

WESTERN NEW YORK CATHOLIC



Double hit
for diocese
Pages 4-5

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APRIL 2020

Socially distant Spiritually connected

see page 6



Youth Convention brings young people together in Christ



(Above) Brianna Boucher, of St. John, Alden, participates in the Paint and Pray at the Buffalo Grand Hotel Events Center during the 68th annual diocesan Youth Convention.

(Left) Area Catholic youth spread the good news of Jesus Christ through song before the closing Mass Sunday afternoon on the third and final day of the 68th annual diocesan Youth Convention.



Hanh Nguyen, of the Corination of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Buffalo's Westside and Nicole Le, 17 and Linh Le, 16, make a blanket for charity at the Buffalo Grand Hotel Events Center during the 68th annual diocesan Youth Convention.

ALL PHOTOS BY
DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Young people from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Silver Creek pray during the closing Mass at the Buffalo Grand Hotel Events Center Grand Ballroom.

Prayer will lead us through this invisible-but-present blizzard

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Be it ever so humble, home is the safest place to weather a storm. Until this current health crisis passes, the best thing we can do to take care of ourselves and one another is not to wander aimlessly, but to stick together with purpose. We can stay comfortable at home and we can comfort one another.

The basics – food and water, clothing, shelter. Family and friends. Stock up on these and stay put. If we have to go out, let it be only to supply the basics. The game, the party, the trip can wait. Work must go on, of course. Follow the six-foot rule as much as possible. Spread out whether in church, shopping, waiting on a line or eating somewhere.

And pray.

Pray alone and pray together. Use the prayers you know. The rosary, novenas, the Liturgy of the Hours. Make your home a little church. Make sure the cross is visible in a prominent place. If you have a statue or a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, or Mary or Joseph, light a candle in front of it. Invite the Holy Family into your home. And get out the Bible. Read it slowly. Especially the Gospels. Let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart through the Word of God. He wrote the Scriptures after all and wants to console your heart. Share with one another what you are hearing. This is a tried and true method of prayer called *lectio divina*, used by so many saints. And, don't forget, these are the challenges of which saints are made, and you are called to be one!

It's Lent. So, fasting and abstaining a little goes with the season. Conserving our resources. Offering up our desires and fears and putting them in the hands of God, trusting that with our faith in the mercy of God, we will get through this together, even stronger as a family of faith.

No one is under the usual Sunday obligation in our Diocese of Buffalo to go to Mass publicly anywhere until further notice, though Masses will continue and can be participated in via internet live-streaming. A full list can be found at www.buffalodiocese.org/livestreams. It is important to take this to heart and encourage others to be conscientious here, especially anyone not feeling well, or with health conditions or even if you are just over 60. Stay home. Use your TV, computer or phone. Watch the news, but not too

From the Apostolic Administrator

By
BISHOP EDWARD B. SCHARFENBERGER

much. Don't have the TV on all the time. Quiet is very important.

Throughout our diocese, we are working together to find safe places for those who do not have family connections or a place to call home. We continue to watch as we receive advice and direction from public health authorities on where to go for testing and care, if and when you are not feeling well. We will keep you posted at buffalodiocese.org/coronavirus, on our diocesan social media platforms, and through local TV, newspapers and radio, and our own *Western New York Catholic* newspaper and website: wnycatholic.org.

If you feel you want to assist in relief efforts for those who do not have a home, shelter or emergency care, and if you have the means to do so, there is an easy, safe, online way of giving on the Catholic Charities of Western New York website: www.ccwny.org/.

If you yourself experience an urgent need, there is help for you on that website as well at www.ccwny.org/services.

It feels a little like we are in a snowstorm, an invisible-but-present blizzard, where it is not safe to go outside, at least not without protection and certainly not unless you absolutely have to. We will all be safe at home! Much safer than outside. And God is with us. Jesus passes even through walls and locked doors, or even the various kinds of masks we might need to wear to defend ourselves from diseases and other harmful invaders. God's breath is pure and healing.

Receive the breath and blessing of the Holy Spirit of God, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lovingly in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev. Edward B. Scharfenberger
Apostolic Administrator

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The COVID-19 pandemic has forced people to attend Mass from thier homes.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

April 10, 2020 for the May issue.

Coronavirus hits diocese on heels of Chapter 11 filing

BY PATRICK J. BUECHI
Staff Reporter

The Diocese of Buffalo has been hit with a one-two punch. Just after filing Chapter 11 reorganization, the Coronavirus hit the country. Already the St. Patrick's Day Parade has been cancelled. The University at Buffalo has moved classes online. Non-medical personal will not be allowed to visit nursing homes. Shea's has shut down productions. The NHL season has been suspended. Even the Shrine Circus has left town.

As of this printing, 137 people in Western New York has been diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus. The diocese began taking precautions Friday, March 13, when the Chancery released new guidelines for Mass during the pandemic in association with guidelines and directives of New York state and Erie County. "We all must be vigilant in doing all that is possible to participate in efforts to minimize and prevent the spread of the coronavirus, especially among older adults and those most vulnerable," said the statement.

Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger temporarily dispensed the Catholic faithful from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days during the coronavirus threat. Days later, suspended all regularly scheduled Masses in the Diocese of Buffalo. Parish events and celebrations, including confirmations and Lenten penance services, will be postponed.

This, along with a general advisory to stay home and avoid meetings in groups of more than 10, have thrown Western New York into a spin not seen since the Blizzard of '77.

The last weekend of regular Masses, March 14-15, saw people heeding the warnings and practicing social distance.

"We have seven weekend Masses, I'd say four of them (usually) come around to 1,000 people a piece. The others are a little smaller, maybe 500, 700," said Father Leon Biernat, pastor of St. Gregory the Great Parish in Williamsville, the largest parish in the diocese of Buffalo. "On average,



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Parishioners at Our Lady of Pompeii practice social distancing before the Diocese suspended all Masses due to the Coronavirus.

we probably had anywhere between 175 to 250 people at each Mass (over the weekend)."

Parishes have been instructing parishioners to follow the diocesan guidelines that ask people to not shake hands at the sign of peace, suspended the chalice for everyone, and advise people to receive Body of Christ by hand.

"We did have hand sanitizer out. For the church itself, we had a routine cleaning. We did bring in a company to sanitize the school over the weekend," said Father Biernat. "At the end of the Masses I celebrate, I reminded the people 'Follow what you learned in kindergarten. Wash your hands.' Basic hygiene things. Sometimes we don't follow these basic things, and we really got to be cautious."

Father Dennis J.J. Mancuso, pastor of three Allegany County parishes, had been taking precautions before hearing from the Chancery. He had hand sanitizers at the door and in the sanctuary, and had all priests and eucharistic ministers sanitize their hands before distributing Communion. Even greetings at the front door took place without physical contact.

These precautions are designed to keep the parishioners healthy,

but what effect will it have on the parishes? Fewer people in church means fewer envelopes in the collection basket.

"At all of the liturgies it was a diminished attendance. In fact, a parish that usually did about \$1,700 only brought in \$500 this week. So, there is a loss in collection. And it's going to get worse during the time that we're closed. The longer that goes on the more constraints that are going to be put on parishes to keep functioning," said Father Mancuso.

Father Mancuso sent out a letter to his parishioners asking to please continue to send in donations to help pay the bills. The parishes will rely on savings, and will look at other avenues to make up for lost collections.

