“So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God” (2 Cor 5:20).

The church is a refuge for sinners. This Lenten season, we intensify our longing to be reconciled to God as we embrace both penance and renewal. We journey together in this ascent of the Easter mountain, all the while reflecting on how we succeed and fail as children of God. Together, as fellow ambassadors of Christ, may we accompany each other with Easter joy in our common journey of conversion this Lenten season.

Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton’s Lenten Message 2022

By Dino Orsatti
Editor

WASHINGTON — Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

Fasting is required during Lent

WASHINGON — Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the “paschal fast” to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.
Bishop gives blessings

From Page 1

The Steubenville Register

The school teachers, pastors, and anyone else who has children in their lives.”

Keimig is the assistant director of the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He has served as a parish director of religious education and as director of the Association for Catechetical Ministry. Keimig has also been asked to speak at events in more than 60 dioceses. He and his wife, Heather, have six children.

Schmidt said Keimig’s powerful words are essential for every family. “He emphasized that the heart of the Gospel is the good news that God wants to love us intimately and personally as a father. Jesus, the Son of the Father, comes to us to share that message, and to call us to embrace the Father’s love,” said Schmidt.

Keimig shared how life changing it is when a person realizes the full extent of the Father’s love for them that they belong in His family. He added, “It is within this relationship, when we recognize our true identity as children of God, that we find lasting joy and peace. And we also find our mission: to convey, and even mirror, the Father’s love to others.”

Keimig offered some practical suggestions for parents. He encouraged reading the Apostolic Letter of St. John Paul II, Dies Domini (On Keeping the Lord’s Day Holy), which exhorts the faithful to fulfill the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, and to go beyond that to dedicate the entire day to the Lord and to those under your care according to your vocation. He also encouraged parents to seek ways to better understand each of their children, including their unique temperament, style of learning, way of giving and receiving love.

Bishop Monforton celebrated Mass after the presentation. During the bishop’s homily, he said, “Any good marriage is based on trust, trust in God.”

Schmidt said, “It was obvious that these families at church were touched by his (Bishop Monforton’s) spiritual fatherhood and his personal attention to their needs.”

Costello receives admiration for his time as principal of Catholic Central

By Matthew A. DiCenzo

Staff writer

STUEBENVILLE — Thomas J. Costello, principal of Catholic Central High School and Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School, Steubenville, is leaving his position at the end of the school year. Costello has been an educator for 37 years and became principal of Catholic Central in July 2017. He became principal of the junior high in 2021.

Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton expressed his gratitude to Costello, stating the principal set Catholic Central on an “excellent trajectory.”

Bishop Monforton said, “I want to thank him for all the work that he has done and continues to do.” He said when it comes to the atmosphere and programs Costello has brought to the school, “it doesn’t just get my endorsement, it gets my mandate for it to continue on.”

The bishop added, “Catholic Central is an extremely bright light, not just in southeast Ohio, but in the United States of America.”

Deacon Donald D. Ward, director, diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Schools, expressed his thoughts on the principal.

He said: “Working with Mr. Costello over the last five years has been a wonderful experience and extreme pleasure. We will miss him! He has without doubt worked diligently to help improve school spirit with a specific focus on Catholic identity and building a stronger ‘faith’ focus throughout the life of the school, as well as strengthen the school’s academics and fine arts programs. I say this not only as the superintendent for the diocese, but as a parent of children who have experienced Mr. Costello as their school principal. I hope for his continued success in whatever it is the Lord leads him to do next in his life!”

Father Thomas R. Nau, pastoral administrator of the high school and junior high, as well as pastor of Triumph of the Cross Parish, Steubenville, said: “We are most thankful for the many gifts and talents that Mr. Costello brought to his administration of Catholic Central High School and Bishop John King Mussio Junior High School, as well as pastor of Triumph of the Cross and Pastor of Triumph of the Cross Parish, Steubenville, Ohio.

Costello shared his greatest accomplishment during his tenure. He said, “I’m proud of many different things we’ve done: I think first and foremost, creating a Chesterton Academy, which is a classical learning and classical academic program with Latin, philosophy, theology, history and literature. That’s been a very unique endeavor to build on the "tremendous tradition" of Catholic Central. He said he tried to build on the “tremendous tradition” of Catholic Central High School’s "academic excellence, faith and sports." The principal said he did his "best to enhance it." He added, “I think it is a job, the kids will see right through you.”

In reflection of his time as principal, Costello emphasized: “Surround yourself with a good team. I think that is a really important piece. And, develop good relationships with students. You have to care about them. They will see right through you if you don’t. If it’s just a job, the kids will see right through you.”

In reflection of his time as principal, Costello emphasized: “I loved working with my colleagues, students and the parents. It brought a lot of joy to my life and a lot of good friendships.”

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“A Funeral Service For A Life Remembered”
US bishops unite in prayer behind Ukraine

By Rhina Guidos

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, made an urgent appeal for prayer and fasting: “After weeks of escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine and diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict, Russia initiated military action against Ukraine last week.”

“Pope Francis has called for an end to the ‘diabolical senselessness of violence’ and to the anguish of its victims ‘with God’s weapons, with prayer and fasting.’ I join his call forlessness of violence’ and to the anguish of its victims ‘with God’s weapons, with prayer and fasting.’ I join his call for

Like Bishop Strickland, some conveyed their concerns for the well-being of civilians; others offered solidarity; and some seemed to condemn Russian President Vladimir Putin’s actions.

“Let us pray that their neighbors will support them and that this violence will end quickly. Let us pray,”

Bishop Michael J. Sis of San Angelo, Texas, called for “the respect of human rights, as well as for Ukrainians as they ‘see their homeland become a war zone,’” he tweeted.

Some, like Auxiliary Bishop Mark W. O’Connell of Boston, retweeted a poignant screenshot of a group kneeling in prayer on a street in Ukraine after being invaded by Russia.

“I join my prayers to the people of the church’s needs as Ukrainians continue defending their homeland,” he tweeted.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, said that “we must always reject war as a political solution and propose honest and respectful dialogue among nations as the only way forward.”

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago tweeted that he had requested prayers for peace in Ukraine be added to all Masses in the Illinois archdiocese.

“Most of us now know war in Europe from the stories of our parents and grandparents, from history portrayed in films and books,” he said. “This attack on a peaceful, sovereign nation is a sad reminder that the work of peace is never over. “Please pray with me for the safety of all now under fire and for those in other nations fearful the war in Ukraine may overspread their borders.”

Before his final blessing at Mass, Bishop Brennan, said, “We intensify our prayers because, quite honestly, that’s who we are. We turn to the Lord and we show that dependence, as a light to the world, as salt to the earth.”

