Pope Francis canonizes Sts. John and John Paul

By Francis X. Rocca, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Canonizing two recent popes in the presence of his immediate predecessor, Pope Francis praised the new Sts. John XXIII and John Paul II as men of courage and mercy, who responded to challenges of their time by modernizing the Catholic Church in fidelity to its ancient traditions.

“They were priests, bishops and popes of the 20th century,” the pope said April 27, in his homily during Mass in St. Peter’s Square. “They lived through the tragic events of that century, but they were not overwhelmed by them. For them, God was more powerful.”

“John XXIII and John Paul cooperated with the Holy Spirit in renewing and updating the church in keeping with her original features, those features which the saints have given her throughout the centuries,” he said.

Speaking before a crowd of half a million that included retired Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis praised St. John for his best-known service to the church. I like to think of him,” the pope said.

John. “This was his great service to the church. I like to think of him as the pope of openness to the Spirit.”

Pope Francis characterized St. John Paul as the “pope of the family,” a title he said the late pope himself had hoped to be remembered by. Pope Francis said he was sure St. John Paul was guiding the church on its path to two upcoming synods of bishops on the family, to be held at the Vatican this October and in October 2015.

The pope invoked the help of the two new papal saints for the synods’ success, and he prayed, “May both of them teach us not to be scandalized by the wounds of Christ and to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of divine mercy, which always hopes and always forgives, because it always loves.”

Pope Francis has said the agenda for the family synods will include church teaching and practice on marriage, areas he has said exemplify a particular need for mercy in the church today. The pope repeatedly mentioned mercy in his homily, which he delivered on Divine Mercy Sunday, an observance St. John Paul put on the church’s universal calendar in 2000. The Polish pope died on the vigil of the feast in 2005 and was beatified on Divine Mercy Sunday in 2011.

In addition to Pope Benedict, the two new papal saints are joined by a third, canonized in 2002 and beatified in 2011. The third pope, St. John XXIII, was the second miracle in the sainthood cause of St. John Paul.

(CNS photo/Paul Haring) (April 27, 2014)
Bishop Bradley reflects on the new saints and their Marian devotion

We need look no further than the two newest canonized Saints of our Church for models on strong Marian devotion: Pope Saint John XXIII and Pope Saint John Paul II. As we offer special prayers on Divine Mercy Sunday, Pope Francis canonized these two giants of our faith and the Church continues to rejoice in this special moment. At the heart of their faith is a strong, filial love for our dear Blessed Mother. Pope Saint John XXIII is often referred to as “God’s Pope.” His love for the Blessed Virgin is the reason he established World Day of the Rosary. Pope John Paul II’s Weekly Angelus Prayer is a beautiful custom that continues to this day. Pope Francis’ “Rosary Bulletins” issued on September 26, 1959, he urged that “the people as an “ordinary” person. In Pope John XXIII’s third encyclical, “Gauda Recordato” (On the Rosary) issued on September 26, 1959, he urged that the month of October be devoted to praying the rosary, a beautiful custom that continues to this day. Pope Saint John Paul II is also admired for his devotion to Mary. His Papal Coat of Arms included a big “M” for Mary, and his motto “Totus Tuus” (“I am all yours). He significantly chose as his first pilgrimage to travel to our Lady of Guadalupe’s Shrine in Mexico. And on May 13, 1981, following the assassination attempt that nearly took his life, Pope John Paul II also rekindled devotion to the praying of the Rosary and added a whole new set of “Mysteries” for reflection known as the Luminous Mysteries, bringing the complete Rosary to four sets of Mysteries and 20 decades.

—Bishop Paul J. Bradley

Memoriam

Rev. John M. Grathwohl, 84, a senior priest for the Diocese of Kalamazoo, died Sunday, March 30th. Visitation and a Mass of Christian Burial were held April 5th, at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, by his long-time friend, Father Bob Flickinger, who also preached a beautiful funeral homily.

Previous to his retirement in 1995, Fr. Grathwohl was a long-time pastor of St. Thomas More Student Parish, Kalamazoo from July, 1981 until his retirement in June, 1995. He also served at a number of parishes both in the Diocese of Kalamazoo and the Diocese of Lansing including St. Francis Xavier, Battleboroome, St. Augustine Cathedral Parish, Kalamazoo; St. Monica, Kalamazoo; St. Catherine of Siena, Portage; St. Ambrose, Portage; Immaculate Conception, Hartford; and St. Mary, Paw Paw. In addition to his pastoral ministry, Fr. Grathwohl was a United States Army Chaplain in Vietnam from 1967 to 1969 during the height of the war.

“We are grateful and honored by Fr. Grathwohl’s long service to the mission of the Church here in the Diocese of Kalamazoo and we are comforted by the fact that he has eternal rest with our Lord,” said The Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley, Bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. “Fr. Grathwohl was a witness to the gospel and will be honored for the courageous use of his pastoral gifts as an Army Chaplain in Vietnam. He will be fondly remembered for his smile, playful spirit and selflessness.”

In addition to his pastoral ministry, Fr. Grathwohl was a tireless advocate for peace and justice issues and spent his retirement years conducting retreats and seminars on the subject. Fr. Grathwohl was born in Niles, Mich., to John Marshall Sr. and Eva (Rayfuse). He graduated from Loras Academy, Dubuque, Iowa, attended St. John’s Seminary, Plymouth, Mich., and Loras College, Dubuque. Grathwohl was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Lansing on June 7, 1955 by the Most Rev. Joseph H. Albers.

Pope Francis MAY Intentions

Media. That the media may be instruments in the service of truth and peace.

Mary’s Guidance. That Mary, Star of Evangelization, may guide the Church in proclaiming Christ to all nations.

The Good News for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

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waiting in Joyful Hope

The Bishop’s Perspective

The constan snowfalls of this past winter, plus April’s showers, have all contributed to the beautiful flowers blooming in this month of May with all of nature coming back to life. Even as we continue our liturgical celebrations of the “new life” of the Easter season throughout these weeks of May, we also remember our dear Blessed Mother in this month set aside to give her special attention.