St. John the Baptist Parish in Alden has taken a three-pronged approach to dealing with the everchanging social norms in the age of pandemic. First, the parish keeps in touch with its flock by mailing out the parish bulletin. It is an added expense, but it helps keep the 1,500 parishioners connected.

"We felt we needed to give everybody an opportunity to know what's going on," explained Deborah Brown, pastoral administrator. "It's on the website, but people like their

bulletins. In it we will be very clear about what we're doing and why we're doing it, and that your parish continues to be your parish, so please support us with your prayers and continued financial contributions and know that we're praying and working for you."

Secondly, the parish is using Facebook to feed people spiritually.

"We're going to have Words of Wisdom and we're going to encourage people every day to participate in a blog. We'll put the daily Gospel reading up. We'll invite the parish to reflect on the Gospel and how they're living it to have a spiritual connection," said Brown.

Thirdly, the staff is in talks about how to celebrate Easter. They hope to livestream Masses during the Paschal Triduum. The parish doesn't stream Masses yet, but are beginning to set up the necessary devices.

"We're gearing up to make Easter the high holy day that it is and still honor the fact that people need to stay home," Brown said.

With all diocesan schools closed until April 20, St. John's School is using technology already in place to assign and collect work for students, so they can keep up with their education and spirituality every day.

Where the coronavirus has created a truly unique situation in the Buffalo Diocese, the Chapter 11 announcement on Feb. 28 seems to have had little effect.

"I think that was a non-issue because of the fact that Bishop Scharfenberger has been saying that this is necessary and this had been in the press for so long. Everybody was waiting for the shoe to fall. So, it was a non-issue by the time it happened," said Father Mancuso, who is on the College of Consultors, the diocesan body that voted on the decision to file Chapter 11.

Father Biernat agrees that it hasn't changed Mass attendance in his parish.

"I can't say that I did. I only received one note of displeasure. I'm wording it very politely," he laughed.

St. John's underwent some struggles two years ago when

See Effects on page 5

Catholic Charities Workforce and Education Program switches to distance learning and distributes care packages to students

Challenging times call for creative methods. In response to the COVID-19 health crisis, Catholic Charities' Department of Workforce and Education transitioned its high school equivalency preparatory classes to distance learning, as on-site classes were suspended.

To gear up for the change, Catholic Charities' educators assembled and delivered distance learning packets to each student, along with a care package of food and resources week of March 15.

Tote bags donated by the City of Buffalo were filled with fresh and canned food from Catholic Charities' food pantries, school supplies, a weekly tutoring schedule, a list of Catholic Charities' food pantries and the Buffalo Public Schools' free meal distribution list.

"It is essential that our students continue their studies during this unprecedented time of school closure," said Jeffrey Conrad, director of Catholic Charities Department of Workforce and Education. "Many of our students also rely on Catholic Charities for services beyond the classroom, and we will continue to connect them with those available services in our community."

Current students can access learning materials through Catholic Charities' website at ccwny.org/TASC. Individuals interested in enrolling in Catholic Charities' high school equivalency preparatory classes, remedial assistance, or employment assistance, or college/vocation training can submit a referral form at that same web address.

"We will continue to update our materials and capabilities, including making our educators available to them remotely, to ensure our students have multiple ways to learn and prepare so they can achieve their educational and professional goals," Conrad said, noting that the department is collaborating with numerous partners to ensure students' needs are met. "While the approach is a little different right now, our commitment to our students' success is still top priority."

In addition to many of its Workforce and



COURTESY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities' Department of Workforce and Education staff assembled and delivered distance learning packets to each student, along with a care package of food and resources. The department transitioned its high school equivalency preparatory classes to distance learning, as on-site classes were suspended.

Education services, Catholic Charities is still operating and meeting the needs of our community through its nine food pantries, basic needs assistance, counseling, WIC, and substance abuse treatment, and other programs. In keeping with local and state mandates, the agency has transitioned much of its workforce to working remotely, with employees contacting clients by phone where possible.

"It is critical now that Catholic Charities remains a consistent system of support for our neighbors in our community, so we are continuing to serve our clients in as many programs and ways as we possibly can," said Deacon Steve Schumer,

president and chief executive officer of Catholic Charities. "At the same time, we are following all directives from state and local officials, with increased sanitizing protocols to keep our clients, volunteers and employees safe. We want the community to know that we are here for them and ready to answer their call."

The home page of the agency's website, ccwny.org, is updated daily or more often with program and service changes.

For more information about Catholic Charities, contact the agency at 716-218-1400 or go to ccwny.org. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Effects are financial and spiritual for the churches and parishioners

From page 4

Brown began serving as pastoral administrator, and the parish stopped having a full-time priest available. The same month that Brown was on the cover of the Western New York Catholic, the parish made the cover of The Buffalo News with a story of clergy abuse.

"A lot of angst and

disappointment with the diocese really happened then. We've healed and we're trying to move on as a parish," Brown said. "I don't think that (Chapter 11) was an impact on our parish like those two other things were."

Thinking of the effects of Coronavirus, Brown said, "It's a financial impact. It's a spiritual

impact. This is real. This is going to change a lot of things. To some extent, maybe it will help us in making us recognize what is important to us. Chapter 11 can do the same thing. I'm not saying they're good things, but they're helping us reorder our thinking. That is exactly what Lent is about. How ironic that we are spending Lent giving

up things, living simpler, doing all the Lenten disciplines. This can spiritually help us grow if we let it."

Questions still arise about contributions to the parish collection and Catholic Charities. See www.buffalodiocese.org for more information on Chapter 11, or call the toll-free diocesan question line at 1-833-302-0061.

COVID-19 forces attendance at Mass via a live stream

By **PATRICK MCPARTLAND**
Managing Editor

The spread of the Covid-19 virus has caused disruption of daily life throughout the nation. Large gatherings of people are not allowed in order to slow the spread of the virus. This includes attendance at Mass. Since people cannot attend physically, parishes have turned to technology to bring the faithful together. Some parishes have turned to live streaming their Sunday Mass via the internet.

Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, apostolic administrator for the Diocese of Buffalo, granted a dispensation from attending Mass on March 13. In a statement the bishop offered the dispensation to all Catholics of the Diocese of Buffalo from attending Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation during the ongoing threat of the Covid-19 spread.

Several parishes already had streaming capabilities and the Office of Communications worked with them to share their capabilities with the larger diocese.

The diocesan webpage compiled a list of parishes who could stream. This list of parishes was shared on the diocesan home page and social media.

Social Media Coordinator Nicole Dzimira set up the web link. "We set up a live stream list on March 13 in preparation for when the Coronavirus would be getting worse," said Dzimira. "It was set up initially as an alternative for people who felt uncomfortable going to Mass so that they can still participate from home."

Over the next few weeks staying home became everybody's new reality.

"I only found a handful of parishes that were proactive with live streaming already, but slowly more parishes reached out to be included as they tried their hand in streaming," said Dzimira.

Some parishes use social media sites like Facebook and Instagram to live stream.

"We've also included other alternatives like television and radio, or other national streaming websites for those who don't use social media," said Dzimira.

Overall the response was positive on social media. "People are still sharing the links to the live streams," said Dzimira.

Michael and Katte Ruzala watched the live Mass and posted how they celebrated together. The couple was taking extra precautions to avoid any virus because they are expecting a baby in April.

"Obviously it would have been nice to be there," said Kate Ruzala.

The couple had a cross and candle and followed all the same gestures that would occur during Mass. "It made it a little more normal," said Michael Ruzala.

