to dismantle everything,” Murphy said. “I’m just saying let’s get real. The church is the living body of Christ. And, it’s not some 16th-century enterprise, even though that is an important part of its tradition.”

“My dad always said, ‘You have two ears and one mouth for a reason,’ ” he said. “So, if we can unclog our two ears and listen better, I think that would be a good result.”

Bellaire police search for man who broke into St. John, Bellaire, rectory

BELLAIRE — Bellaire police are searching for a man who they say broke into the rectory at St. John Church, 3745 Tallmadge Ave., Bellaire, and stole a collection bag, Christmas cards and a cell phone.

On the morning of Jan. 4, Father Daniel Heusel, pastor of St. John Parish and St. Mary Parish, Shadyside, said he found a man hiding in his kitchen pantry. Police have identified the suspect as Michael Kilgrove, age 49.

According to the police report, Father Heusel asked Kilgrove how he entered the rectory and he showed him a set of keys, which were allegedly stolen from the church sacristy. According to Father Heusel, Kilgrove took his cell phone and would not return it. Father Heusel told police, “He (Kilgrove) said he would lay it down on the sidewalk if I allowed him to leave. However, he kept the phone.”

The police report indicated that burglary and theft charges were filed and sent to the Belmont County Prosecutor’s Office.

Father Heusel said, “I had the locks changed at the rectory and a security system is being installed.”

The pastor is continuing to cooperate with the Bellaire Police Department with their investigation.
Athens — A women’s “Endow Study on Catholic Social Teaching” will take place from 9-10:30 a.m., Mondays, from Feb. 7 through April 4, at Holy Family Center, 75 Stewart St. A study guide can be purchased at www.endowgroups.org. For additional information or to make reservations, email freedomunitycare@gmail.com.

“The Choice Wine — 7 Steps to a Superabundant Marriage,” a nine-week Lenten program for married couples, will begin at 6 p.m., Feb. 12, at Christ the King University Parish. For additional information, telephone the parish office at (740) 592-2711.

Buchtel — St. Mary of the Hills Parish CWC will sponsor a bake sale following the 8:30 a.m. Mass, Feb. 6, at the church.

Churchtown — A designer purse bingo, sponsored by St. John Central School, is planned for March 19 at Knights of Columbus Council 4617 Hall, 17472 Ohio Route 676. Doors open at 5 p.m.; bingo begins at 7 p.m. Participants must be 18 years old or older. Cost is $20 per ticket, which includes 20 games. Proceeds benefit the school. For additional information or to purchase a ticket, telephone the school office at (740) 896-2697.

Churchtown/LOLLY — Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith can contact Father David L. Glick. He is the pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Churchtown, and Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Lowell, by telephoning (740) 896-2207.

Marietta — The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption cemetery committee plans on adding flowering trees to the new St. Mary Cemetery. Anyone wishing to donate a tree in memory of a loved one can contact Jim Hiltage by telephoning (740) 373-9626. The cost is $350, which includes the installation and an engraved memorial stone under the tree.

Steubenville — A blessing of the child in the womb will be given at 1 p.m., Feb. 20, at Holy Rosary Church.

Deadline to apply for John and Blanche Mussio Scholarship is April 1

ST EBENVILLE — Applications for the John and Blanche Mussio Scholarship are now available.

The scholarship was set up by Bishop John King Mussio, the Diocese of Steubenville's first bishop, in memory of his parents as a nonrenewable scholarship for graduating high school seniors who had a certain grade point average and college test score, demonstrated a financial need, received a written recommendation from a parish pastor and were approved by a scholarship selection committee.

Applicants must reside within the boundaries of the Diocese of Steubenville and be a member of a Catholic parish in the diocese.

Forms are available at parish offices and school offices with the counselors. The deadline for application is April 1.