There are many special devotions that help us to honor Mary, our Mother, so appropriate during this month from cultivating a “Mary Garden,” to conducting a Mary crowning, to praying the rosary together as a family/household each day. Why is it that the Church encourages such devotion? Of course, it is because of the special place that Mary holds in all of salvation history. Let me just reflect with you a bit in this month’s “perspective” on Mary’s special place of honor.

In my personal reflections on our Blessed Mother recently, I have found it helpful to think of her in three different periods of her own life. While we know precious little about Mary’s life and background, the Church’s reflections and teachings have provided us with enough to draw some inspiring conclusions.

The first time we hear of Mary is in the Gospel of St. Luke and the Gospel of St. Matthew at the time of the Annunciation. So, the first “period” of her life is before the Annunciation. She was the only daughter (to the best of our knowledge) of St. Joachim and Anne. We know for certain, thanks to the teaching of the Church that when Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother Anne in the normal way of conception, that she was miraculously kept from being conceived in original sin as every other human being in the history of the world before her and since her. We refer to this teaching of the Church as the Immaculate Conception. This teaching of the Church was held by most Catholics for hundreds of years, but was officially and infallibly defined as a dogma of our faith by Pope Pius IX in his Apostolic Constitution “Ineffabilis Deus” on December 8, 1854. In this declaration, Pope Pius IX wrote: “that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege from Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, was kept free of every stain of original sin.” This powerful spiritual insight is what leads us to conclude that because Mary did not have the effects of original sin, that she remained “sinless” throughout her life, though she of course enjoyed her freedom of will as a person.

The second “period” of Mary’s life is from the Annunciation to the time of the Annunciation of the Virgin to Joseph (Luke 2:34). This is the time of the Angel’s announcement to her, “You shall bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.” Following some clarification that Mary needed to participate — God set His plan of salvation in motion. What is so amazing and powerful about this moment that the Scriptures elsewhere refer to as “in the fullness of time.” In other words, at the precise moment when God knew that it was right — when the exact time was predetermined — God set His plan of salvation in motion. It is such an amazing and powerful about the “moment” that the entire Plan of Salvation depended on what Mary’s response would be to the Angel’s proposition when the Angel said: “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you...Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.” (Lk. 1:26-27) Then, when Joseph learned of this remarkable occurrence, his response was: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” From that moment, God’s plan for the salvation of the world was able to move forward. And from that moment, Mary became the Mother of Jesus. Later on, the Church would give her the title “Mother of God,” a title defined by the Council of Ephesus in 431. A very special Greek word is often used: “Theotokos,” or “Bearer of God.” It was this same Council which declared that in Christ there are two natures, one divine and one human, but only one person. It was this “moment” that moved Mary into the “second period” of her life, out of anonymity and into the spotlight of salvation. Immediately after the Annunciation, St. Luke tells us that Mary, who had also learned from the Archangel Gabriel that her elderly cousin, Elizabeth, was pregnant with who would become John the Baptist, immediately sets out to travel across the rough Galilean terrain to spend the next three months with Elizabeth, both to help her, as well as, I would argue, to gain Elizabeth’s help as she savors her very special pregnancy. In a recent meeting with young women in Rome (April 28, 2014), Pope Francis reflected with them on the role of our Blessed Mother: “Mary, the woman of fidelity, did not understand what was happening to her,” said Pope Francis, “but obeyed nonetheless; as soon as she knew her cousin was expecting, she ran to her, the Virgin of Readiness. Mary, who helped to raise her Son and to accompany Him, and defended Him when He began to preach; who suffered through all that opened the way to the Holy Family. She who stayed by His side and told Him of problems, ‘Let’s have no wine.’” Pope Francis then used these beautiful titles to describe our dear Blessed Mother: “Mary, Lady of the Caress, Lady of Tenderness, Lady of Readiness to serve.”

Throughout the second “period” of Mary’s life, she was all these titles for Jesus, her Son.

The third “period” of Mary’s life, from my perspective, begins as she accompanied Jesus on the Way of the Cross. She never abandoned Him, she always followed along behind Him. In spite of awful things that had to be for her, she was there with Him because she was His mother. Even through the Crucifixion and while Jesus hung dying on the Cross, she stood faithfully and lovingly at the foot of the Cross. Continued on page 4
Volunteers honored at Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital


Most of the 36 active health ministry volunteers were on hand during the luncheon. They were welcomed by John Ryder, chief operating officer, Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital and Beth Cripe, volunteer coordinator at Borgess-Lee. During the 2013 calendar year, volunteers donated over 3,600 hours of service to the hospital. “Our mission commitment of providing holistic, spiritually centered care could not be accomplished without these volunteers,” said John Ryder, chief operating officer, Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital.

Two volunteers qualified for medals from the President’s Volunteer Service Award. Martha Cox received the Gold Medal for 500 hours or more and pin. Her name is being engraved on a plaque and will be displayed in the hospital entrance. Pam Karashek was honored with the Silver Medal (249 to 499) for giving more than 250 hours.

Both Presidential Award winners received a lapel pin, a personalized certificate, and a congratulatory letter signed by President Barack Obama.

Catholic Relief Services collection set for May 17/18

The Catholic Relief Services Collection, which will take place on the weekend of May 17/18, 2014, works at home and abroad to aid struggling, poor, and underrepresented families. The six organizations supported by the Collection provide immediate humanitarian aid, pastoral support, and disaster relief to our suffering brothers and sisters around the globe. This Collection offers an opportunity for each of us to help Jesus in disguise. Your donations:

• Feed Jesus’ hunger in suffering refugees through the USCCB
• Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disaster through the Holy Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)
• Offer legal assistance to Jesus in struggling immigrants/through the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)
• Reach out to comfort Jesus’ loneliness in isolated workers through the pastoral work of the USCCB Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church.
• Advocate on behalf of Jesus in the poor and abandoned through the public policy work of the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.
• Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disaster through the Holy Father’s Relief Fund.