Bishop Monforton’s Schedule

March

5       Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 4 p.m., livestreamed and recorded (Triumph of the Cross Parish and diocesan Facebook pages)
6       Mass, St. Peter Church, Steubenville, 10 a.m. Rite of Election, St. Agnes Church, Mingo Junction, 1 p.m.
7       Catholic Conference of Ohio meeting, Columbus, Ohio, 10:30 a.m.
8       Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m. Diocesan Information Solutions Community (DISC) conference planning meeting, 3:30 p.m.
9       Mass, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 5:30 p.m.
10      Mass, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 10 a.m. Rite of Election, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 1:30 p.m.
11      Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 7 a.m. St. Vincent Seminary Board of Regents meeting, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, 10:30 a.m.
16-18   U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs meeting, Chicago, Illinois
17      WAOB radio segment, 7:40 a.m., 8:40 a.m. and 6:40 p.m.
19      Mass, Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, 5:30 p.m.

Agencies are collecting donations to help people in Ukraine with the crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Various Catholic agencies are collecting donations to aid with the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, as people flee to escape Russian bombing and shelling. Here are some places to donate. This list is not exhaustive.


The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia also has a link: https://ukrcharcheparchy.us/donate.


The Knights of Columbus launched the Ukraine Solidarity Fund, and donations can be made at kofc.org/secure/en/donate/ukraine.html.

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FDIC
Seminarian finds ‘God is present’ at Sacred Heart Major Seminary

Seminarian Peter Stetson continues the tradition of Steubenville’s relationship with Sacred Heart, reflecting on excellence in spiritual and academic formation.

By Karla Dorweiler Mosaic

With just one seminarian currently studying at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, the Diocese of Steubenville makes up a small portion of the student population. But Peter Stetson, a first-year theology student for Steubenville, represents a long history with the Ohio diocese.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton graduated from Sacred Heart with his B.A. in Philosophy in 1989. He served as a member of the seminary faculty from 2002-2012, and as the Rector for six years during that time. Bishop Monforton was the first to send seminarians to Detroit after he was appointed bishop for the Diocese of Steubenville in 2012.

“The Diocese of Steubenville and I are grateful for the exemplary Formation Program at Sacred Heart Major Seminary as the seminary prepares our men for the evangelization of souls,” Bishop Monforton shared in a statement to Mosaic. “Having the honor to be a fellow alumnus of the seminary, as well as the privilege to serve as its Rector, I have experienced firsthand the excellence that is present and at work in this Seminary Formation Program as it forms men after the Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

Seminarian Stetson was tentative about coming to Sacred Heart without other men from his diocese, but has found students and staff to be welcoming.

“The guys with other dioceses have invited me to some of their activities. The Lansing seminarians have pretty much adopted me, and it’s been great to hang out with them,” said Stetson.

Two seminarians for the Diocese of Toledo are also studying at Sacred Heart. They and Stetson meet for “Ohio fraternity” weekly. Stetson appreciates the formation he’s receiving at Sacred Heart, which he describes as “sound and orthodox,” with a strong spiritual dimension.

“God is present and at work in this place. That’s undeniable,” said Stetson. “Sacred Heart has a solid team of priests and formators. They are all priests I look up to – intelligent, holy men who set a good example.”

In addition to the well-rounded academic foundation, Stetson values the emphasis on spirituality at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. He and his classmates are encouraged to pray about what they’re learning in the classroom.

“The teachers are real believers and that shines through,” Stetson said. “They want what we’re learning to preface not only our intellectual formation, but our spiritual formation and our time in the chapel. You give from what you have, so it’s important to put in time with God. You want that relationship to be the wellspring from which you give.”

Father Josh Erickson, Diocese of Steubenville Vocations Director, is also a Sacred Heart alumnus, class of 2018. Now, as he oversees the formation of future priests for the diocese, he appreciates all the more the way the seminary helps men to be proactive in their own formation by setting goals, addressing weaknesses, and working in cooperation with the Holy Spirit to move forward in formation.

In the fall, Stetson and other seminarians visited neighborhoods in Detroit, knocking on doors and inviting people back to Mass. This semester, he’s working with St. Paul Street Evangelization on the campus of Wayne State University. Stetson knows he’ll need these pastoral skills as a priest ministering to people with a variety of viewpoints and experiences.

“We talk with people and try to bring them the Gospel message. We invite them to church or to FOCUS, a Catholic group on campus,” said Stetson. “It’s a good and beautiful challenge to start to formulate how I’ll encounter these people, and how I might help them to see Christ and share my own encounter with the living God.”

Father Erickson recalls working with St. Paul Street Evangelization when he was a student as well and sees the experience as a valuable tool.

“‘You have to set yourself aside and focus on the needs of the person in front of you. You have to ask, ‘How can I bring Christ to them through love or friendship or whatever they might need at that moment?’” Father Erickson explained. “You have to be willing to go where you’re not comfortable. And that’s what formation is supposed to be – it’s meant to stretch you. It’s meant for growth.”

Bishop Monforton summed up why the Diocese of Steubenville sends its seminarians to Sacred Heart.

“The Seminary Formation Program possesses a harmony among faculty, staff, and students as they coordinate and cooperate with one another with the prime objective of being salvation of souls,” Bishop Monforton shared. “Our priests live in a polarized world, as we all do, and we need priests to confront the disharmony that divides us and to share the Body and Blood of Christ that unites us.”

He continues, “The faithful in Southeast Ohio deserve nothing less than a mature priest grounded in prayer replete with love for the Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore, Sacred Heart intellectually prepares our men to defend and to teach the faith all the while exemplifying the pastoral care with the compassion and mercy of Jesus Christ. To put it bluntly, we all can use more Christ-like men in the presbyterate.”

Another seminarian for the diocese, Joseph Hahn, is also enrolled in the theology program at Sacred Heart Major Seminary and is currently taking a pastoral year. He is scheduled to return to Detroit with Stetson in the fall to study.

Dorweiler writes for the Mosaic, magazine for Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit. Their website is www.mosaic.shms.edu.

Note: For additional information about the Office of Vocations in the diocese, contact Father Erickson by emailing jerickson@diosteub.org.

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**Principal Opening**

**Catholic Central High School and Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School, Steubenville**

Catholic Central High School and Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School, Steubenville, are seeking a principal to begin July 1. This is a combined principal’s position over both schools, to lead a strong administrative team for the upcoming academic year. Catholic Central High School has a current enrollment of 233 students in grades nine through 12, and Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School has a current enrollment of 148 students in grades six through eight. Both schools are located on the same campus, and are interparochial to the Catholic parishes of Jefferson County, Ohio.

**Qualifications:**
- Practicing Roman Catholic with an enthusiasm for his/her faith;
- Minimum 5 years of teaching and/or administrative experience, preferably in a Catholic school setting;
- Certified in the state of Ohio (or the ability to obtain certification);
- Master’s degree required, preferably in Education or Education Administration.

**Application materials:**
- Letter of interest in the position; resume of experience; transcripts of college/university coursework; three professional references; letter of recommendation from the applicant’s pastor; copy of current educator licensure/certification.

Interviews for selected candidates will be scheduled following a review of application materials.