Pittsburgh — A kick-off Mass for “40 Days for Life” will be celebrated at 7 p.m., March 1, at Epiphany Church, 184 Washington Place. Father Chris Donley, pastor of Divine Mercy Parish, Pittsburgh, will be the main celebrant. Following Mass, a candlelight Eucharistic procession will be led by Father Donley to Planned Parenthood, 933 Liberty Ave. A vigil will take place in front of Planned Parenthood from 7 a.m.-7 p.m., March 2-April 10.

For additional information, email Nikki Bruni at nbruni@40daysforlife.org or Donna Gross at gdgoss620@gmail.com; telephone (412) 926-9413; or visit www.40daysforlife.com/Pittsburgh. A blog site is also available by visiting www.40daysforlife.org/Pittsburgh.

Steubenville — The Center for Criminal Justice, Law and Ethics at Franciscan University of Steubenville will offer a continuing education course, “Aquinas and King: A Discourse on Civil Disobedience,” from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 25, in the St. Joseph Center Totino Room, located on the university campus. According to the university’s press release, the course will “explore the ways Martin Luther King Jr.’s philosophy of nonviolent disobedience throughout the civil rights movements adhered to St. Thomas Aquinas’ teachings on justice and injustice in human law as dictated by natural law reasoning.” The seminar will be led by Charles Nemeth, director of Franciscan's Criminal Justice Program and the author of more than 50 books on criminal justice, jurisprudence and legal philosophy. A registration fee of $149 is required for attendance, which includes a light breakfast and lunch. For additional information, visit the university’s website: franciscan.edu/law-ethics or contact Nemeth by emailing cnemeth@franciscan.edu.

Wheeling, W.Va. — Diocese of Steubenville Deacon Mark Miravalle, a theology professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville, will present a talk titled, “Meet Your Spiritual Father: St. Joseph the Worker,” at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 16, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 1300 Eoff St. The rosary will be prayed prior to the event at 7 p.m. Deacon Miravalle has been the recipient of several teaching awards and holds the St. John Paul II Chair of Mariology. He is president of the International Marian Association, comprised of more than 130 theologians, bishops, clergy and laity worldwide who seek to promote Marian devotion and doctrine. He has authored more than 20 books on Mariology and Spiritual Theology. Deacon Miravalle’s book, “Meet Your Spiritual Father: A Brief Introduction to St. Joseph,” will be available for purchase and autographing after the talk.

Men’s Day of Renewal is canceled

ST EBENVILLE — The Diocese of Steubenville Men’s Day of Renewal, scheduled for March 19, has been canceled for the second-consecutive year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The conference is usually held each year during the Lenten season for the men of the diocese.

Chair of Mariology isrop

THE STEUBENVILLE REGISTER FEB. 4, 2022

Obituaries

Donna M. Ardito, 70, Mingo Junction, Holy Family, Steubenville, Jan. 20.
Nancy Arturs, 86, Wintersville, St. Agnes, Mingo Junction, Dec. 20.
Deborah A. “Debbie” Ballog, 73, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Jan. 16.
Anna M. Bartnicki, 93, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Nov. 1.
David M. Bober, 62, Shingford, St. Mary, St. Clairsville, Jan. 13.
Bernard Boyle Jr., 63, St. Peter, Steubenville, Dec. 29.
Philomena A. Burdén, 97, St. Mary, St. Clairsville, Dec. 17.
Patricia D. Campbell, 55, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Dec. 31.
Bonnie Walker Cerullo, 81, St.
Clairsview, St. Mary, Jan. 6.
Henry Cichon, 89, Adena, St. Casimir, Jan. 9.
Richard “Gub” Davison, 90, Steubenville, Holy Family, Nov. 19.
William Della Penna, 69, Mingo Junction, St. Agnes, Jan. 10.
Andrew J. “Andy” Nemec, 92, Midway, Ohio, St. Mary, St. Clairsville, Jan. 14.
Delores George, 93, St. Joseph, Tiltonsville, Dec. 27.
Julia A. Hallon, 63, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Jan. 1.
Clara Mc Knight, 85, St. Joseph, Tiltonsville, Dec. 19.
Eileen A. Miller, 96, St. Stephen, Caldwell, Jan. 19.
Francis J. Mistak, 77, Lafferty, St. Mary, St. Clairsville, Nov. 1.
Marianna Lachendro Olszewski, 68, Adena, St. Casimir, Jan. 5.
Cecilia Barsch Sable, 62, Rayland, St. Albert, Dillonvale, Jan. 9.
Charles A. Scaffidi, 95, Mingo Junction, St. Agnes, Jan. 18.
Carol S. Schell, 78, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Fulda, Jan. 14.
Marilyn Schlanz, 93, St. Mary, Shadyside, Jan. 17.
John See, 97, St. John, Bellaire, Jan. 12.
Julia “Bunny” Sickimich, 82, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Nov. 27.
Frederick W. Stegner, 81, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Jan. 11.
Rita E. Sylvester, 85, Steubenville, Holy Family, Jan. 16.
Donald N. Tadda, 93, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Dec. 30.
Carl “Buck” Tisko, 87, Fairpoint, St. Mary, St. Clairsville, Dec. 7.
Richard “Knob” J. Vicker, 80, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Dec. 7.
Ronald Vicker, 71, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Nov. 30.
George J. Zigo, 80, Bridgeport, St. George, Jan. 24.
DPSC rebates help St. Agnes Parish, Mingo Junction, with repairs