"The Covid-19 virus has caused great stress and anxiety to many and affected countless lives and families in regards to their health. As well as to employment, education, church practice and so much more," said Father Sebastian Pierro, pastor of



In this screen capture, Father Sebastian Pierro, pastor of St. Amelia Parish, walks past empty pews as he begins Mass via live stream due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Several churches in the diocese offered live streaming Masses after Bishop Edward Scharfenberger gave the faithful dispensation from Mass attendance in order to quell the spread of the virus.

St. Amelia Parish in Tonawanda, during his Sunday morning streaming Mass.

Father Pierro said the live stream will allow him and Father Peter Santandreu to offer a "spiritual communion, so that Christ may come spiritually into your hearts."

Saying Mass to an empty church did take some getting used to.

"There was nobody in the pews. It was an unusual experience," said Father Leon Biernat, pastor of St. Gregory the Great Parish in Williamsville.

Father Biernat has adjusted. He now looks into the camera rather than looking into the empty church.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Husband and wife; David and Diane Weigel, parishioners at Our Lady of Pompeii stream the weekly Mass using a live editing station and multiple cameras.

"I focus on that and think about the people who are watching," he said.

While Father Pierro called for everyone to stay safe and to weather the social isolation, he did not shy away from parish needs. Namely the weekly donations the parish receives every Sunday.

St. Amelia's is not alone. Parishes throughout the diocese have lost their fundraising abilities. Bingo and events designed to raise funds have had to be canceled or postponed due to the pandemic.

"All I ask as your pastor, is for everyone to do what they can," Father Pierro said, asking his parishioners to mail in their weekly donations. The parish is also working on setting up a way for people to give online.

"I'm asking everyone to do their best and to consider mailing in their weekly or monthly contribution so that the ministry of St. Amelia can continue," he said.

Father Biernat echoed Father Pierro's sentiments. "This is a time that I ask that you really try to be as generous as you can," said Father Biernat.

"My prayer for all of us is that we all work together sharing our gifts, talents, treasures and embrace the call of God. To help and care for each other daily," said Father Pierro.

"As we face this crisis together I ask God's blessings upon all of us so that strengthened, renewed and blessed we may do what we can to continue to share the faith, to live the gospel and build up Christ together in all we do."

"God does not abandon his people," said Father Biernat.

Pope Francis: As humanity trembles from Covid-19 pandemic across the world, let us unite in prayer

BY COURTNEY MARES
Catholic News Agency

VATICAN CITY - Pope Francis has asked Christians around the world to unite in praying the Our Father prayer at noon on March 25 in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

"In these days of trial, while humanity trembles at the threat of the pandemic, I would like to propose to all Christians to unite their voices to heaven," Pope Francis said March 22.

"I invite ... the leaders of all Christian communities, together with all Christians of various confessions, to invoke the Most High, Almighty God, while simultaneously reciting the prayer that Jesus Our Lord has taught us," he said following the Angelus prayer.

March 25 is the Solemnity of the Annunciation, the date "when many Christians remember the Archangel Gabriel's announcement to the Virgin Mary of the Incarnation of the Word," the pope said.

"May the Lord hear the unanimous prayer of all his disciples who are preparing to celebrate the victory of the Risen Christ," he said.

More than 311,900 people have contracted COVID-19 as of March 22, according to Johns Hopkins University. The respiratory disease, which originated in Wuhan, China, has spread to 157 countries, and has led to the deaths of 13,407 people worldwide.

Pope Francis announced on Sunday that he will also preside over a moment of prayer with Eucharistic Adoration in an empty St. Peter's Square on Friday, March 27 at 6pm in Rome in which he will give the Urbi et Orbi blessing, usually reserved for Christmas, Easter, or other special occasions.

He invited all Catholics to participate spiritually through the media and noted that all who join in this prayer will have the possibility of receiving a plenary indulgence if they meet the obligations laid out in the decree issued March 20.

The Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary has granted a plenary indulgence for people who pray for an end to the pandemic, healing for the sick, and the eternal repose of the dead. Plenary indulgences, which remit all temporal punishment due to sin, must be accompanied by full detachment from sin.

In this case, the person must also fulfill the ordinary conditions of an indulgence, which are sacramental confession, reception of the Eucharist, and prayer for the intentions of the pope, by having the will to satisfy the



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Pope Francis looks out at an empty St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. Large gatherings of people have been discouraged in an effort to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

conditions as soon as possible for them.

To receive the indulgence, a person may offer at least a half hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament or a half hour of prayer with scripture, or the recitation of the rosary or chaplet of divine mercy "to implore from the Almighty God an end to the epidemic, relief for those who are suffering, and eternal salvation of those whom the Lord has called to himself."

"We want to respond to the pandemic of the virus with the universality of prayer, compassion, tenderness. Let us stay united," Pope Francis said in his Angelus broadcast on March 22.

Reminding people to pray for the lonely, the elderly, doctors, nurses, and health care workers, the pope said it is also important to pray for government authorities and the police, who are trying to maintain order.

Pope Francis said he would like all Catholics to take time to meditate on Sunday's Gospel reading from chapter nine of the Gospel of John.

"At the heart of the liturgy of this fourth

Sunday of Lent is the theme of light. The Gospel tells the episode of the blind man from birth, to whom Jesus gives the sight. This miraculous sign is the confirmation of Jesus's claim about himself: 'I am the light of the world,' the light that illuminates our darkness," Pope Francis said.

The beggar's healing is a metaphor for the liberation from sin that Christ offers, he explained.

"Sin is like a dark veil that covers our face and prevents us from seeing ourselves and the world clearly. The forgiveness of the Lord removes this veil of shadow and darkness, and gives us new light. The Lent that we are living is an opportune and precious time to approach the Lord, asking for his mercy, in the different forms that Mother Church offers us," Francis said.

"Most Holy Mary, help us to imitate the blind man of the Gospel, so that we can be flooded with the light of Christ and walk with him on the path of salvation," Pope Francis prayed.

How to stay quarantined, stay married, and keep your friends under the policy of social distancing and isolation

BY PERRY WEST
Catholic News Agency

DENVER - The policy of social distancing means that the newly-homebound are seeing less of coworkers than they did just weeks ago. They're seeing fewer friends too. But they might be seeing a lot more of their family, or their roommates. And that isn't easy.

For some, especially those who live alone, social distancing can bring with it a sense of isolation and loneliness. But for those who live with family or roommates, staying home means spending a lot of time together. After a few days of fun, being "alone together," all the time, can become difficult.

Neither living alone nor with other people is easy in a time of great stress, Dr. Christina Lynch told CNA. But there are ways to build and maintain healthy relationships during the coronavirus pandemic.

A supervising psychologist at Denver's St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, Lynch offered CNA a few suggestions for maintaining friendships, and family relationships, under quarantine, "shelter in place" orders, or social distancing policies.

Lynch suggests accepting that losing control is a difficult feeling.

"When we can't be in control, we become agitated. This is part of our survival mechanism that God gave us so that we do whatever it

takes to survive. Unfortunately, [through] the negative[ty] of social media and the internet, it's made us so attached to the world and to what others think and to comparing ourselves that we think we have to always be busy," she said.

It is difficult to be restricted to a house, Lynch said. It is difficult not to be busy. To address that, she emphasized the importance of building a routine, especially one that includes prayer, and recreation.

Lynch emphasizes that the "family is the first Church," and suggests households - families or roommates- set daily routines of prayer, which might include Bible studies, morning and night prayers, or daily rosaries. She encouraged Catholics to bless each other with holy water, and to set up a prayer corner with statues and pictures of the saints.