The organizations supported by The Catholic Relief Services Collection act from their belief that every individual is an equal heir of Christ’s love and care.

People’s generosity kept people warm this winter

By Kerry Williams, Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo

Thanks to the generosity of many parishioners around the diocese, the 2014 Diocesan Heating Assistance Program (DHAP) was able to help 286 families — including 511 adults and 384 children — stay warm this winter. These families, living across the nine counties of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, received more than $63,000 in assistance through the DHAP program. Just as heating costs soared, so did the demand for assistance and the program’s funds were exhausted by early March.

When asked about her experiences with the DHAP program, Heating Assistance Coordinator Peg Klitch praised the dedication of all involved. “Our staff of volunteers for this ministry are the best,” she said.

“They come out in frigid weather to be available to take calls from the agencies serving our less fortunate brothers and sisters who make requests for assistance. We try to process those requests quickly knowing how important the need is.”

Klitch is especially grateful for the generous donations that come in from across the Diocese, saying, “Were it not for the kindness and generosity of parishioners in Catholic churches throughout the Diocese of Kalamazoo, these monies would not be available. Thank you to all who have given to this ministry over the many years and we look forward to your continued support.”

In its 32 year history, DHAP has assisted 11,531 families (37,195 people) with heating assistance totaling $1,751,800.

The Bishop’s Perspective

And that is when Jesus gave her to us, and to the world. When He looked down from the Cross, as one of His final acts and with nearly His final words, we read these words in the Gospel of St. John: “When Jesus saw his mother there and the disciple whom He loved, He said: ‘Woman, behold your son. Then He said to the disciple (John): “Behold your mother.”’ And from that hour, the disciple took her into his home.” (John 19:26-27)

From that moment, Mary became our Mother, and the Mother of all the faithful.

We believe that at the end of Mary’s earthly life, she was “assumed” into Heaven. That is the dogma known as “the Assumption,” proclaimed by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950 in his encyclical “Munificentissimus Deus.” In part, this dogma states: “Mary, Immaculate Mother of God, ever Virgin, after finishing the course of her life on earth, was taken up body and soul to heavenly glory.” Once again, this dogma, declared only 64 years ago, simply affirmed the belief of the Faithful for centuries, just as was the case about the teaching of the Immaculate Conception. The Assumption tells us that Mary is radiantly linked to earth on earth and in heaven. Glorified in body and soul, Mary is already in the state that will be ours after the resurrection of the dead at the end of time.

In this “third period” of Mary’s life, we look to her as our Mother, as our Model, and as our Intercessor. We are called to imitate Jesus in every way possible in our lives. However, we can also look to Mary as a model for how we are to live, especially in her openness to the Holy Spirit, in her generosity in helping those in need, and in her constant devotion to her Son, and now, to His Church.

During this month of May, as we offer our special devotions to honor our dear Blessed Mother, we look to her not just as an historical figure who played such a critical part in salvation history, but also as one who, thanks to Jesus’ special gift, is now vibrantly fulfilling her role, in this the “third period” of her life, as our Spiritual Mother and the Mother of the Church. She is our Model, the one to whom we look to imitate, to emulate, to admire and through whom we seek her powerful intercessions. As one spiritual maxim puts it, “through Mary to Jesus.” Or in the words of Pope Francis in his recent audience with young people: “Do not afraid. Look at Jesus”. Or in the words of Pope Francis in his recent audience with young people: “Do not afraid. Look at Jesus”. Or in the words of Pope Francis in his recent audience with young people: “Do not afraid. Look at Jesus”.

Dear Family of Faith, during this month of May, let us look for new ways and prayerful practices to strengthen our devotion to Mary, and through her help, may we ever closer to her Son, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. With her, may we too make her responsive to Your Word.”

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Pictured (L-R): Beth Cripe, Borgess volunteer coordinator; and Martha Cox, Gold Level Presidential Service Award winner.

Peggy Barnes with 453 hours, Bernie Laymon with 425 hours, Barb Moses with 252 hours, and Ann Bick with 232 hours.
Bishop Murray featured speaker at Catholic Women’s June meeting

On June 25th, the Kalamazoo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will facilitate answering the question, “Woman, Catholic Woman: What Does That Mean?” Gathering at St. Stanislaus in Dorr, women from all over the Kalamazoo Diocese will share time examining their role as Catholic women. Bishop Emeritus James A. Murray will explain the Church’s teaching on women’s roles.

Sts. John and John Paul canonized — cover story

which Pope Francis kissed before they were placed on a small table for veneration by the congregation. St. John’s relic was a piece of the late pope’s skin, removed when his body was transferred to its present tomb in the main sanctuary of St. Peter’s Basilica.

Floribeth Mora Díaz (see photo), a Costa Rican woman whose recovery from a brain aneurysm was recognized by the church as a miracle attributable to the intercession of St. John Paul, brought up a silver reliquary containing some of the saint’s blood, taken from him for medical testing shortly before his death in 2005.

The Vatican estimated that 600,000 attended the ceremony in Rome, with overflow crowds watching on giant-screen TVs set up at various locations around the city. The 2011 beatification of Pope John Paul drew more than 1 million people, according to Italian police estimates at the time.

The Vatican said 93 countries sent official delegations to the Mass, and more than 30 of the delegations were led by a president or prime minister. The current king and queen of Spain and the former king and queen of Belgium were in attendance. Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden at the Vatican.

Battle Creek parish and Catholic school honor the two new saints

A white skullcap (zuchetto) worn by St. John Paul II was on display at St. Philip Parish April 26 and 27th. The zuchetto was given to Very Rev. John Fleckenstein, pastor of St. Philip’s, on May 14, 1999.

“There is a small hair, as I remember, in it,” says Fr. John. “I believe at the very least this is a second-class relic since it was worn by Saint John Paul II.”