Workers paint the interior walls of St. Agnes Church, Mingo Junction, and repair water damage from an old leak on the back wall of the sanctuary. Father James M. Dunfee, pastor of St. Agnes Parish and diocesan vicar general, said most of the work was funded by parish rebates received from the Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign. Father Dunfee said the cornerstone of St. Agnes Church was laid in 1921, but the upper church was not completed until 1923. He added, “Many men who were out of work did much of the labor of laying bricks which form the structure. In preparation for the 100th anniversary of the edifice, the church is undergoing a refresh.” The parish is planning a celebration in 2023. (Photos by Father Dunfee)

Bishop Monforton invites families, grandparents, individuals, clergy and religious to celebrate Catholic Family Life!

4:00 PM - Presentation in Holy Rosary Auditorium:
“Guiding Children in the Ways of the Faith”
by Dr. Bill Keimig*

Guiding children in the ways of the faith, leading them into a relationship of love with the Blessed Trinity is a ministry to which all of us are called in various capacities: as parents, godparents, catechists, youth ministers, Catholic school teachers, pastors, and so on. This talk will provide you with ways of leading children in a way that will help inspire a lifelong relationship with Jesus.

5:30 PM - Mass for Families offered by Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

Each household will be invited to come forward after Mass for an individual blessing from Bishop Monforton!

*Dr. Bill Keimig is the Assistant Director of the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. He has served as a parish Director of Religious Education and as Director of the Association for Catechumenal Ministry (ACM), which assists dioceses in training clergy and laity to do RCIA ministry. Dr. Keimig has served as a speaker in many other settings, including at the annual St. John Bosco Conference in Steubenville, and at major venues in over 60 dioceses. He and his wife, Heather, have six children running around: Rose, William, Juliana, Theodore, Elizabeth, and Gregory.

RSVP encouraged. Please send the number of people attending from your household to Joe Schmidt at jschmidt@diosteub.org or 740-516-9270.
Parishioners donate more than 2.2 million dollars to the 2021 DPSC

Bishop Monforton

“God bless you and thank you for your prayerful and generous support. Your kindness has made a significant impact in the Body of Christ here in southeast Ohio.”

- Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

Father James M. Dunfee, diocesan vicar general and director of the Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign, said: “The faithful of our diocese are truly generous, even in these difficult times. May God bless you and fulfill for you the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians, ‘whoever sows generously will also reap generously.’”

Final Report

2021 Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign

God’s Love Unites Us!