"A prayer sets the tone for the whole day," she said.

Quoting an old adage, Lynch said it's true that "the family that prays together stays together."

"Ask each member each day what they need prayers for, so you can start a tradition of writing down on a piece of paper each family member's prayer intention."

Families and roommates should also be proactive about building an atmosphere of healthy communication, where thoughts and feelings have a safe place to be shared, she said.

People need to be sensitive to one another, especially during this anxious time, and foster a positive environment, Lynch added.

"Reframe thoughts and feelings of anxiety to how you can do good for others," she said.

"Communicate with each other. This is really important when you live together in close quarters, especially when you can't escape from each other. So you need to set up a place and a time to actually share your feelings and thoughts, and process them out loud," she said.

"If there's a dispute, start with something positive about that person or about what they do. Then mention [about] the behavior, how that behavior has affected you or the household or the family. But, don't accuse, don't be accusatory or blaming about anything. It's good to be constructive in that communication."

Lynch added that shared recreational activities can have a positive effect on the mood of everyone during a period that feels like confinement. She suggested board games, making collages, or watching movies together.

"Use board games, cards or even invent a board game," she further added. "This is a great thing to use our creativity that God intended and to start doing things for good."

Lynch offered a few suggestions for people living alone during

the quarantine. She emphasized the importance of maintaining a schedule that involves exercise, community, and prayer.

She also suggested keeping a journal, and keeping in daily contact with friends or relatives.

"If you live alone, it's very important to make sure you have connections with others if you can't every day. So whether you set up a schedule with a friend or a family member to FaceTime or just talk to them on the phone. Maybe each day pick two people that you'd like to talk to and make a phone call to them, [or] ask your family to check in with you," she said.

"Why not write some letters to your friends and your family? You could write emails too. Start making the connection with those we've lost connections with, possibly, or with people we still have connections with."

The global pandemic is difficult, Lynch said. But she said that looking for opportunities to be grateful will help keep relationships stable, and help quell a sense of anxiety.

"Be grateful for your blessings. Have each member of the household write a list of what they're grateful for each day. It can even be the same things as days go on, because it'll start to really connect the positive neurons in your brain where you will begin to start to think positively first before you think negatively," she said.

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Jesus is Everything

This past January as part of the celebration for National Day of Prayer for the African-American and African Family, Father Jim Goode, OFM, founder of this day in 1989, shared with us a reflection by Therese Wilson. I would like to share the reflection with all of you as a meditation as we finish our Lenten season and go into the Easter season. We together are working through this coronavirus crisis, so in the midst of all the chaos in our world we have to be reminded that Jesus is everything. We may not see it at this moment but we have to be constantly reminded and we have to remind others, because knowing this allows us to be lifted up through every single day and every single moment.

Jesus is everything: If you and yours feel like raging waters are trying to drown you and uncertainty is surrounding you, hold on, look at what Jesus did for the woman at the well (John 4:4-42). She turned a new page in her life and received life-giving waters from Jesus. Jesus

is who He is, promising that, My Father never stops working, and so I keep working too (John 5:17). Maybe you and yours were disrespected by somebody who was trying to downsize you all the way down to the ground. Hold on, look at what Jesus did for the blind man who called out for mercy to Jesus despite the disciples' efforts to shut him up and shut him down (Mark 10:46-50). Once the man was blind and now he sees. Jesus is who He always is. Jesus promises, My Father never stops working, and so I keep working too (John 5:17). Perhaps you or yours are experiencing a collision in your body, in need of a passport to renewed health. Hold on, look at what Jesus did for the paralyzed man unable to move (Mark 2:1-12). People tried to block his blessing to get close to the Lord. Jesus always sees where you are standing or lying. Jesus is a rescuer and a healer. People today are standing up on their own two feet because Jesus is a healer. Won't Jesus work it out?

By
MILAGROS RAMOS
Director



Jesus is who He always is. Our Lord promises, my Father never stops working, and so I keep working too (John 5:17).

Here's the deal. Whatever season you or yours are going through, always remember that Jesus continues to say, "My Father never stops working, and so I keep working too" (John 5:17). This promise defines who Jesus is, who Jesus always will be and how He works for you. Jesus is the savior of the world. Jesus is the way out of no way. Jesus is the healer and miracle worker. Jesus is the teacher and the rescuer. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus is the door to spiritual life. Jesus is the light of the

world. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Jesus is the True Vine. Jesus is the Bread of Life. Jesus Is Everything! Remember this as Jesus becomes your everything. God is writing your story, don't take the pen out of His hand. And make your next chapter in your story, the best chapter because Jesus is Everything!

With everything that is going on I have to have faith in this and know that God has this. God is in control as always and he is working on it. May the Lord give us the strength to hang on during this time of crisis, know that we will get through this and do what we can do best by serving those who may need us during this time. You are the hands of Christ here. Call the elderly, help them, check up on them so they aren't so lonely. Call our love ones who are in the nursing home especially if they are not allowed visitors. There is so much we can do.

The Cultural Diversity Celebration 2020 has been postponed.

Jesús lo es todo?

El pasado enero como parte de la celebración del Día Nacional de Oración por los Afroamericanos y la familia Africanas. Por la familia Afroamericana y Africana? El p. Jim Goode, fundador de OFM de este día en 1989, compartió con nosotros una reflexión de Therese Wilson. Me gustaría compartir la reflexión con todos ustedes como meditación mientras terminamos nuestra temporada de Cuaresma y entramos en la temporada de Pascua. Estamos todos juntos en medio de esta crisis de coronavirus, así que en medio de todo el caos en nuestro mundo, debemos recordar que Jesús es todo, aunque no lo podemos ver en este momento, pero debemos de recordar constantemente y debemos recordarle a los demás, porque sabiendo esto, podemos ser elevados cada día y cada momento.

Jesús lo es Todo: si usted y los suyos sienten que las aguas furiosas están tratando de ahogarle y la incertidumbre los rodea, esperen,

miren lo que Jesús hizo por la mujer en el pozo (Juan 4: 4-42). Dio vuelta una nueva página en su vida y recibió aguas vivificantes de Jesús. Jesús es quien es, prometiendo que mi Padre nunca deja de trabajar, por eso yo sigo trabajando también (Juan 5:17). Tal vez usted y los suyos fueron faltados el respeto por alguien que estaba tratando de reducirlo hasta el suelo. Espera, mira lo que Jesús hizo por el ciego que clamó misericordia a Jesús a pesar de los esfuerzos de los discípulos por callarlo (Marcos 10: 46-50). Una vez que el hombre estaba ciego y ahora ve. Jesús nunca cambia. Jesús promete: Mi Padre nunca deja de trabajar, y yo sigo trabajando también (Juan 5:17). Quizás usted o los suyos están experimentando una colisión en su cuerpo, que necesitan un pasaporte para renovar su salud. Espere; Mire lo que hizo Jesús por el hombre parálítico incapaz de moverse (Marcos 2: 1-12). La gente trató de bloquear su bendición para

acercarse al Señor. Jesús siempre ve dónde estás parado o acostado. Jesús es un salvador y un sanador. Hay personas hoy que están parados con sus propios pies porque Jesús es un sanador. ¡No creen que Jesús lo resolverá! Jesús es quien siempre es. Nuestro Señor prometió, mi Padre nunca deja de trabajar, y yo sigo trabajando también (Juan 5:17). Aquí está el trato, sea cual sea la temporada en la que usted o los suyos estén pasando, recuerde siempre que Jesús continúa diciendo: Mi Padre nunca deja de trabajar, y por eso sigo trabajando también (Juan 5:17). Esta promesa define quién es Jesús, quién será Jesús para siempre y cómo Jesús trabaja para ti... Jesús es el Salvador del mundo. Jesús es la salida de donde no hay ninguna salida. Jesús es el sanador y hacedor de milagros. Jesús es el maestro y el salvador. Jesús es el camino, la verdad y la vida. Jesús es la puerta a la vida espiritual. Jesús es la Luz del Mundo. Jesús es el Buen Pastor. Jesús es la

vid verdadera. Jesús es el pan de vida. ¡Jesús es todo! Recuerda esto cuando Jesús se convierta en tu todo. Dios está escribiendo tu historia, no le quites el bolígrafo de la mano. ¡Y haga de su próximo capítulo en su historia, el mejor capítulo porque Jesús lo es todo!