The Knights of Columbus will provide an honor guard (and security) for this rare relic. “As I understand it, John Paul II did not give his zuchetto often,” adds Fr. John. “As I was told this directly from his personal secretary, now-Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz. It was given in the Apostolic Palace, as I presented the Holy Father a new skullcap that I had obtained at the pope’s tailoring, Gammarelli’s.”

Bishop Bradley presented the history of the two popes and their journey to sainthood to the middle school students at St. Joseph Middle School, Battle Creek, at the invitation of their theology teacher, Don Shafer. During his presentation Bishop Bradley showed a video explaining the steps to sainthood that was produced by Busted Halo.

Sheila Clearwater, Music Minister at Blessed Sacrament in Allegan, will share her talents both musically and spiritually. “Our joyful vocation is to share the attributes we received at baptism by being the person we were created to be,” Clearwater says.

A panel of Catholic Women including Jan Hall, principal, St. Margaret Catholic School, Otsego and Sheryl O’Connor, ministry, Sacred Heart Parish, Watson, will discuss Catholic women in action. Additionally Judy and Jerry Bohl, St. Thomas More parishioners, will present a talk on the Water Project. Mass will be celebrated.

The cost of the day is $15 which includes coffee and goodies in the morning and lunch. Grants are available. To register, contact Sue Annis, M89gang@aol.com, (269) 629-5757.

The Other Six Days

Right of Way

The poor are our masters, and it is no exaggeration to call them this, for Our Lord is in the poor. – St. Vincent de Paul

The poor have taught me much in the years I have been hanging out at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. The wisdom that they impart comes from listening to their stories, and observing the way they treat others. It is not necessary to volunteer at a thrift store to meet Our Lord in this way; he is waiting on any given street corner on any given day. I only need to slow down to find him.

Today I am not slowing down. I am running a series of errands and the last one on my list is “groceries.” I pull up at the stop sign, look left, then right, but the green telephone box blocks my view so I creep the car tires over the crosswalk and look past it. No cars are coming and I almost pull out before I notice the lady in the electric wheelchair. I push the car into reverse and back off the crosswalk to let her pass, but she waves me on.

I’m in a hurry, but clearly this lady has the right of way, so I indicate that she should cross in front of me. She insists, gesturing and refusing to move her wheelchair. Sigh. I’m not going to argue all afternoon, so I cross the road to the grocery store.

Ten minutes later, I am in the produce section when she wheels up to my cart and says, “I’m glad you took my meaning and crossed the road ahead of me.”

I stoop a little and look her in the eye. “You had the right of way; I would have gladly waited.”

“Oh, no,” she says shaking her head. “I know that gas costs $3.70/gallon and this wheelchair only costs me $34 a month to rent. You would spend a lot more money waiting for me than I would waiting for you.”

I am dumbfounded at this level of humility. I smile at her and stoop lower to get a very good look at my Master’s face.

Sisters offer opportunity for local mission experience with Companions in Mission program

The Congregation of St. Joseph invites interested college-aged and adult woman to participate in their Companions in Mission Program. This is a program for women, ages 18 – 70, which will be offered during the week of June 22nd to 27th at the Nazareth Center in Kalamazoo. Participants will work in a variety of social ministries in the Kalamazoo area, where the Sisters of St. Joseph are located, and live with other volunteers and sisters sharing experiences of prayer and community life with them.

If this invitation interests you, contact Sr. Lois O’Malley CSJ at 316-689-4029 or lomalley@csjoseph.org

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The journey to Catholicism: A Family’s story

By Kimberly Bolton

One of the many things that attracted Deb Gottschall to her husband Craig was his devotion to God and his Catholic faith. Craig, who was raised Lutheran, converted to Catholicism in 1992. At this year’s Easter Vigil, Deb and her 16-year-old twins Joey and Stephanie Bagley made their own professions of faith and celebrated their sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist at St. Catherine of Siena in Portage.

When Craig and Deb married four years ago, it was the second time for both of them. “A second marriage is tough, especially bringing kids into it. Craig’s daily devotion was inspiring,” Deb said. Besides the twins, Craig and Deb both have two older daughters from their previous marriages. “Craig accepted that I wasn’t Catholic,” said Deb, who was born and raised in the Church of the Nazarene. “But it was our strong faith in God that brought us together. It helped solidify our marriage.”

May offers opportunities to honor Our Blessed Mother

Two Marian liturgical celebrations are commemorated in May. When Ascension falls in May, the Saturday after the Ascension of Our Lord is traditionally celebrated as the Feast of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles. The liturgy commemorates the period of time after the Ascension when the apostles were gathered in prayer with Mary and the women in the Upper Room. On May 31, in the United States, Our Lord is traditionally celebrated as the Feast of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles. The liturgy commemorates the period of time outside of the liturgy.

Mary Month – Why May?

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Mary in many cultures. May is considered the season of the beginning of new life. Already in Greek culture, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity. In Roman culture, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of bloom, of blossoms. The Romans celebrated ludi floriales (literally: floral games) at the end of April, asking the intercession of Flora for all those that bloom. This is also related to the medieval practice of expelling winter. May 1 was considered the beginning of growth.

At one time, the custom of having a May-month was independent from the month of May as such:

• A very old tradition known as Tricesimum (or: Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary; also called Lady Month) was originally held from May 1 to May 20. Two Marian liturgical celebrations are commemorated in May. When Ascension falls in May, the Saturday after the Ascension of Our Lord is traditionally celebrated as the Feast of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles. The liturgy commemorates the period of time after the Ascension when the apostles were gathered in prayer with Mary and the women in the Upper Room. On May 31, in the United States, Our Lord is traditionally celebrated as the Feast of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles. The liturgy commemorates the period of time outside of the liturgy.

• May crowning became popular in the United States, especially prior to Vatican II. This practice continues today.