Salary and benefits are negotiable depending upon experience and qualifications. Send complete packet of application materials via email to: pward@diosteub.org

Application materials may also be mailed to Deacon Paul D. Ward, Director Office of Christian Formation and Schools 422 Washington St., P.O. Box 969, Steubenville, OH 43952

**Complete application materials will be accepted through March 18.**
Bishop Monforton visits Steubenville Catholic schools and celebrates Mass

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis said his heart was “broken” by the war in Ukraine, and he pleaded again, “Silence the weapons!”

“Many times, we prayed that this path would not be taken,” he told people gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the midday recitation of the Angelus prayer Feb. 27. But, rather than giving up, he said, “we beg God more intensely.”

With many of the people in the square holding Ukrainian flags, Pope Francis greeted them the way they traditionally greet each other, “Slava Isusu Chrystu,” meaning, “Glory to Jesus Christ.”

Pope Francis has continued to personally express his concern about Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and to appeal for peace. The previous evening, he phoned Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

With a heart broken, Pope Francis prays for peace for Ukrainians

By Cindy Wooden

One who wages war, he said, is not and cannot be thinking about people, but is putting “partisan interests and power before everything.”

One who wages war “relies on the diabolical and perverse logic of weapons, which is the furthest thing from God’s will, and distances himself from the ordinary people who want peace,” the pope said. In every conflict “the ordinary people are the real victims” and they “pay for the folly of war with their own skin.”

“The church is with its people,” he said. “The church of Christ brings the Eucharistic Savior to those who are experiencing critical moments in their life, who need the strength and hope of the resurrection.”

And he called on anyone who could to go to confession and receive the Eucharist, remembering those unable to go to services and, especially, the Ukrainian soldiers defending the nation.

But, also, he said, make a “sacrifice for those who are wounded, for those who are discouraged, for the refugees who are on the roads” fleeing the war.

Speaking after the Angelus prayer, Pope Francis also remembered the Ukrainians in the bunkers and those fleeing the war, especially “the elderly, those seeking refuge in these hours, mothers fleeing with their children. They are our brothers and sisters for whom humanitarian corridors must be opened as a matter of urgency and who must be welcomed.”

“In these days we’ve been shaken by something tragic: war,” he told the people in the square.

With a heart broken, Pope Francis prays for peace for Ukrainians
The Fall

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Emeritus Gilbert I. Sheldon

Note: This article was originally published in the Feb. 11, 2005, edition of The Steubenville Register.

Chapter 3 of the Book of Genesis tells us of the fall of the first humans into sin, hence the original sin of mankind. It is described in symbolic details, notable, a garden with a “tree of life” and a “tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” and a serpent. Chapter 2 ended on the note that “the man and his wife were naked, yet they felt no shame” (Gen 2:25). In Chapter 3, that would change.

The pope points out in his reflections on the “Theology of the Body” the contrast between the “state of original innocence” before the fall, and the state of sin afterwards. In his words, “Systematic theology will discern in these two antithetical situations two different states of human nature: the state of integral nature and the state of fallen nature. All this emerges from the Yahwist text of Genesis 2-3, which contains in itself the most ancient word of revelation.”

The term Yahwist has to do with a common theory among Scripture scholars concerning probable written sources on which much of Genesis is based. It is a technical point on which we need not delay here. More important for our consideration is the pope’s identification of Genesis 2-3 as “the most ancient word of revelation.” He obviously regards the notion of original innocence and the state of original sin as truths revealed to us by divine revelation. Not only that, but these truths are “the most ancient word of revelation,” the first things, therefore, that God had seen fit to tell us about our origins. This is worth noting since among many revisionist theologians there is a move to reject the concept of original sin and the resulting loss of original innocence. This “before and after” condition of the human race figures in the dialogue between Jesus and the scribes, with which the pope began his reflections. Our Lord tells the scribes that, while Moses permitted divorce, “it was not so from the beginning” (Mt 19:8). It was because of man’s morally weakened condition that Moses made that concession. It was not meant to be so. The first man and woman were in the state of grace as well as the state of innocence. They lost both innocence and grace through their sin. They lost the easy control they had of the material, physical part of human nature that they enjoyed previously. One might raise the objection that since we, today, are in the same fallen state, why does not the concession concerning divorce apply to us as well?

The answer: in part at least, is that we have regained the state of grace through baptism. Therefore, our condition is not the same as that of the Israelites of the Old Testament. We have not, however, regained the easy control of our lower nature that went with the original state of grace and innocence. The difficulty that we find in controlling our instincts and appetites, or concupiscence, remains as an effect, a scar, so to speak, of original sin.

Coming back to the question of marriage, its nature is per se permanent; in the pope’s words, it “is constituted on the basis of the word of God which is revealed.” JOHN PAUL SPEAKS of the fall of mankind in terms of the violation of a covenant. The notion of covenant is one which runs through the entire Bible. A covenant is not merely an agreement, which is usually about material things. A covenant is much deeper; it is about persons and their relationship to each other. Like any agreement, however, a covenant involves giving and taking, quid pro quo. Something is offered; something is expected in return. These are the terms of any agreement or covenant.

The terms of the original covenant between God and mankind are expressed in Genesis: “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all living things that move upon the earth” (Gen 1:28). Then comes the reciprocal consideration: “You are free to eat of any of the trees of the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you may not eat; the moment you eat of it, you are surely doomed to die” (Gen 2:16-17). The knowledge of good and evil is a symbol for sin: rejecting God and his divine will.

Without original sin, we would be hard put to explain the reason for the Incarnation and redemption. If each individual appears before God in the same relationship as Adam and Eve before the fall, each would stand or fall on his or her own. The life and death of Jesus, as Son of Man, i.e., man’s exemplar and representative, would make little sense. On the contrary, the promise of redemption was actually given to our first parents (and to their descendants) almost immediately after their sin. “Then the Lord God said to the serpent (representing Satan, obviously): ... I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel” (Gen 3:15). The “he” refers, of course, to Jesus Christ. Hence, this passage is known as the “Protocoelavangelium,” the “First Gospel.”

In the words of Pope John Paul: “In the same way, historical man ... participates in this perspective. He participates not only in the history of human sinfulness, as a hereditary and at the same time personal and unique subject of this history; he also participates in the history of salvation, here, too, as its subject and co-creator. Therefore, he is not only closed, because of his sinfulness, with regard to original innocence, but he is at the same time open to the mystery of redemption, which is accomplished in Christ and through Christ.”

That redemption by Christ applies not only to the soul, but to the body of man as well. Witness St. Paul: “Yes, we know that all creation groans and is in agony even until now. Not only that, but we, ourselves, who have the Spirit as first fruits groan inwardly, as we await the redemption of our bodies” (Rom 8:22-23).