Con todo lo que está sucediendo, tengo que tener fe en esto y saber que Dios tiene esto. Dios tiene el control como siempre y está trabajando en ello. Que el Señor nos dé la fuerza para resistir durante este tiempo de crisis, sepa que lo superaremos y haremos lo que podamos hacer mejor al servicio de aquellos que puedan necesitarnos durante este tiempo. Ustedes son las manos de Cristo aquí. Llame a los ancianos, ayúdelos, vigíelos para que no estén tan solos, llame a sus seres queridos en el hogar de ancianos, especialmente si no se les permite visitas. Hay tanto que podemos hacer.

La celebración de Diversidad Cultural 2020 ha sido pospuesta.

The cross: birthing the community of disciples

In 2002, I gave a presentation on Mary in the Gospels. During the discussion, one person remarked that she had heard that the blood and water coming from the side of Jesus on the cross in John 19:34 was a birthing image – the amniotic fluid and blood involved in human birthing. Since I was unaware of this interpretation, I began researching and found it referred to here and there in modern scholars' writings and that early church writers, such as St. Ambrose, had written on this. A full presentation is now found in a 2011 writing of Sister Barbara Reid, OP.

What is satisfying about her work is that she traces the birthing imagery throughout John's gospel. She also points out the use of birthing imagery in relation to God's efforts to call forth a renewed Israel: "For a long time I have kept silent; I have said nothing, holding myself back. Now I cry out like a woman in labor, gasping and panting" (Isaiah



Pondering with God's Word

BY
SR. MARION
MOESER

42:14).

For John's gospel, this brief reflection only refers to four passages. From the prologue, 1:3, describing the pre-existent Word of God, Jesus, one reads: "All things came to be through Him, and without Him nothing came to be." Sister Barbara notes that the Greek verb translated as "came to be" also means "came into being through birth."

The story of Nicodemus questioning Jesus at night (3:1-15) contains Jesus' words: "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above/again." Nicodemus replied: "How can a person once grown old be born

again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?" Jesus answered: "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit." The Greek word, *anōthen*, can be translated as "again" or "from above." Clearly Nicodemus thinks "again" while Jesus intends "from above." "From above" is reinforced by the conclusion to the story with Jesus' comment that "the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life," a reference to the cross (see also 12: 32-33).

In his farewell speech to the disciples during the Last Supper, Jesus describes their fear for his coming passion thus: "When a woman is in labor, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world, so you also are now in anguish" (16:21).

At Jesus' crucifixion, Chapter 19, John notes the presence of Jesus' mother and the beloved disciple. Jesus said to his mother: "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her unto his own." After Jesus said "It is finished," he bowed his head and handed over the spirit." There follows the piercing of Jesus' side by a soldier, "and immediately blood and water flowed out" (34). Jesus' mother and the beloved disciple, standing there, represent the new community brought forth by Jesus, comprised of blood family and faith family, born of water and the Spirit. Nicodemus soon appears to help Joseph of Arimathea bury Jesus (39).

Much can be said of the birthing image used of Jesus on the cross, not the least being that the unique experience of a woman giving birth is used in the Bible of God and Jesus. Can we not say that women image God, image Jesus?

The self-emptying love of God

There is a beautiful passage in Scripture about the self-emptying love of God, most clearly seen in Jesus Christ. In Philippians 2:7, we read, "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness." This month, as we contemplate the mysteries of salvation, it is most appropriate for us to consider the depth of God's self-emptying love as we gaze on the crucifix.

In Christian theology, this self-emptying love of God is called *kenosis*, and reveals the nature of God's activity. The word *kenosis* is a Greek word which attempts to get at what Jesus gave up in his divine nature in order to assume human nature. In Christ, God literally poured himself out for sinful humanity.

Kenosis is the opposite of clinging or holding on tightly to something or someone and



Called to Abundant Life

BY
SR. JOANNE
SURANNI

connotes a total letting go on the part of Jesus. In his living and dying, Jesus let go without resistance. He did not cling to his own human life, importance, prestige, material things or a particular relationship. Instead he abandoned all of this in total trust of God the Father for love of all whom He would indwell in every time and place.

As we journey through Holy Week, we are invited by God to walk more closely with Christ, and to make the journey to Calvary and beyond with our Lord. We are

invited into this self-emptying love to abandon ourselves to the Father with Jesus. As He speaks his last words from the cross, "I thirst," and "Father forgive them," Jesus invites us to let go of all that keeps us from His loving embrace.

In the Letter to the Philippians, St. Paul also says, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (Phil 2:5). This is to say we too are invited to *kenosis*, a self-emptying that leads to purification and transcendence.

If we are to be of the same mind and heart as Jesus, we need to let go. This is not easy for us in our aggressive western culture which likes to hang on, be safe and look for security in almost everything except our personal relationship with God.

As Lent draws to a close, it is worthwhile to consider if our penances, prayers, fasting and

almsgiving have led us to self-emptying love. Through the disciplines of Lent, Our Lord bids us to let go and perhaps to be less full of ourselves.

The paradox of living the Gospel is that if we truly want to live abundantly, true joy is not found in achievements, but rather in being transformed through the emptiness that leads to being filled with the presence of God.

In our contemplation of the cross, and the brutal death that Jesus died as the ransom for sin, let us ponder the love of God which is so great that it abandoned itself to our hands. With great humility and with open hands let us receive that love, a love that heals and transforms, a love that so great and so merciful. As we await His glorious Resurrection, let us remember that emptiness leads to fullness.

Jesus' radical Easter politics

A few years ago, an article was published in *Time* magazine by Christopher Hale, who at the time was the executive director at Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good and the co-founder of Millennial. The title of the article was "Jesus' Radical Easter Politics." The full article is still available online at time.com/4271474/jesus-radical-easter-politics/.

Certainly, the title of the article caught my attention, but the content of what Hale said was even more striking. His basic premise was that "Easter is about a call to rise up and proclaim a community that will outlive all kingdoms: a community where the poor are blessed, enemies are loved, strangers are welcomed, prisoners are set free and where death is no more."

He goes on to point out that in Peter's first sermon to the crowds after the resurrection, he announces that not only was Jesus raised from the dead, but that God has made him "Lord and Messiah"

(Acts 2:36). This is no ordinary claim, and, in fact, it flies in the face of the Roman assertion that Caesar was the Lord, not Jesus. Peter's claim was no less than a claim of treason, and he eventually paid the price for it by being crucified in Rome.