Ways to Celebrate Mary’s Month

Mary, the Virgin

There are many ways to celebrate this particular devotion. Most churches have a daily recitation of the rosary. Some include the crowning of Our Lady’s statue. The important thing is that Mary be honored in a special way. At one time, the domestic celebrations of the month of May were widespread, especially by setting up a small May altar in the home.

May crowning became popular in the United States, especially prior to Vatican II. This practice continues today in many parishes. A statue of Mary is honored with a wreath of blossoms to indicate Mary’s virtues, virtues that were to be imitated by the faithful. The ceremony usually takes place in the context of a public parish devotion outside of the liturgy.

Source: The Marian Library, University of Dayton
St. Charles Coldwater earns 24 Science Olympiad medals
St. Charles Coldwater students earned 24 of the 36 Science Olympiad medals awarded at the Branch county division of the competition. The program is for students in grades third through sixth.

St. Joseph School in Watervliet will launch new school model in the fall
Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, St. Joseph School will open with a Preschool program and Kindergarten education. Fr. John Peter Ambrose will serve as sacramental and spiritual leader of the school and The Office of Schools for the Diocese of Kalamazoo will assume administrative functions for the school. A few examples of this oversight will include decisions related to budget, school staffing, school calendar, governance and curriculum. In addition to a Preschool program and Kindergarten an “After-school” care program will be provided based on level of interest. Continuing its commitment to Catholic school education, the parish will provide both subsidized transportation and tuition assistance to families of St. Joseph Parish to attend Lake Michigan Catholic Schools in grades not offered at St. Joseph Elementary School.

In addition to launching a new school model for the coming fall, a study will begin immediately to determine the feasibility of adopting a Montessori-based program for future school years. Registration will begin immediately and continue through the start of school this fall. Please call the school office for additional information at 269-463-3941; www.stjatholic.net.

St. John Paul II Academy in Battle Creek will offer Preschool education for the 2014-2015 school year offering preschool and kindergarten. Shown above is a file photo of a preschooler praying at an “altar” during a lesson for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

St. Joseph, Battle Creek, Middle School students (shown above) learn how they can grow in their faith by giving thanks to God in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Eight graders experience that true adoration is about being present before God and then taking God’s presence out into the world. You can see all the radiance and enthusiasm of Joshua Harrington after this unique one on one encounter as he spontaneously said: “It is the best time ever spent with Jesus!”

St. Basil Catholic School students traveled to the State Capitol in Lansing to make the case for blueberries to be chosen as the official fruit of the state of Michigan. Students argued that the blueberry is big business in West Michigan and backed a state fruit bill introduced by state Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton). Michigan has produced more than 490 million pounds of blueberries in a single year, or roughly 32 percent of all those eaten in the United States, they said. The blueberry was pitted against the cherry for the top slot.

To All The World: Preaching and the New Evangelization
A Catholic preaching conference presented by the John S. Marten Program in Homiletics and Liturgics
June 25-27, 2014
The University of Notre Dame

Featured Speakers:
Cardinal Donald Wuerl
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Sr. Jamie Phelps, O.P.
Fr. Greg Heille, O.P.

Marten Program in Homiletics and Liturgics
University of Notre Dame
Department of Theology

martenprogram.nd.edu
Spiritual book reviews on everyday topics


Reviewed by Nancy L. Roberts
Catholic News Service

These two slim paperbacks serve up substantial food for thought about the sacredness of the family dinner table.

First, Susan Muto’s “Table of Plenty: Good Food for Body and Spirit” offers inspiring stories, reflections and recipes garnered from her Italian-American childhood. Her mother Helen, a full-time homemaker, adhered to “slow food movement” principles long before their modern “discovery.” She approached cooking as an activity to be shared and savored itself, as much as the meal it produced.

The book’s pages are redolent with Helen’s spicy chicken cacciatore, eggplant bruschetta, simple rustic bread and lemon meringue pie for dessert. Recipes for these and many other dishes are included, but Muto’s real focus is how mealtimes can be rich spiritual experiences. This is something she learned from both her mother and her maternal grandmother, whom she describes as “two vivacious women who revered good food for God’s sake.”

Muto directs the Epiphany Association, a nonprofit ecumenical education, consultation and research center, and earned a doctorate in English literature from the University of Pittsburgh. This seems a fruitful background for her book, which communicates significant spiritual ideas in accessible prose. She is perfectly at home unpacking scriptural food metaphors (“land of milk and honey”) and early church history, and then recounting the practical details of a special family meal — even in the space of a single paragraph. This combination of narrative erudition and storytelling is very engaging.

Muto was fortunate indeed to grow up in a home where cooking and shared meals were so clearly understood as a manifestation of divine creativity and caring. Her essays and reflections are thoughtful and warmly told and her mother’s recipes are an added treasure.

Father Leo Patalinghug of the Archdiocese of Baltimore also understands how communal meals enrich family and parish life. As a young priest, he hosted supper clubs with parish families and went on to use food and cooking to share the Gospel message through a website, books, radio and a TV show. He also founded the Grace Before Meals movement, which emphasizes that the family that eats and prays together stays together.

From this basic idea, he springs to explore broader theological aspects of food in “Epic Food Fight,” which takes the reader on a tour of various aspects of salvation in seven different chapters.

Topics include the role of the sacred priesthood (“the front lines of the food fight”) and the sacred relationship and role of married couples. In “Feeding the Hungry — Body, Mind, and Spirit,” Father Patalinghug discusses the importance of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. He addresses the long-standing conflict between the spiritual and the temporal — between those who are more focused on the next world, and those who emphasize achieving social justice in this one.

The final chapter presents Father Patalinghug’s 10 commandments for personal dieting. These include, for example, the sensible: “Eat with humility whatever is set before you.” “Avoid the sins of waste, gluttony and an immature appetite” and “Pray before every meal.” He also counsels, “Avoid the temptation to turn a human diet plan into an organized religion” and “Don’t engage in scrupulous worry about food.” This sort of balance is refreshing and is reinforced throughout the book.