THE STEUBENVILLE REGISTER  FEB. 4, 2022

MOTHER OF HOPE DEANEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEANERY</th>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>AMOUNT RECEIVED</th>
<th>% OF GOAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ST JOSEPH AMSTERDAM</td>
<td>14,182</td>
<td>6,777</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST TERESE GADZ</td>
<td>12,529</td>
<td>29,766</td>
<td>238%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUR LADY OF MERCY CARROLLTON</td>
<td>20,834</td>
<td>28,485</td>
<td>137%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST MATTHIAS FREEPORT</td>
<td>5,859</td>
<td>7,579</td>
<td>129%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACRED HEART HOPEDALE</td>
<td>6,213</td>
<td>34,648</td>
<td>558%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST FRANCIS XAVIER MALVERN</td>
<td>28,241</td>
<td>33,518</td>
<td>119%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST GABRIEL MINERVA</td>
<td>25,869</td>
<td>40,345</td>
<td>156%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST AGNES MINGO JUNCTION</td>
<td>32,697</td>
<td>47,806</td>
<td>146%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST MARY MORGES</td>
<td>9,049</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>116%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST JOHN FISHER RICHMOND</td>
<td>10,105</td>
<td>12,958</td>
<td>128%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOLY FAMILY STEUBENVILLE</td>
<td>61,870</td>
<td>66,004</td>
<td>107%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS STEUBENVILLE</td>
<td>61,285</td>
<td>111,408</td>
<td>182%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST PETER STEUBENVILLE</td>
<td>52,042</td>
<td>41,698</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST FRANCIS TORONTO</td>
<td>22,178</td>
<td>33,755</td>
<td>152%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST JOSEPH TORONTO</td>
<td>14,013</td>
<td>19,965</td>
<td>142%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLESSED SACRAMENT WINTERSVILLE</td>
<td>49,949</td>
<td>59,979</td>
<td>120%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUR LADY OF LOURDES WINTERSVILLE</td>
<td>13,192</td>
<td>15,786</td>
<td>120%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOTHER OF HOPE DEANEY TOTALS 440,116 602,991

NATIVITY OF MARY DEANEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEANERY</th>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>AMOUNT RECEIVED</th>
<th>% OF GOAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHRIST THE KING ATHENS</td>
<td>34,788</td>
<td>44,168</td>
<td>127%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST PAUL ATHENS</td>
<td>32,647</td>
<td>47,550</td>
<td>146%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST ANN CHESAPEAKE</td>
<td>24,200</td>
<td>24,835</td>
<td>103%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST LOUIS GALLIPOLI</td>
<td>25,450</td>
<td>26,040</td>
<td>103%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOLY CROSS GLOUSTER</td>
<td>11,006</td>
<td>13,410</td>
<td>122%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST JOSEPH IONTON</td>
<td>16,319</td>
<td>165,385</td>
<td>971%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST LAWRENCE IONTON</td>
<td>7,335</td>
<td>121,553</td>
<td>1657%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST MARY NELSONVILLE</td>
<td>6,540</td>
<td>7,965</td>
<td>116%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST MARY PINE GROVE</td>
<td>2,453</td>
<td>11,991</td>
<td>487%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACRED HEART POMEROY</td>
<td>22,245</td>
<td>24,365</td>
<td>110%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NATIVITY OF MARY DEANEY TOTALS 192,675 478,861

PRESENTATION DEANEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEANERY</th>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>AMOUNT RECEIVED</th>
<th>% OF GOAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ST CASIMIR ADENA</td>
<td>13,085</td>
<td>19,452</td>
<td>149%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSUMPTION BARNESVILLE</td>
<td>28,357</td>
<td>86,344</td>
<td>312%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST JOHN BELLAIRE</td>
<td>23,009</td>
<td>28,847</td>
<td>125%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST ANTHONY BRIDGEPORT</td>
<td>11,865</td>
<td>17,326</td>
<td>145%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST JOSEPH BRIDGEPORT</td>
<td>22,264</td>
<td>30,080</td>
<td>135%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST FRANCES CABRINI COLERAIN</td>
<td>20,710</td>
<td>33,778</td>
<td>163%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST ADALBERT DILLONVALE</td>
<td>18,867</td>
<td>28,172</td>
<td>149%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST MARY MARTINS FERRY</td>
<td>10,549</td>
<td>36,220</td>
<td>165%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST MARY SHADYSIDE</td>
<td>11,844</td>
<td>23,645</td>
<td>200%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST MARY ST CLAIRSVILLE</td>
<td>99,930</td>
<td>120,834</td>
<td>121%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST MARY TEMPERANCEVILLE</td>
<td>7,498</td>
<td>7,891</td>
<td>105%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST JOSEPH TILTONSVILLE</td>
<td>11,104</td>
<td>30,797</td>
<td>277%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRESENTATION DEANEY TOTALS 288,359 465,385