In fact, there is a rather radical phrase at the end of John's Gospel as well. When Jesus appears the second time to the Apostles after his resurrection, and Thomas is with them, Jesus shows him his wounds, and Thomas claims, "My Lord and My God." In Latin this would have been "Dominus et Deus" – exactly the way that Caesar was supposed to be addressed. Thomas makes a claim that it is Jesus who is the Lord of his life, not Imperial Rome.

As we approach the feast and season of Easter, and a little later come up to the feast of Pentecost, the "birth of the Church," it is good for us to remember how radical our belief is in Jesus as Lord. It is especially important, I think, as we find ourselves in the midst of what



Justice Perspective

BY
DEACON DON
WEIGEL

promises to be a contentious and vitriolic election year.

We should review what the U.S. bishops teach about "Faithful Citizenship." More on that in a later column. But for now, it might serve us well to remember that we are to be Catholic Christians first, and democrats or republicans after. In fact, we should remember that we are Catholics first and Americans second. We are committed to using our faith to shape our politics, not the other way around.

That means that we must always put those values that Jesus commanded of us first: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, love our enemies, forgive those who trespass against

us ... in other words, to espouse the values of God's Kingdom, and to work to see them as a part of our culture and laws.

This is nothing short of a "revolution" in the sense that it will take a definite "turning around" – it will mean establishing a Culture of Life over a culture of death, of seeing the face of Christ in all those who are vulnerable and on the margins of society.

As Christopher Hale points out, "To bring about this Easter revolution, Christians can't begin with political parties and ideologies and coat them with Jesus messaging. Instead, we must start with Jesus: the tortured, crucified, murdered and then resurrected Lord who disrupts all earthly kingdoms and all political agendas."

Let us all proclaim this Easter that "Jesus is Lord!" and live it in our politics as well as our churches.

Deacon Don Weigel is the Diocesan Director of Catholic Relief Services and can be reached at deacondon@gmail.com.

New administrators and parochial vicars assigned

Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger has made the following appointments.

Deacon Michael C. Lemieux was the temporary administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Dunkirk, effective Feb. 28. He has been serving as permanent deacon at St. Joseph Parish in Fredonia since his 2001 ordination.

Father Joseph A. Walter, pastor of St. Anthony and St.

Joseph parishes in Fredonia, began serving as the priest moderator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, on Feb. 28. Has been pastor of St. Anthony and St. Joseph since 2016. Ordained in 1998 to the Order of St. Benedict, Father Walter was incardinated into the Buffalo Diocese in 2012. He served as pastor of St. Dominic Parish in Westfield from 2008-2016, using his

religious name Rev. Marius Walter, OSB.

Father Cole T. Webster has been appointed temporary administrator of St. Peter Parish, Lewiston. Father Webster has been serving as parochial vicar of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Cheektowaga since his 2016 ordination.

Father Thomas M. Mahoney has been appointed administrator

of Infant of Prague Parish, Cheektowaga. Since his 2015 ordination, Father Mahoney has serves as parochial vicar of St. Gregory the Great Parish in Williamsville and administrator of St. Peter Parish in Lewiston.

Both Father Webster's and Father Mahoney's assignments were effective March 17..

Father Aaron Kulczyk began serving as parochial

vicar at Holy Family Parish in Albion, on March 20. He has previous served as parochial vicar at St. Gabriel Parish in Elma. Meanwhile, Holy Family's former parochial vicar, Father Patryk G. Sobczyk, replaced Father Kulczyk at St. Gabriel Parish in Elma. Both men were ordained in 2019. The assignments became effective March 20, for a term of two years.



Father Thomas Mahoney



Father Cole Webster



Father Aaron Kulczyk



Father Patryk Sobczyk



Father Joseph Walter

Teens examine their role in the larger Church, rewarded for their effort

By Patrick J. Buechi

Staff Reporter

A staple of the annual Diocesan Youth Convention is the presenting of the Manus Christi Awards. Meaning Hands of Christ, the award recognizes teens who do the work of Jesus on earth.

Manus Christi nominations are based on the young person's personal relationship to Jesus and the Church, outstanding moral character, activities in youth ministry, academic success and involvement in their school, along with leadership roles in their parish or diocese. These dedicated teenagers serve as peer ministers, pastoral council members, altar servers and music ministers.

What motivates these teens to serve the Church?

"I think everyone has this innate drive to do good," answered Thomas Kloasny from St. Mary Parish in Arcade. "I think for many people they have trouble finding that. It's taken me a long time to figure out myself and I realized I want to do good. I want to help other people."

Kloasny, 17, manages meetings as a leader of the Wyoming County Association of Catholic Youth, affectionately known as WACY, to make sure things run smoothly. He's able to use the leadership skills he gained by attending the Christian Leadership Institute.

Abbey Beres, is generous with her time at Our Lady or the Sacred Heart Parish in Orchard Park. The 17-year-old serves as a lector and helps the younger parishioners in the Kids for Christ Club youth group.

"I'm a lector at my church. I'm part of our youth group. I help out with our younger youth group. I sometimes help with Religion and I help out with their Christmas play."

She also regularly takes part in large group gatherings such as the National Catholic Youth Conference. This is her fourth convention.

"I do it because of the love I have for Christ and the love I feel when I am surrounded with youth my age. When He's here, it's like a warm hug that welcomes you," she said.

Watching the nine teens receive

their certificates from Kathryn Goller, director of the diocesan Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and Father Peter Karlus, vicar general of the diocese, was a highlight of this year's convention for Corinne Lapp, who has become motivated to follow their lead in service to the Church.

"The award recipients are so inspiring to me because it shows how faithful God is and how He lives through teenagers our age. You know, what can a teenager do? You'll see all these accomplishments that these people have being teachers, lectors, altar servers. It definitely inspired me to follow in their footsteps," she said. "It's amazing to see how someone with faith can use it to such a great extent. It is absolutely inspiring and riveting."

Already on Youth Board, Lapp plans to continue to teach religion and altar serve at St. Joseph University Parish, Buffalo, as she works toward her own Manus Christi Award.

During a small group meeting just after the awards were presented, some teens considered the power that they had through their energy, creativity and strength even though they still had to get their drivers' licenses.

"If all the teens shared their faith it would really help reenergize the Church, because it really is going through a bit of a hard time right now. All the energy that the teens can bring to the table really could help bring our Church back," said Joseph Bowers from Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Silver Creek.

He uses his energy through service – as an altar server and hopes to be a lector and eucharistic minister after confirmation. "I attend religious ed classes weekly. I try to bring energy through different discussions I bring to the table," he said.

In the middle of a weekend convention full of talks, projects and prayers for young people and by young people, the annual Diocesan Youth Convention offered a time of intergenerational sharing, so adults could learn what is really going on in

the hearts and minds of teens today.

One struggle the teens seem to have is being able to display their love for the Catholic faith with their friends and classmates. Jack Moffat always carries a rosary in his backpack, and is quick to show it to people and explain the value of his faith.

"It just seems like everybody should know that we are here for a reason and we're all going to end up in an amazing place with the creator of the universe. Which is amazing," he said.

Moffat served as one of four MC's for the weekend convention. He has also served as an ambassador at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis and as a counselor at a Christian camp. Those outlets allow him to share his love of God with others.

"Doing all that and letting people know (about God) is just amazing," he explained. "So, getting the chance to tell other people about my faith and letting them know that if you do this and you continue on with this journey and you walk with Christ, then you'll be able to be in an amazing place with him is just an amazing idea."

Moffat was able to talk one friend into coming to this year's convention. Other teens find it difficult to be as open with their peers.

Marissa Crowe finds herself defending her faith to her friends.