“Epic Food Fight” lends itself to nonsequential reading; one can pick it up, digest a chapter and then return to a different section. In fact, each chapter could inspire its own retreat or meditation; the discussion questions provided could easily serve as catalysts for thoughtful reflection.

Roberts directs the journalism program at the University at Albany and is the author of “Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker.”

Hot off the press: Pope Francis’ “Church of Mercy”

“The Church of Mercy: A Vision for the Church” by Pope Francis was released last month by Loyola Press.

This book marks the first collection of writings from the Holy Father’s first-year as pope. Arranged thematically to provide a coherent narrative of his papacy thus far, it expresses the pope’s clear and urgent desire for a “church that is poor, and for the poor.”

The Pope’s homilies, speeches and essays were organized by Giuliano Vigini, professor at The Catholic University of Milan, who has edited books by Pope Paul VI, Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini. “The keyword of Pope Francis’ program, which signposts the way, is sealed in the title: mercy,” writes Professor Vigini in the preface.


The Catholic Difference

By George Weigel

John XXIII and John Paul II: Canonizing the bookends

Pope Francis’s bold decisions to canonize Blessed John XXIII without the normal papal beatification miracle, and to link Good Pope John’s canonization ceremony to that of Blessed John Paul II, just may help re-orient Catholic thinking about modern Catholic history. For what Francis is suggesting, I think, is that John XXIII and John Paul II are the twin bookends of the Second Vatican Council — and thus should be canonized together.

On Jan. 25, 1959, less than three months after his election, John XXIII surprised the Catholic world by announcing that he would summon the 21st ecumenical council in history. According to some Catholic thinkers, Vatican I’s teaching that the Bishop of Rome enjoyed a charism of infallibility under carefully defined circumstances had made future general councils unnecessary. General or ecumenical councils had previously been summoned to thrash out disputed questions of doctrine; the pope could now take care of that on his own; so, no more councils.

John XXIII disagreed. His council, while celebrating the deposit of faith, would explore ways in which the abiding truths the Church carries in history could be more effectively displayed to the world. It’s often said that John XXIII intended Vatican II to be a “pastoral” council, and that’s true enough. But John XXIII, a historian by trade, had a capacious view of what “pastoral” means.

He knew that the pope of his youth, the great Leo XIII, had unleashed reforming energies in the Church, energies that had created considerable turbulence (and not incomparable strife) in the first half of the 20th century. He wanted to focus those reforming energies through the prismatic experience of a new Pentecost, so that the Church might be a more evangelically compelling witness to Jesus Christ and his Gospel.

Deconstructing Catholicism was the last thing on John XXIII’s mind. His grand strategic goal was a Church that could offer the world the “medicines of mercy” (as he put it in his opening address to the Council) in the form of life-giving truths.

As everyone who lived through the post-Vatican II years knows, John XXIII’s Council created a lot of turbulence of its own. One reason why, I’m convinced, is that Vatican II, unlike previous ecumenical councils, did not provide authoritative keys to its own proper interpretation. It defined no dogma. It condensed no heresy or heretic(s). It legislated no new canons for the Church’s law, it wrote no creed, it commissioned no catechism. These were the ways previous councils had told the Church, “This is what we mean.” Vatican II did none of that.

And we all know what happened next. A free-for-all over What Vatican II Meant ensued. And in the midst of that free-for-all, John XXIII’s strategic goal — an evangelically revitalized Church proclaiming the full symphony of Catholic truth in ways modernity could hear — got lost.

Then God raised up a man of sanctity, genius, and deep pastoral experience, a man of the Council who had led an extensive implementation of Vatican II in his own diocese under extremely difficult circumstances, as John XXIII’s third successor: Karol Wojtyla of Cracow, who took the name John Paul II, thus honoring John XXIII’s first two successors. Over the course of a 26-and-a-half-year pontificate, and with the aid of Joseph Ratzinger (another Vatican II veteran who would become John XXIII’s fourth successor), John Paul II gave the Church the keys to an authoritative interpretation of Vatican II.

He did it through his own magisterium, through the world Synod of Bishops, through the Great Jubilee of 2000. And when he was called home to the Father’s house, he had oriented the Church toward the strategic goal John XXIII had defined on Oct. 11, 1962: the reform of Catholicism for a third millennium of evangelical and apostolic action, for the healing of the world.

Two radically converted Christian disciples, one Council, two bookends: that is what Catholicism celebrates at the canonization of Pope St. John XXIII and Pope St. John Paul II.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington. D.C. Weigel’s column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: 303-715-2215
Bishop’s Annual Appeal kicks off this month

This month parishioners across the diocese will receive information and materials for the 2014 Bishop’s Annual Appeal, the major fundraiser that supports that ministries, services and programs of Bishop Paul J. Bradley and the diocesan offices. Generous donations to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal help fund important ministry programs from the annual youth rally which this year had more than 400 participants to the 13 diocesan seminarians who will, God willing, be ordained priests someday.

Bishop Bradley expressed his gratitude to those participating in the annual appeal. He said, With your gift to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, you enable the Church to share the love of Jesus through our ministries, and programs services as we fulfill our diocesan mission to renew faith, build communion, and inspire hope. We are grateful for your support — your tangible demonstration that God’s love and kingdom are truly among us.

This year’s total Bishop’s Annual Appeal goal is $X.X Million. The parish’s individual goals are shown on page 11.

Those donating to the annual appeal have a variety of options from online giving to gifts of stock to making monthly pledges. For more information visit the diocesan website: www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

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Colombian order of sisters — cover story

We are in the Department of Antiqua, and in the Ecclesiastical Province of the Archdiocese of Medellin. More specifically, we are in the Diocese of Sonson-Rionegro where there are approximately 65 parishes, 450 priests, 190 seminarians, and approximately 578 religious sisters and about 150 religious men in about 40 different religious communities. Of the 450 diocesan priests, about 200 are on loan to other dioceses in Colombia and in other dioceses around the world. The Diocese of Sonson-Rionegro is about the same size as the Diocese of Kalamazoo, as but as you can see from the statistics, just about 10 times the number of priests, religious sisters and Catholic. The total population of the Diocese is 608,000. 99.9% of whom are practicing Catholics.