Soul Food: The Spiritual Sustenance of Fasting and its Relation to Purity of Heart

By Father Nicholas S. Ward

One of the saints whose writings had a great impact on my priestly formation was the fourth century monk and theologian St. John Cassian. St. John was deeply interested in religious life and what contributed to successfully living out the vocations of monks and hermits. His “Institutes” and “Conferences” were foundational to the establishment of Western monasticism, and St. Benedict used them extensively to write his famous Rule of Life. The Conferences had such an impact on early Christianity that the Italian word for Conferences, “Collationes,” is now used to describe a light meal. In fact, it is not uncommon even today in Benedictine houses that the Conferences should be read at meal times so that the fruits of fasting should not be forgotten when taking in food.

Fasting is inappropriately connected to growth in holiness. Jesus himself fasted for 40 days in the wilderness before beginning his ministry (see, Luke, Chapter 4, Verse 2), and the Apostles also maintained fasting as an essential discipline of the church (see, Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 13, Verse 2; Chapter 14, Verse 23; and 1 Corinthians, Chapter 7, Verse 5). St. John Cassian wanted to avoid the extremes of what he witnessed in terms of fasting. On the one hand, there were monks who never denied themselves anything at all (least of all when it came to food), and therefore quickly fell into a number of temptations, since they had not trained themselves in self-denial. On the other hand, there were monks who went without any kind of food at all for long periods of time, even days, but were then subject to gorging themselves when it came time to break the fast (and therefore fell into the sin of gluttony), or otherwise became physically weak to keep up their regimen of prayer and work. More important than regulating fasting, however, St. John wanted to show the importance of fasting as a discipline of the Christian life and as a means of obtaining that purity of heart which ought to be the goal of all Christians: “Perfection of mind indeed depends upon the abstinence of the belly. He has no lasting purity and chastity who is not contented always to keep to a well-balanced and...”
The Lenten Pilgrimage

By Diocese of Steubenville
Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

“We teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Mt 28:20).

In the Scripture passage, Jesus comforts his disciples with words indicating that no one is ever alone. Jesus will never leave us regardless our predicament. A former spiritual director of mine once said we need to embrace this Lenten season as a “baptismal re-announcement.” As the first disciples were witnesses to Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection, thus transforming them in God’s grace, we too are transformed in God’s enduring love throughout our Lenten pilgrimage.

This “re-announcement” assists us in looking beyond our selfish limitations, instead to gaze into and to embrace God’s faithful love. In this season, perhaps we should ask ourselves how we may make God’s love an absolute priority in our own climb of the Easter mountain of Lent. Together, let us ask our Lord Jesus to guide us through this season with his grace and protection.

We are reminded that Jesus came into the world to save us through his poverty. The season of Lent reminds us that our ways are not always God’s ways. What humanity may envision as weak or insignificant, happens to be the very way by which we are saved. Think about it, Jesus was born into a family that did not enjoy public renown, he was born in a room with farm animals, and he also was born in a land oppressed by the mighty Roman Empire. How could a Universal King be born into such a situation? Because God’s ways are not our ways.

This Lenten season reminds us how Jesus placed all of our sins upon his shoulders in order that we may be redeemed. This season reminds us that we are not sovereign individuals. We cannot live without God. This Lenten season reminds us there always is hope.

Ukraine

At the time of this publication, the escalating tensions continue between Russia and the Ukraine as Russia has engaged in military action in Ukraine. Pope Francis has called for an end to the “diabolical senselessness of violence” and to the anguish of his victims “with God’s weapons, with prayer and fasting.” Together, let us join his call for lasting peace and I invite all to join me in prayer these fragile days that have provided the world with countless victims, both young and old.

May Mary, Queen of Peace, lead us to live the peace that Jesus taught us.

Stay holy; stay healthy; stay safe.

The Lenten Pilgrimage

When Our World is Falling Apart

By Father Ron Rolheiser

The early years of my adulthood and priesthood were spent teaching theology at “Newman Theological College” in Edmonton, Canada. I was young, full of energy, loved teaching and was discovering the joys of ministry. For the most part, these were good years. However, they weren’t always easy. Restlessness and inner chaos find us all. The demands of ministry, the tensions inside community, the obsessions I’m forever prone to, the not-infrequent departure of cherished friends from the community and the constant movement of people through my life, occasionally left me in emotional chaos, gasping for oxygen, struggling to sleep, wondering how I was going to still my soul again. But, I had a little formula to help handle this. Whenever the chaos got bad, I would get into my car and drive four hours to our family farm just across the border in Saskatchewan. My family still lived in the house I’d grown up in and I was able to eat at the same table I’d eaten at as a boy and walk the same ground I’d walked while growing up. Usually it didn’t take long for home to do its work. I’d only need a meal or an overnight stay and the chaos and heartache would subside; I’d begin to feel steady again.

Coming home didn’t cure the heartache, but it gave the heart the care it needed. Somewhere home always worked. Today, the same kind of emotional chaos and heartache can still unsettle me on occasion and leave me unsure of who I am, of the choices I’ve made in life and of who and what to trust. However, I cannot drive to my childhood home anymore and need to find the steadying that going home once gave me in new ways. It isn’t always apparent where to find this, even amidst a good community, a still supportive family, loving friends and a wonderful job. Home can be elusive on a restless night. What one needs to steady the heart isn’t always easy to access. Once you’ve left home, sometimes it’s hard to find your way back there again.

So, what do I do now when I need to go home and retouch my roots to steady myself? Sometimes a trusted friend is the answer; sometimes it’s a call to a family member; sometimes it’s a family that has become family to me, sometimes it’s a place in prayer or in nature, sometimes it’s immersing myself in work and sometimes I can’t find it at all and have to live with the chaos until, like a bad storm, it blows over.

Through the years, I’ve discovered that a special book can take me home in the same way as driving there once did. Different people find home in different places. One of the books that does this for me, almost without fail, is “The Story of a Soul” by Therese of Lisieux. Not surprising, it’s the story of a recessive journey, the story of Therese’s own effort at recapitulating what her house, home and family once gave her. But, the recessive journey in itself is not what gives this book (which I highly recommend for anyone whose heart is aching in way that unsettles the soul) such a special power. Many autobiographies unsettle more than they settle. This one soothes your soul.

However, remembering alone doesn’t necessarily care for the heart and sometimes our memories of home and childhood carry more pathology and pain than steadying and healing. Not everyone’s home was safe and nurturing. Tragically, one’s initial home can also be the place where our trust and steadiness are irrevocably broken, as is the case often in sexual and other forms of abuse. I was fortunate. My first home gave me trust and faith. For those who were not as lucky, the task is to find a home, a place or a person, that caresses a wounded soul.

What makes for a home that caresses the soul? Home is where you are safe. It’s also the place where you experience security and trust and where that steadiness enables you to believe in the things of faith. I used to drive four hours for a meal or a night’s sleep in order to find that. Today, I need to make that recessive journey in other ways.

It’s a journey we all need to make in times of chaos and deep restlessness in our lives, namely, to find a place, a space, a friend, a family, a house, a table, a bed, a book or something that grounds us again in security, trust, stability and faith.