"A lot of my friends, I feel, tend to undermine my faith and how it makes me feel and how it connects me to my community and how it uplifts me. They always tend to make jokes and keep going after I ask them to stop," she explained. "It hurts my feeling that they would attack something that is so personal to me and is so personal to my life. I will never tire of defending my faith, but I wish I didn't have to all the time."

Many people base their knowledge on the Catholic Church by what they hear on the news rather than first-hand experience. When all that is talked about is the negative aspects, that's all they know.

"Because they're coming with this preconceived notion it kind of limits

their mindset and they're not coming with an open mind," she said.

The young lady holds her relationship with Jesus close because that relationship helped her through a dark period of depression.

"At my lowest point, I didn't know where to turn. I just said I need some help," she explained. "I wasn't praying at that point in my life, but I had gone to a national convention in 2017, with 25,000 Catholic teens in adoration and complete silence. In that moment I felt God and I felt I didn't need to hate myself, and that I could let God heal me and just save me and guide me through my life."

Sister Judy Beiswagner, OSF, director of Faith Formation for Immaculate Conception, sees a vast difference from the world the teens of today live compared to how she grew up.

"I think they are experiencing a lot more pressure about being Catholic," she said. "I grew up with a Catholic neighborhood, a Catholic school. These kids don't have those role models that we had when we were younger. It's a whole different culture with a lack of religion that they're growing up in."

she would like to see more peer support, as well as support from adults.

"They need more and more role models for today. We, as adults, need to be there for them, we need to listen, and we need to journey with them," she said.

Manus Christi Awardees

Abigail Beres – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Orchard Park

Claire Boyle – St. George, West Falls

Jakob Carney – St. Andrew, Sloan

Diega Ciarolo – St. Vincent de Paul, Niagara Falls

Isabella Giannicchi – St. Mary of the Lake, Hamburg

Kelly Gullo – Holy Trinity, Dunkirk

Thomas Kolasny – St. Mary, Arcade

Rachel O'Neal – St. Aloysius, Springville

Nathaniel Ploetz – St. John the Baptist, West Valley

Youth Convention kicks off with message of 'Christ is alive'

BY PATRICK J. BUECHI
Staff Reporter

"When I say Christ, you say Lives."
"Christ!"
"Lives!"

With that the 68th annual diocesan Youth Convention kicked off, seeing hundreds of teenagers gather at the Buffalo Grand Hotel for a weekend of faith, fun and friendship.

"Christ is alive. He is our hope and in a wonderful way, He brings youth to our world and everything He touches becomes young, new, full of life," said Madalyn Cardillo, one of four MC's for the weekend event. That phrase comes from Pope Francis's, "Christus Vivit," the first apostolic exhortation written directly to the youth of the Catholic Church.

"This is the best time in history to be a young Catholic, when all of the attention is on what our gifts, our energy, our faithfulness can bring to the world," she added.

"Christus Vivit" or "Christ is Alive" served as this year's theme.

During the convention's opening session on Feb. 28, Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger, apostolic administrator of the diocese, bolted to the stage to welcome the teens.

"This is where are future lies. (You are) not just the future, but you are the present," he said. "You are the foundation of the Church."

Bishop Scharfenberger told those gathered that he comes from a strong Catholic family and had a good

education. He thought God would be mad if he didn't abide by Church teaching. While studying Canon Law in his 30s, he wondered why he put himself through all stress of higher education. A friend said it was because God loved him.

"That struck my heart. That really is true," the bishop said. "I can say that to you with great conviction. When you know and believe God loves you, it drives out all fear. You don't have to worry about what anybody else thinks. You don't have to worry about what other names somebody calls you or labels you with. They don't know you. Only God knows you."

The bishop went on to address the crisis of faith many teens have after confirmation.

"Sometimes we pray and we wonder if anybody is listening. That's OK. Many of the greatest saints had that same experience as well," he continued. "Sometimes God takes time to answer our prayers because he wants us to be ready to really hear the answer he wants to give us."

He also explained that one does not have to be perfect to have a relationship with God, who was known for seeking out sinners.

The bishop summarized John 4:1-40, the parable of the woman in the well who sought out love through bad relationships. Jesus is the first one who can tell her what love really means.

"There's something for us to learn in all of that. Can you believe that Jesus thirsts for your love? That He wants your love? A lot of time we feel we need to find God, but Jesus is telling us that God is searching
See Today's youth page 14

Why I served, why I stopped, and why I serve again

BY CORINNE LAPP
St. Joseph University, Buffalo



As a girl, I was always mesmerized as I watched the altar servers begin Mass. My dad would hoist me up on his shoulder as I watched them travel by. I knew that I would become an altar server too. So the day when the sign

up sheet landed on my desk during religion class, I was the first to sign up. I could not wait to walk down the aisles with a candle and sit on the altar with the priest and deacon. I can still vividly remember my first Mass as an altar server. I had gotten a new haircut and stood at 4 foot 4. My fellow altar server was a senior named Christian who stood at 6 foot 2. I was so nervous, but he helped me through the Mass. When the Mass came to a close, I was surrounded by family and friends congratulating me on my new accomplishment.

But when I began middle school, I lost the child-like joy I felt when I served each Sunday. I lost my love toward God. I felt that God did not love me. Therefore, my stubborn self decided that He did not deserve my love back. I began to dread going to Mass with my family. It felt more like a burden. I would pretend to be sick to try to convince my parents not to bring me. It was not until my little brother, Nathan, began to serve that I changed my mind. I wanted to be a role model for him, so I put my best foot forward and continued to serve. And that was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I began to befriend my fellow altar servers and became closer with the people who attended my Mass. For the first time in a long time, I looked forward to Mass.

As a person who is naturally fidgety, I found altar serving to be a way I could pay attention in church and still move around. I started to pay attention to the readings and homilies and dove deeper into the teachings of God. I began to pray at night and even joined a Bible study at school. Altar serving has brought me great things and accomplishments, such as the Bishop Altar Server Award in 2017, the Christian Leadership Institute, and the diocesan Youth Board. Most importantly, however, it rejuvenated my love of God.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Keynote speaker Katie Prejean McGrady speaks at the Diocesan Youth Convention about the power that a young person has in today's church.

Today's youth needs to be the hands and feet of Christ

From page 13
for us," the bishop said. "This is a wonderful opportunity to allow the Lord to finally have His thirst satisfied, to actually say, 'Lord, I'm not going to hold back my heart from you. I'm not going to be afraid, because I know you love me, and I'm going to let You into my heart.'"

Kathryn Goller, director of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, asked the young Church to pray for Bishop Scharfenberger and all priests present.

"They do a good job of praying for us, but sometimes it's important for us, the flock, to remember that our shepherds need prayers too," she said.

On the morning of Feb. 29, Katie Prejean McCrady, a Catholic speaker and author, shared a story of surprise with the teens who gathered from across the Diocese of Buffalo at the Buffalo Grand Hotel.

Shortly after the birth of her daughter, McCrady was invited her to attend the 2018 Synod on Young People conducted in Rome. This role

allowed her to offer her input in to Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, "Christus Vivit." It also offered her and her fellow attendees a private Mass with the pope.

A very organized effort got the guests in the chapel where the pope celebrates Mass each morning. Much to their surprise, Pope Francis showed up early and was able to shake hands with them. McCrady saw him being "so casual and human" that she decided to take a selfie. She showed the conventioners the shot she took. On the family mantle sits an official photo of McCrady with her head turned away from the pope taking that selfie.

Pope Francis spoke his guests about clericalism, human trafficking and prayer.