The new foundation that will be established in our Diocese will be the first one in the United States or in all of North America. Mother Blanca is the original Superior of this relatively young community which was established in 1982. She had been the Provincial of a Capuchin community of religious sisters and was recruited by then Bishop Alphonso, who established a huge number of religious communities here in the Diocese of Sonson-Rionegro at that time. He also was the founder of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement beginning here in South America, which was an outgrowth of the Charismatic Renewal which began in the late 1960’s at Duquesne University (Holy Spirit Fathers) in Pittsburgh, and then transferred its center to Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In addition to meeting with the sisters, Bishop Bradley visited with the Bishop of this Diocese of Sonson-Rionegro, Bishop (or as they refer to Bishops here, Monsignor) Fidel Leon Cadavid.

“I was able to personally make the request that he consider our Diocese for some priests to assist us some time in the future. He was more than open to the proposal and said we need to make sure that we pursue that in the future.”

Bishop Bradley also visited with Luis and Celia Ramirez, parents of Rev. Evelio Ramirez, parochial vicar, St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek, who was ordained last June and whose home is in La Ceja where Bishop Bradley stayed.

For a more detailed “travelogue” visit our diocese blog: www.catholickalamazoo.blogspot.com
Trauma Recovery Program en Español

La Diócesis de Kalamazoo ha comenzado el Programa de “Trauma Recovery” en español. Si usted conoce a algunos que se encuentran en el adulto o adulto al que ha sufrido algún trauma (no tiene que ser una lesión física), es por favor que se pongan en contacto con uno de las siguientes personas: Lisette Mira-Amaya (269) 929-7084 o Fanny Tabares (269) 903-2029. Este programa es de nivel nacional e internacional. Aproveche de esta oportunidad de consejería gratuita si usted o alguien que usted co-noce necesita. El primer grupo en español comienza en mayo.

El trauma es un suceso o una serie de sucesos combinados con la vulnerabilidad de una persona que crea un obstáculo en el normal desarrollo humano. El Programa de Recuperación de Trauma está basado en el Modelo de Trauma, un modelo psicopedagógico que ayuda a individuos a aprender cómo integrar sus sentimientos, pensamientos y comportamientos. Las investigaciones actuales indican que los recuerdos en la memoria, en el mejor de los casos, son de poco fiar. Por lo tanto, este modelo infunde vivir eficientemente en el presente en vez de restablecer recuerdos reprim-i-dos. La curación no toma lugar en el nivel de los recuerdos. La curación ocurre en el nivel del procesamiento e integración de los sentimientos, pensamientos, percepciones, y comportamientos.

El Santo Papa Juan Pablo II dice en su Encíclica “La Virgen de Lourdes” (sobre la Virgen María), “Las imágenes de la Virgen tienen un lugar de honor en las iglesias y en las casas. María está representada como la consoladora de Dios, que lleva al Señor y lo entrega a los hombres (Theotokos), o como camino que lleva a Cristo y lo muestra (Oldigiria), o bien como orante en actitud de intercesión y signo de la presencia divina en las acciones de los fieles hasta el día del Señor (Dessis), o como protectora que extiende su manto sobre los pue-blos (Pokrov), o como misericordiosa Virgen de la ternura (Elevoua). La Vir-gen es representada habitualmente con su Hijo, el niño Jesús, que lleva en brazos: es la relación con el Hijo, lo que glorifica a la Madre. A veces lo abraza con ternura (Glykofiloissus); otras veces, hierática, aparece absorta en la contemplación de aquel en que es Señor de la historia.” (Santo Papa Juan Pablo II, Encíclica Redemptrix Mater, § 33).

Fortaleciendo las Familias en la Fe (Revolución) por Porcena Rodríguez

“Los niños aprenden a fiarse del amor de sus padres. Por eso, es im-portante que los padres cultiven prácticas comunes de fe en la fami-lia, que acompañen el crecimiento en fe de los hijos” (Papa Fran-cisco, Encíclica Lumen Fidei).

Actividad para hacer en familia este mes de mayo: Tradicionalmente el mes de Mayo es el mes de María. Ella nos enseña cómo se puede amar a Dios. María es el modelo de esta sociedad y de todos los tiempos. En este mes de mayo, exploraremos en familia las diferentes aparicio-nes de María. Si ya conocemos la historia sobre la aparición de la Virgen de Guadalupe, ¿por qué no estudiamos sobre la Virgen de Lourdes? ¿Fíatma? ¿Virgen del Carmen? ¿Aparecida? ¿Chiquinquirá?

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San Juan XXIII y San Juan Pablo II:

El pasado 27 de abril el mundo católico celebró con gran alegría la canonización de dos Papas muy queridos en nuestros tiempos de la historia de la Iglesia. Conozca-mos un poco la biografía de cada uno de ellos: San Juan XXIII, italiano, nació en 1881 y murió en 1963 a la edad de 82 años. Su nombre de bautismo fue Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli. Era el tercer hijo de los once que tuvieron Giambattista Roncalli y Marzana Mazzola, campesinos pobres y muy católicos. Fue ordenado sacer-dote a la edad de 40 años.

Elegido Papa en 1958, a la edad de 77 años. A solo tres meses de su elección como pontífice, convocó el Concilio Vaticano II que imprimió una orientación pasto-ral renovada a la Iglesia católica del siglo XX. El 11 de octubre de 1962 y San Juan XXIII fue el Concilio Va-ticano II que cambió el rostro del catolicismo a una nueva forma de celebrar la liturgia, a un nuevo acerca-miento al mundo y a un nuevo ecuménismo. Desde la aparición del Concilio, el Papa Juan XXIII inició la na-turaleza pastoral de sus objetivos: no se trataba de definir nuevas verdades ni de condenar errores, sino que era ne-ce-

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May 15: Open House for new families at all CSGK schools, 9-11 a.m. & 1-2 p.m. For more information contact St. Augustine School, 269-949-1945, St. Monica School, 269-345-2444, or Hackett Catholic Central, 269-381-2646.