Of course, there are headaches and heartaches for which there is no cure; but the soul doesn’t need to be cured, only properly cared for. Our task is to go home, to find those people, places, prayers and books that caress our souls at those times when our world is falling apart.

Father Rolheiser, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate priest, is an author, a retreat master and a newspaper columnist. More information about his ministry is available on his website: www.ronrolheiser.com.
**Women speakers emphasize need for “reciprocity” in church’s ministry**

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service  

VATICAN CITY — Promoting better collaboration between women and men in the Catholic Church is not primarily about equality, but about allowing the church to fulfill the mission given to it by God, said women speakers at a Vatican conference on priesthood.

“The church needs women and must call them to serve,” for the good of all people, said Michellina Tenace, a professor of dogmatic theology at Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University and consultant for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

“If the church does not make this call, a ministry risks being seen as a right. But, serving is not a right, it is a duty,” she said.  

Tenace was joined on the panel by Salesian Sister Alessandra Smerilli, interim secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and an adviser to the governing office of Vatican City State; and Martha Olavarrieta de Gomez Serrano, who had been appointed along with her two late-stage-husband Enrique to the Pontifical Council for the Laity by St. John Paul II in 2004.

The Feb. 17-19 international conference was organized by Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, to look at the theology of the priesthood and its relationship to consecrated life which, together with lay vocations, are the three ways in which the faithful of Christ realize the call to holiness inscribed in baptism.

In her talk, Tenace spoke about the work of the commission she was appointed to by Pope Francis in 2016 to study the women deacons in the Latin-Rite church did not mean women disappeared from the church or no longer had a place, she said. Their holiness continued to be recognized and their service was absolutely utilized.

All the baptized are called to serve humanity, she said, so the question is not about restoring what existed in the past, but “what ministry do the people of God need today?”

“And why is it so urgent to establish ministries for women?” she asked.  

“Please,” she said, “let it be not to recognize the dignity of women, but to recognize the true identity of the church.”

It is through this duty to serve, like Jesus, that the church must constantly be asking itself, even looking at its structures and hierarchies: “How can we better serve humanity seeking salvation and in the way most in compliance with the mandate of the Lord,” she said.

Sister Smerilli told the conference ministry should be examined not from a perspective of “claiming” rights or powers, but from the “logic of communion” as part of the covenant between God and human beings.

The Book of Genesis describes the covenant as beginning with God entrusting the care of the garden of creation to both a man and a woman — a responsibility that remains today.

“How women our relationships and the carrying out of our duties and roles change, even within the church, if we were to take seriously this assertion,” that God has entrusted the earth to the covenant of both men and women, she asked.

“And why do we rarely succeed in doing this?” she said.

While the number of women at decision-making levels in the church is still “too low,” she said, the issue is not simply about “making room for women” or seeing the problem as a “competition for power.”

The essential point is “that it is not simply and only women who suffer from this situation, but the church and its mission,” too, when women’s gifts and call to service are underutilized, Sister Smerilli said.

Just as God’s image shines brightly in the duality of male and female, “only together as baptized men and women will we be a reflection of him,” she said. It is a voca- tion for men and women to be together in reciprocity and dialogue, in communion and fruitfulness in every area of human experience.

“Women are a rightful part of this advancement toward the truth,” inspired by the Holy Spirit, she said. Even during those times in history that were marked by a strong patriarchal culture, women in the church and “female charisms” achieved “extraordinary things.”

The church is called to seek “alliances” between men and women, as they both move forward on this common earthly journey, despite any resistance to change, she said.

Constructive, unifying and mission-oriented collaboration among men and women, both religious and lay, and of multiple generations, already happens in many places, parishes or associations, Sister Smerilli said.

But, it will require continuing to observe and listen more to the Holy Spirit who “will suggest new paths and choices that are courageous and not divisive” because they will arise from thoughtful reflection and lived communion, she said.

Olavarrieta, who is a mother of nine children, was active in family ministry in Mexico City and helped organize the World Meeting of Families there in 2009, spoke of the ways families cultivate the faith among its members and reach out to evangelize and serve the larger community.

It is a vision of the faithful “yes” to the gifts and graces of life and marriage and journeying together with priests.

“Women have always walked alongside Jesus, reaching out to him as mothers, sisters, friends, and no one has ever addressed them,” she said through a translator. And priests today need to continue the many kinds of work like Jesus encountered and relied on for carrying out his mission.

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**Soul Food**

From Page 6  

Temperate diet. Fasting, although severe, yet if unnecessary relaxation follows, is rendered useless, and presently leads to weight. The ultimate goal of fasting is not to become thin, but to resist their attacks (as is sometimes the case with the excesses of the flesh). Fasting must be carried out by means of temperate diet. Fasting, although severe, yet if unnecessary relaxation follows, is rendered useless, and presently leads to weight. The ultimate goal of fasting is not to become thin, but to resist their attacks (as is sometimes the case with the excesses of the flesh). Fasting must be carried out by means of temperate diet.

Fasting is the perfection of all the virtues which are necessary to rely on the spiritual food of fasting as nourishment for both body and soul. Fasting is the perfection of all the virtues which are necessary to rely on the spiritual food of fasting as nourishment for both body and soul.

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Fasting is the perfection of all the virtues which are necessary to rely on the spiritual food of fasting as nourishment for both body and soul.
Massillon toddler is doing ‘phenomenal’ after kidney transplant

By Betty Lin-Fisher
Akron Beacon Journal
Published Dec. 9, 2021 and updated Dec. 10, 2021

AKRON, Ohio – Less than 48 hours after receiving a new kidney in a transplant, Baby David Detwiler was awake, calling for his mom and charming his nurses.

Early Sunday morning, the Massillon toddler’s parents got a phone call to get to Cincinnati Children’s Hospital as soon as they could. A match for David had been found from a deceased donor.

By Sunday evening, the little boy who was born without a functioning kidney or bladder had a new kidney that was producing urine.

“He’s making urine. I’ve never been so excited to see pee in my life,” mom Carlla Detwiler said Tuesday via text. Health care workers also started getting him up for therapy, which he wasn’t a fan of, but he did it.

“He’s playing with his toys and is telling his nurse’s ‘hi’ and ‘bye,’” Carlla said. “It’s so crazy to think about what’s transpired in the last 48 hours.”

On Wednesday, Carlla said David was telling his nurses “thank you” when they would leave the room. Baby David was first featured in a two-day series in the Beacon Journal in October 2019. (To read the series, go to www.tinyurl.com/ABJBabyDavid.)

His parents, Brad and Carlla, discovered before his birth that their fourth child had no functioning kidney. They were told to terminate the pregnancy or carry the baby to term to potentially get a few minutes to help them make a decision to terminate the pregnancy or carry the baby to term to potentially get a few minutes to help them make a decision.