VISITATION DEANEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEANERY</th>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>AMOUNT RECEIVED</th>
<th>% OF GOAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CORPUS CHRISTI BELLE VALLEY</td>
<td>10,767</td>
<td>12,560</td>
<td>117%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST BERNARD BEVERLY</td>
<td>25,355</td>
<td>84,209</td>
<td>332%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST STEPHEN CALDWELL</td>
<td>36,658</td>
<td>41,386</td>
<td>113%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRIST OUR LIGHT CAMBRIDGE</td>
<td>79,455</td>
<td>80,710</td>
<td>102%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST MICHAEL CARLISLE</td>
<td>11,649</td>
<td>13,233</td>
<td>114%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST JOHN CHURCHTOWN</td>
<td>27,051</td>
<td>87,222</td>
<td>315%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FULDA</td>
<td>15,110</td>
<td>32,524</td>
<td>215%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST HENRY HARRIETSVILLE</td>
<td>9,705</td>
<td>12,696</td>
<td>133%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST AMBROSE LITTLE HOCKING</td>
<td>34,900</td>
<td>77,118</td>
<td>221%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUR LADY OF MERCY LOWELL</td>
<td>19,885</td>
<td>33,750</td>
<td>170%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST MARY MARIETTA</td>
<td>108,498</td>
<td>150,588</td>
<td>139%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST JAMES MCCONNELSVILLE</td>
<td>10,665</td>
<td>30,552</td>
<td>296%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST JOHN MILTONSVILLE</td>
<td>8,934</td>
<td>7,100</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST JOHN ROSCOE SARDIS</td>
<td>1,942</td>
<td>2,955</td>
<td>152%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST SYLVESTRE WOODSFIELD</td>
<td>17,653</td>
<td>18,410</td>
<td>104%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VISITATION DEANEY TOTALS 418,851 685,217

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEANERY</th>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>AMOUNT RECEIVED</th>
<th>% OF GOAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL ALL DEANEYS (including parish rebates)</td>
<td>1,340,000</td>
<td>2,232,454</td>
<td>167%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This parish has met their goal. All revenue received above the goal is returned to the parish. TOTAL PARISH REBATES ISSUED TO DATE: 920,150

TOTALS FOR DIOCESAN GOAL AFTER PARISH REBATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEANERY</th>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>AMOUNT RECEIVED</th>
<th>% OF GOAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MOTHER OF HOPE DEANEY</td>
<td>440,116</td>
<td>602,991</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATIVITY OF MARY DEANEY</td>
<td>192,675</td>
<td>478,861</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESENTATION DEANEY</td>
<td>288,359</td>
<td>465,385</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VISITATION DEANEY</td>
<td>418,851</td>
<td>685,217</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTALS FOR DIOCESAN GOAL AFTER PARISH REBATES 1,340,000 2,232,454

100%

Why do we have a diocesan goal? How is this money used?

In addition to the supporting the parishes (through rebates), the DPSC provides funding for essential diocesan ministries and services, including: educating seminarians (your future priests), caring for retired priests, training religious educators, feeding families in need, promoting the sanctity of life, providing administrative and facilities support for parishes and schools, and so much more. These funds make it possible to continue the mission of the Church here in the Diocese of Steubenville.