May 18: Diocesan Confirmation Mass with Bishop Paul J. Bradley, St. Augustine Cathedral, followed by reception, 3 p.m.

May 24: Shalom Festival, Opening Mass with Bishop Paul J. Bradley for Hackett Catholic Central High School, St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo, 7 p.m.

June 9: Theological Debate Club for Men, Topic: Final Salvation. This is a free program for adult Catholics who are interested in participating in an adult, faith-based, small group discussion. Contact Sharon Froom (269-381-8917, ext. 222) for information and registration.

June 9: Open House for new families of diocesan schools and parishes, 1-2 pm. For more information contact: Jamin Herold, 269-903-0141 or jherold@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

June 14-15: One in Christ Marriage Preparation, Transformations: CSJ, Spirituality Center, Kalamazoo. Contact: Socorro Truchan, 269-903-0199 or struchan@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

October 20-December 15: Trauma Recovery Program for English-Speakers, October 20-December 15 (nine consecutive Mondays and Saturday, Dec. 6), morning group meets 9:30 to noon at St. Augustine, evening group meets 7:00 to 9:30 at St. Catherine of Siena. This is a free program for adult Catholics who are survivors of childhood trauma, meeting in small groups facilitated by mental health professionals and a priest, to learn skills to live happier and more effective lives. Contact Sharon Fromm (269-381-8917, ext. 222) for information and registration.

November 5: Deceased Clergy Mass, St. Augustine Cathedral, 5 p.m. Open to the public.

November 22: Day of Reflection for Adults with Cognitive/Developmental Disabilities, Retreat Center, Pretty Lake Vacation Camp, 9123 Q Avenue, Mattawan. This day of retreat and prayer will examine the "Secret Code" of the Carol The 12 Days of Christmas. Cost: $15. Scholarships available. Contact: Lisa Irwin, 269-903-0133.

Here & There publishes parish, Catholic school and diocesan-sponsored events. Submissions should be sent to Vicki Cessen, vcessna@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

May 5: Why Faith: Queen of Heaven, St. Mary Rectory meeting room, St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo, 6 p.m. A new program to assist faithful Catholics in learning more about their faith and learning how to be succinct in defending the faith. Meets the first Monday of the month. Contact: Jamin Herold, 269-903-0141 or jherold@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

Saturday, May 31; 9am - 4pm Come and deepen your prayer life. Listen for the still, small voice of God.

Simone Campbell, SSS Coming Saturday, July 19th - details on our website! More Info & register at TransformationsCenter.org 269-381-6290 ext 323

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depty@dioceseofkalamazoo.org

Join us for dinner with Carrie followed by her musical message. It will be a night you will carry in your heart – plus you’ll be showing support for the mission of Transformations.

Carrie Newcomer 2014 Voices of Wisdom Artist Thursday, May 22, 6:00pm

For more information contact: David Kelly, 269-903-0193; dreilly@dioceseofkalamazoo.org
Diocesan retreat for Persons with Disabilities examines the life of St. Francis

On the weekend of March 29-30, an overnight retreat focusing on the life of St. Francis of Assisi was held for adults with cognitive/behavioral disabilities at Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis. The 17 participants were joined by 10 team members and engaged in a variety of activities exploring St. Francis' example, passion for the Eucharist and the Stations of the Cross and his creation of the Christmas creche. Very Rev. Bill Jacobs, pastor, Ss. John/Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor, joined us to celebrate Mass Saturday night. The retreat is funded in part through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus.

Save the date for this coming summer when the Diocese of Kalamazoo will host a picnic for persons of all ages and all disabilities and their families. This event is open to children as well as adults who have any type of disability. The Mass with Bishop Bradley followed by a picnic meal will be held on Sunday, July 20, 2014 from 2-5 pm at St. John-St. Bernard Parish, 555 E. Delaware, Benton Harbor (St. Bernard location).

Information will be coming soon to the diocesan website. RSVP date will be July 14th. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Lisa Irwin at 269-903-1077 or lirwin@dioceseofkalamazoo.org

Annual Scout Mass held on Divine Mercy Sunday

The Annual Diocesan Scouting Mass was held at St. Augustine Cathedral on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27, which was also the day of the canonizations of (now) Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II. Awards this year were granted to 33 Girl Scouts, 72 Boy Scouts and 11 adults who received religious emblem award.

The Girl Scout awards are: Family of God, I Live My Faith, Mary, The First Disciple and The Spirit Alive. The Boy Scout awards are: Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII.

Bishop Paul J. Bradley celebrated the Mass and commended the scouts and their families for their commitment. “I look forward to this Annual Diocesan Scout Mass every year,” said Bishop Bradley during his homily. “This is such a wonderful opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of all the scouts here; to say big “thank you” to all those adults here, and those not able to be here, who give of themselves so tirelessly as guides, instructors, chaperones, and wonderful role-models for these young boys and girls in the scouting programs of our Diocese; and finally to just commend the scouting program in general, and our Catholic scouting programs specifically, for doing such a wonderful job of combining the values of the Scouting program and the values of our Catholic faith in ways to help our young people to grow and develop as good citizens of our country and to help in their spiritual growth and formation as members of our great Church.”

Seventy-five to graduate this fall from the Diocesan Hispanic Leadership Program

For the past three years 75 Spanish-speaking parishioners from throughout the diocese have participated in a “Hispanic Leadership Program” conducted by the diocesan Parish Life and Lay Leadership under the leadership of Fanny Tabares who leads multicultural ministry. This program is funded in part by a generous grant as well as donations to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Shown above, a participant asks a question during a Saturday session held at Lawrence Education Center, Borgess Hospital, Kalamazoo.

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