“Things are pretty complicated but by day four usually things settle out pretty nicely. David sort of settled out by day two and he’s done very well,” Hooper said in a phone interview on Wednesday.

Hooper and other doctors have told the Detwilers that the first nine months after a transplant are very risky as the body is recovering from a major surgery, trying not to reject the new organ and immunosuppressed from medications.

“All I always try to be cautiously optimistic. So far … David read the book and he’s behaving himself,” Hooper said.

“We can take it for granted, but it’s pretty miraculous what just happened,” Hooper said of the transplant.

David was doing so well on Wednesday that he was scheduled to leave the ICU early to a regular room, but the hospital is so full that there wasn’t a general room ready for him. Carlla said.

Carlla and Brad had been warned that babies retain a lot of liquid after transplant and there could be a large bulge where the kidney was placed because the kidney is usually from an adult deceased donor, but David’s donated kidney was smaller.

“His kidney worked so good right from the beginning … that he did not retain fluid like most kids do,” said Carlla. “I am so thankful for whoever’s kidney this is. It is like a perfect match.”

“It’s just perfect for him, and it has worked so good from the beginning,” she said.

Cincinnati from their Massillon home for her to get painful shots in her abdomen to create amniotic fluid to help get David to birth.

David survived birth and has undergone 12 hours of peritoneal dialysis at home each night, with the goal of a kidney transplant. His parents also later discovered David is blind in both eyes and has cerebral palsy.

This Thanksgiving (2021) the Detwilers shared the exciting news that David was approved for transplant, but the family had been warned it may take time for a living donor or deceased donor to be found.

Exactly a week after the story ran in the Beacon Journal a match was found.

Ahead of schedule

David has done very well and is ahead of schedule, said Dr. David Hooper, the medical director of kidney transplantation at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital.

The surgery was complex and was a success because of the dozens of physicians and health care workers who coordinated on behalf of David, Hooper said. That included Dr. Chuck Varnell, associate medical director of kidney transplantation, who took the initial kidney call and coordinated Sunday’s transplant; Dr. Greg Tiao, the surgeon who performed the surgery; Tricia Soulas, the pre-transplant coordinator; and many others, including the inpatient nephrology team led by Drs. Stéphanie Benoit and Tori Besser and other members of the hospital team, said Hooper.

Brian Vanderbrink is the urologist who performed the critical portion of the procedure to attach David’s ureter to his abdominal wall instead of his bladder in order to allow the urine to drain, said Hooper.

Hooper typically tells families to expect a rough first four days because the patients are uncomfortable and have been through a major surgery.

“Things are pretty complicated but by day four usually things settle out pretty nicely. David sort of settled out by day two to three and he’s done very well,” Hooper said.

The quick match

David’s relatively quick match after being approved for a transplant in early October was because of a few reasons, Hooper said. David has accumulated time on the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) registry, since three days after birth, when he started dialysis. UNOS is the governing body for all deceased donor kidneys in the U.S. and pediatric cases also get a higher priority.

But a change made in March also benefitted David and other kidney transplants, Hooper said.

The potential pool of deceased donors to find a match used to be from within the Greater Cincinnati area for a kidney, which was more limiting, Hooper said.

In March, the region expanded to 250 miles from Cincinnati and pediatric cases also got bumped up in priority, which meant David’s potential kidney could have come from a region that includes Akron, Indianapolis, Columbus, Lexington and Louisville, Hooper said.

Not much is known about the deceased donor, though the kidney itself goes through a thorough assessment before and after its arrival at the hospital, Hooper said.

Carlla said she was told that rules have changed regarding contacting the donor’s family and in a few weeks, her family will be able to send a message to the donor’s family through the transplant coordinator to see if the donor’s family is interested in corresponding or meeting.

Carlla said she has been thinking a lot about the donor’s family and the gift their loss has given her son.

“I want them to know how far he’s come and what they’ve done for him,” she said.

For now, David continues his recovery and will likely stay at the hospital through sometime next week before being sent home. He will also do all of his follow-up care at his home hospital, Akron Children’s Hospital. Akron Children’s does not do kidney transplants and has a long-standing partnership with Cincinnati Children’s.

Big changes for the family

Carlla and Brad said while David’s new kidney is a huge step for him, the biggest benefit will be for their three older children.

For 2 and a half years, their family has been tethered to the house and specifically to Carlla and Brad’s bedroom, where they connect David to his dialysis machine at 7 p.m. every night for 12 hours.

Little did Carlla know, she said, that on Saturday night she set up David’s dialysis machine in her bedroom for the last time. She now looks forward to eventually taking the kids on a real vacation or just having a normal life once David is out of the woods after his transplant.

“Just having our lives back in the evening and being able to like lay on the family room floor and play a game of Candyland with the kids and not be locked in our bedroom from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.,” she said.

The dialysis has been harder as David has grown into a toddler and gets fussy being tethered to the machine, she said.

Brad is looking forward to family time with all of his children, "especially in the spring and summer when it’s light outside at night."

"We can go outside and hang out and throw the ball around a little bit longer … that’s the big difference,” he said.

Said Hooper: “It’s the little things that all of us take for granted that a patient on dialysis can’t do, and it really does impact the family in a major way. It’s a blessing, undoubtedly.”

Betty Lin-Fisher is a Akron Beacon Journal reporter. Dr. David Detwiler, the mother of baby David, is the niece of Father Thomas A. Vennitti, pastor St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph parishes, Toronto.
Adena/Dillonvale — Stations of the Cross, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, will be prayed at 3 p.m., Fridays during Lent, at St. Casimir Church, Adena, and St. Adalbert Church, Dillonvale. Stations and Benediction will be alternated between the two locations each week and will begin March 4 at St. Casimir Church.

Athens — A Lenten discussion group on the Mass will take place during Lent on Tuesdays, beginning March 8, at the Holy Family Center, 75 Stewart St. Sessions will take place at 10 a.m. and be repeated at 7 p.m. Father Edward A. Maxfield Jr., parochial vicar to Father Mark A. Moore, pastor of St. Paul Parish and Christ the King University Parish, Athens; Holy Cross Parish, Glouster; St. Mary of the Hills Parish, Buchtel; and Sacred Heart Parish, Pomeroy, will lead the sessions. For additional information, contact the parish office by telephoning (740) 592-2711.

Bellevue/Caldwell/Carlisle/Fulda — A Lenten mission themed “Simple Living in a Complex Life,” based on the writings of St. Therese of Lisieux, will take place at 7 p.m., March 6, at St. Michael Church, Carlisle; March 7, at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, Fulda; March 8, at St. Stephen Church, Caldwell; and March 9, at Corpus Christi Church, Belle Valley. The evenings will include exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with adoration and Benediction, videos on a Eucharistic miracle and St. Therese, a talk and confessions.

Caldwell — Eucharistic adoration will be held from 8:30 a.m.-noon, followed by Mass, Fridays during Lent, at St. Stephen Church. Adoration will also take place from 6-7 p.m. The rosary will be prayed at 6:30 p.m.

Chesapeake — Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7 p.m., Fridays during Lent, at St. Ann Church.

Churchtown — Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 6 p.m., Fridays during Lent, at St. John the Baptist Church.

Clerken — Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 9 a.m., Fridays during Lent, at St. Frances Cabrini Church.

Ironton — Stations of the Cross will be prayed Fridays during Lent at 3 p.m., at St. Lawrence O’Toole Church, and at 6 p.m., at St. Joseph Church.

Lenten mission, “Blessed, Broken, Given: Living a Eucharistic Life,“ presented by Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother, will take place March 6-8 in the Ironton Catholic community. On March 6 and March 7, the mission will begin at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. On March 8, the event will begin with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m., held at Knights of Columbus Bishop Watterson Council 1405 Hall, 2101 S. Third St. The talk will begin at 6:45 p.m.

A Lenten mission, “The Road to Divine Mercy,” with Father Edward A. Maxfield Jr., will take place at 7 p.m., March 6, at St. Joseph Church.

Committee makes plans for the 2023 diocesan Men’s Day of Renewal

STEUBENVILLE — Plans are being made for the 2023 Diocese of Steubenville Men’s Day of Renewal after this year’s event, scheduled for March 19, was canceled.

The conference was canceled because of the “financial risk and safety concerns” of the coronavirus pandemic, according to Paul R. Sebastian, one of the organizers for the event. This is the second-consecutive year for its cancelation.

In 2023, the Men’s Day of Renewal is planned for March 11. John Bergsma, a nationally known speaker and theology professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville, will speak about “Living a Virtuous Life: the Cardinal Virtues.”

Sebastian said the committee encourages the men of the diocese to substitute other spiritual activities appropriate for Lent.

Sebastian encouraged prayer, fasting and almsgiving, which include “daily Mass, good works, acts of kindness, Bible and other spiritual reading, adoration, parish devotions, a retreat or day of recollection, sacrifices, offering up of daily crosses as illness and hardship to the Lord for the conversion of sinners as Mary requested at Fatima.”

Around and About

Athens — Knights of Columbus Father Frank Patala Council 1716 will sponsor fish fries from 4:30-6:30 p.m., March 4-April 8, at the Holy Family Center, 75 Stewart St. Sessions will be alternated between the two locations each week and will begin March 4 at St. Joseph Church.

Tiltonsville — Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 6:30 p.m., Fridays during Lent, at St. Joseph Church.

The Saturday evening Mass at St. Joseph Church will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. through October, beginning March 5.

St. Joseph Parish will sponsor a spaghetti dinner from noon-3 p.m., March 20, at the church hall, 204 Mound St. For a $12 donation, the meal includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad and Italian bread. Dinners will be available for dine in, carryout or curbside pickup. Curbside orders will be available in the alley behind the church, where patrons can enter behind the parish center and exit by the rectory garage.

The open house will take place from 6-7 p.m., March 4, at St. John the Baptist Church.

Minerva — St. Gabriel Parish will sponsor fish fries, Fridays during Lent, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., March 4-April 8, at the church. Dinners include fish (baked or fried), French fries, baked potatoes, cole-slaw, bread and a beverage. Meals cost $10 for adults and $5 for children ages 6-12. Children under the age of 6 can eat for free. Rigaretini dinners are also available. Cost is $7 for adults, $4 for children ages 6-12 and free for children under the age of 6. Dine in or carryout is available. To place an order ahead of time, telephone (330) 868-4610.

St. Clairsville — Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 6:30 p.m., Fridays during Lent, at St. Mary Church. Stations of the Cross will be prayed Fridays during Lent at 6 p.m., at St. Gabriel Church.

St. Clairsville — Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 5 p.m., Fridays during Lent, at the Holy Family Center, 75 Stewart St. Sessions will be available for dine in, carryout or curbside pickup. Curbside orders will be available in the alley behind the church, where patrons can enter behind the parish center and exit by the rectory garage.

The open house will take place from 6-7 p.m., March 4, at St. John the Baptist Church.

Steubenville — Sega benevile Catholic schools will hold an open house March 6. The open house will take place from 8:30 a.m.-noon, followed by Mass, confessions, adoration, fellowship and talks by the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus. Baby-sitting, upon request, will be available by the sisters. For additional information or to make reservations, telephone (740) 346-2625.

St. Bernard Parish in Beverly, Ohio is proud to announce a Lenten Parish Mission with Dr. Allen Hunt

March 13th and 14th at 7:00pm
Free to all.
StBernardBeverly.org/Mission

A free-throw regional championship for the Diocese of Steubenville, hosted by the Knights of Columbus, takes place Feb. 20 at St. Mary Central School, St. Clairsville. The winners, pictured above, will move forward to the state competition at Bishop Ready High School, Columbus, Ohio, March 19. The girl winners include Leah Shutter, Dylan Webb and Kayla Schwendeman. The boy winners are Carson Cunningham, Dylan Gallagher, Carter Wentworth, Graysen Tilton, Reese Lang and Jarrett Wentworth. (Photo provided)
**K of C awards four scholarships**

Knights of Columbus Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361, Mingo Junction, awards four $250 scholarships to students attending Catholic Central High School, Steubenville. Pictured in the front row, from left, are Baci Carpico, past state deputy of the Ohio Knights of Columbus and current trustee of the council; Gina Crust, Shawn Zarchy, Grand Knight; and Thomas J. Costello, principal of Catholic Central High School and Bishop John King Mussio Central Junior High School. Pictured in the back row, from left, are Ryan Anderson, Brendan Grim and Dominic Libetti. Carpico said this is the eighth consecutive year that the Knights provided tuition money to Catholic Central students. (Photo by Orsatti)

**Bishop praises Sheriff Abdalla**

STEUBENVILLE — Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton had strong words of praise for Sheriff Fred J. Abdalla when he learned of his death, saying, “Sheriff Abdalla was a devout Catholic and a lifelong member of St. Joseph Parish, Toronto, and a 1962 graduate of Catholic Central High School. His faith was very important to him. He went out of his way to help others in times of need. He was always concerned for the safety and protection of Jefferson County residents, especially the most vulnerable.”

Abdalla passed away Feb. 21, surrounded by his family. He was a lifelong resident of Stratton and distinctively served as the Sheriff of Jefferson County for more than 37 years. He was a decorated U.S. Army veteran having honorably served two years in Vietnam in the 1960s. He attended The Ohio State University as well as the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. He was involved with countless civic and nonprofit organizations and was always looking out for the underprivileged, as well as being a strong advocate of those who suffered from neglect and abuse, especially the children and the elderly of the county.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine ordered that the flags of the United States and faith sharing. The retreat will be available in-person or virtually via livestream. Registration is free, but a freewill offering will be taken. To register, visit www.franciscansisterstor.org under “Events.” To participate in a share group, in-person or virtually, registration is required by March 23. For additional information, telephone (740) 544-6620.

Oregon inventor, 90, turns his genius to sheltering homeless people

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — In a sturdy homemade woodshop amid filbert orchards not far from the Willamette River, the gears of 90-year-old Vern Stuewe’s mind cranked all day.

“What does the world need most right now?” Stuewe often asks himself.

A longtime member of St. Mary Parish in Corvallis, Oregon, the inventor ruminated on the Gospels and observed the parks, paths and byways of this town 90 miles south of Portland, which in past years have been filled with the tents and tarps of people without homes.

Just over a year ago, Stuewe decided to design a better mobile shelter, marked by respect for human dignity.

One day in a grocery store parking lot in late 2020, he struck up a conversation with a woman who was homeless. She was sitting on the ground. He gave her $10, headed home and started drafting plans for the shelter.

“I got to thinking, ‘What the heck is the solution?’” Stuewe told the Catholic Sentinel, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Portland. “All I know is, they need something more solid. This is a kind of partial solution for people who are living out there in the weeds. It’s better than a tent.”

Meticulously designed for efficiency and comfort, Grandpa Vern’s Homeless Shelter prototype has the look of a lightweight wooden Conestoga wagon, including a waterproof canvas tarp that can be removed to let in sun.

Stuewe is seeking a manufacturer to take his plans and run with them. He spent about $800 on the prototype and figures a company could bring that cost down through volume.

Stuewe imagines the micro-shelters being made quickly, auto assembly line style. A great many could be manufactured at low cost, offering safe shelter for many, he said. He has created a manual for building the micro-shelter, including materials and precise measurements.

**Bishop praises Sheriff Abdalla**

**Around and About**

From Page 10 include appetizers and drinks, as well as professional pictures and dance instruction. All ages are able to attend. Dress attire for the dance is semi-formal. For additional information or to purchase tickets, visit https://mswn2022.tickleap.com/FDD.

Wintersville — Aim Women’s Center will hold a banquet, March 28, at St. Florian Hall, 286 Luray Drive. Doors open at 6 p.m. The keynote speaker is Jonathan Evans, an author and speaker, as well as a former NFL fullback and current chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys. Admission is $20 per person. Heavy hor d’oeuvres and a cash bar will be available. Reservations need to be made by March 11. For additional information, telephone (740) 283-3636, extension 2, or email aimmedredecep@gmail.com.

**Bishop praises Sheriff Abdalla**

**Obituaries**

Raymond A. Ashmead, 100, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Feb. 25.

Marcia Straka Bishop, 75, Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi, Feb. 25.

Doris J. Reasbeck Burger, 86, Martins Ferry, St. Mary, Jan. 28.


Joan M. Dorsey, 91, Tiltonsville, St. Mary, Martins Ferry, Feb. 18.

Helen Fusnet, 94, St. Frances Cabrini, Colerain, Feb. 7.


Patricia A. Maguire Hill, 87, Barnesville, St. Mary, Martins Ferry, Feb. 13.

Edwin C. Holloway, 85, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Feb. 1.

Helen A. Jaworski, 98, St. Clairsville, St. Mary, Feb. 11.

Margaret “Peg” McCartney, 88, Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, Feb. 18.

Carol C. Menk, 86, Steubenville, Holy Family, Feb. 4.

Violet A. Petrella, 97, Adena, St. Casimir, Feb. 15.


Anita P. Simonis, 91, Holy Cross, Glouster, Feb. 16.

Martha Snezek, 83, Martins Ferry, St. Mary, Jan. 31.

Robert L. Snyder, 77, Martins Ferry, St. Mary, Jan. 17.

Thomas J. Trainor, 88, Martins Ferry, St. Mary, Feb. 6.


Lula M. McDiffitt Wozniak, 98, Martins Ferry, St. Mary, Feb. 6.

Mary J. Jenski Zuboski, 97, Martins Ferry, St. Mary, Feb. 17.
Pope Francis: ‘Do good unto others, ditch digital addictions for Lent’

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY— Christians must persevere in generously doing good in the world, bolstered by prayer and by fighting evil in their own lives, including an addiction to digital media, Pope Francis said.

“Lent is a propitious time to resist these temptations and to cultivate instead a more integral form of human communication made up of ‘authentic encounters’ – face-to-face and in person,” the pope said in his message for Lent, which began March 2 for Latin-rite Catholics.

“Let us ask God to give us the patient perseverance of the farmer and to persevere in doing good, one step at a time,” and to know that “the soil is prepared by fasting, watered by prayer and enriched by charity,” the pope wrote.

Released by the Vatican Feb. 24, the pope’s Lenten message was titled, “Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all,” which is from St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians.

Christians are called to sow goodness their entire lives, but even more so during Lent, he wrote.

The first fruit “appears in ourselves and our daily lives,” radiating the light of Christ to the world, he wrote. And sowing goodness “for the benefit of others frees us from narrow self-interest, infuses our actions with gratuitousness and makes us part of the magnificent horizon of God’s benevolent plan.”

Christians must not grow tired of praying, he wrote. “We need to pray because we need God. Thinking that we need nothing other than ourselves is a dangerous illusion.”

“Let us not grow tired of uprooting evil from our lives,” he added, underlining the importance of fasting and asking for forgiveness in the sacrament of penance and reconciliation.

Christians must resist “concupiscence,” the tendency to sin, which is a weakness that leads to “selfishness and all evil, and finds in the course of history a variety of ways to lure men and women into sin,” he wrote.

One sign of such weakness, he said, is an addiction to “digital media, which impoverishes human relationships.” Lent is an opportune time to cultivate healthy communication and face-to-face encounters.

“Let us not grow tired of doing good in active charity toward our neighbors” and of giving joyfully, he wrote.

“Lent is a favorable time to seek out – and not to avoid – those in need; to reach out – and not to ignore – those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit – and not to abandon – those who are lonely,” he wrote.

And, Pope Francis said, doing good “with love, justice and solidarity are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day” and require patience, prayer and hope.

Salesian Sister Alessandra Smerilli, interim secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, was among the speakers presenting the Lenten message at a Vatican news conference.

Around the world, she said, one sees the “winds of war, after decades of reckless rearmament,” a deadly pandemic, increasing inequalities and fundamental problems with economic and social systems.

But, she said, “God believes in the Earth and cares for it in the same way that a farmer does not abandon his land,” so in his message, Pope Francis is inviting people “to be that fertile soil that creates the conditions for the seeds to grow” and create something “different from the present.”

Italian Cardinal Francesco Montenegro, a dicastery member and retired archbishop of Agrigento, said bringing about these changes requires a different way of facing problems.

People must not turn their back and believe someone else will take care of things but must know “each one of us can do something” and must look for where there is a need and see others as brothers and sisters, he said.

Communities break down without this kind of loving concern and action, he said, and if everyone were to contribute, creating a “network of love, acceptance and mutual integration, then we will discover a more human world will be possible.”

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