"He said something that I have not forgotten. After nearly two years, this quote keeps me up at night. I think it's one of the most profound things we can contemplate as young people," McCrady explained. "Pope Francis has gone so far as to say youth is not

an age it is a mindset. It's an attitude. It's an approach to how we live. The only way that your old is if you become like a museum where you always have a readymade answer and you don't actually listen to people. The way that you stay young is that you engage in conversation."

The pope said, "If you are not present, then a part of the access to God is missing."

"If you are not here in our Church, and not just sitting in a pew going through the motions of sit, stand, kneel, move your hands funny, say what you need to say, walk out," McCrady continued. "But, if you are not here, fully present, sharing ideas and you vigor and your talents and your insights and your gifts. If you are not there, then we as Church miss out and we are unable to encounter God in new ways because you, the youth of our Church is hiding."

A 2018 Barna Poll found 14 percent of Generation Z identify as atheist. Sixty percent of Gen Z say they cannot be themselves at Church. McCrady wants the Church to work with teens to learn how to work with teens.

"We want you to ask those big questions. We want you to tell us what you are confused about. We want you to tell us what you want now. We long for the young person who doesn't sit idly by with their arms crossed. When you are here and you are fully present, we all gain something," she said.

Jesus didn't die to save us so we could sit at home and complain on Twitter. The Church needs young people today to be the hands and feet of Christ.

"He saved us so we can see how valuable and good we are. He saved us so we could be in heaven with Him some day. The only way you and I are going to give people the access to God is if we are present, we show up and we share what we know, which is that everyone of us is needed, wanted, valuable and precious. Every single one of us has a role and a purpose and mission in His life. That every single one of us is not here by accident, is not a mistake, is not a screw up, but is purposeful and a thought in the eternal mind of God," McCrady said. "The Church of Buffalo will not be the Church of Buffalo without you."



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No regularly scheduled Masses until further notice.
Confessions by appointment.

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 19, 2020

St. Pius X Church, 1700 N. French Road, Getzville



Confessions: 1:30 p.m.
Rosary: 2:00 p.m.
Chaplet of Divine Mercy: 2:45 p.m.
Mass: 3:00 p.m.
Prayers for Healing: immediately after Mass

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy begins on Good Friday as a Novena and should be recited daily, from then until Divine Mercy Sunday. On that day the depths of His Mercy will be open to all.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)

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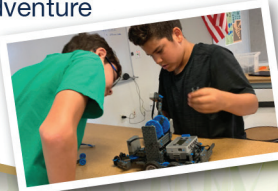
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Catholic mass is offered 6 days a week at multiple campus locations. The sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick, as well as pastoral visits are available as needed. We also offer programs throughout the year to discuss life transitions and for faith enrichment. Call Renee Villa, Campus Director of Spiritual Care, at 716-759-6985 Ext. 315 for additional information on Spiritual Care at the Brothers of Mercy.

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WELLNESS CAMPUS

Russell J. Salvatore donates gift to the Brothers of Mercy

CLARENCE — Russell J. Salvatore makes a fourth major gift to the Brothers of Mercy, tipping the scales well over \$700,000 in gifts to the organization. Salvatore's latest gift is a fully equipped wheelchair van, which will serve over 1,000 patients and residents of the Brothers of Mercy Wellness Campus, and assist with the transport of incoming patients from local area hospitals.

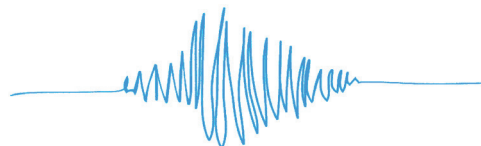
The generosity of Salvatore has been a blessing to the Brothers of Mercy Campus for the past four years, and the order is grateful for his continued support. Nancy Gugino, executive director of the Brothers of Mercy Foundation, stated, "For the past few years, the Brother of Mercy has been in desperate need of a wheelchair van for transporting residents. At a recent meeting, I mentioned this to Mr. Salvatore. Not missing a beat, he said: 'You need a wheelchair van, Nancy? I'll take care of it!'"

Salvatore's first gift outfitted the Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center with TV's. His second major gift assisted with the building of the brand new Russell J. Salvatore Outpatient Rehab Clinic at the Brothers of Mercy. This clinic currently treats a full case load serving the entire Western New York community for those needing physical, occupational and speech therapies.



COURTESY OF THE BROTHERS OF MERCY

Peter Eimer (left to right), CEO, Brothers of Mercy Rehabilitation Center, Russell J. Salvatore and Nancy Gugino, executive director of the Brothers of Mercy Foundation work together to select the best van.



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Tonawanda-native Bishop Gregory Hartmayer becomes seventh archbishop of Atlanta

Buffalo-born Bishop Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv., has been named the seventh archbishop of Atlanta. Pope Francis made the decree on March 5. The installation will be held May 6 at St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church, Roswell, Ga. He succeeds Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, who was named archbishop of Washington, D.C., in May 2019.

Bishop Hartmayer was born Nov. 21, 1951, in Buffalo and raised in Tonawanda, where his family attended St. Amelia Parish. He has two brothers C. Douglas and John, and one sister Mary Jo Kotacka.

After graduating from Cardinal O'Hara High School in Tonawanda, the future bishop joined the Conventual Franciscan Friars at the novitiate of St. Joseph Cupertino in Ellicott City, Md., in 1969. He professed simple vows

on Aug. 15, 1970, and solemn vows exactly three years later. He attended St. Hyacinth College and Seminary in Granby, Mass., receiving a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1974. He received a master's degree in theology from St. Anthony-on-Hudson Seminary in Rensselaer in 1979, as well as a master's in pastoral counseling from Emmanuel College in Boston in 1980 and a master's in education in secondary Catholic school administration from Boston College in 1992.

Bishop Howard Hubbard ordained him a priest in May 5, 1979, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany.

He spent half his priesthood in education and half in parish ministry. He served as principal of Cardinal O'Hara High School from 1988-89, and principal of

St. Francis High School in Athol Springs from 1989-1994, as well as teacher, faculty member and pastor in various schools in Georgia, Florida and Maryland.

In July 2011, Pope Benedict XVI named Father Hartmayer as the 14th bishop of Savannah, Ga. making him only the second Franciscan to be named an ordinary in the United States in the past 100 years.

During the eight years as bishop of Savannah, two parochial schools were rebuilt, three new churches were built, a new parish was created, and a new parochial high school was created in Albany. Archbishop Hartmayer was instrumental in welcoming Franciscan Friars, Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles of Jesus and seminarians from Nigeria and Ghana, West

Africa, Poland, Mexico and Colombia.

As a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the archbishop served on the committee overseeing the distribution of financial support to the Catholic dioceses in Eastern Europe, was the representative of Region 14 to the Administrative Committee and the Committee for Priorities and Plans. He serves as a member of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., as chairman of the sub-committee of National Collections for Communication and is a member of the Governing Committee of the National Catholic Education Association.

Established in 1956, the Archdiocese of Atlanta currently serves 1.2 million Catholics in 207 parishes and missions.

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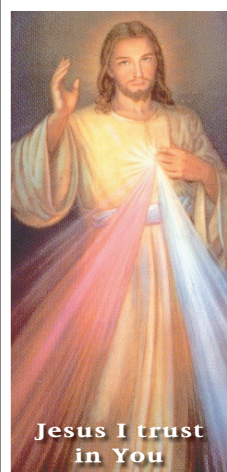
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Day 2 Holy Saturday
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Day 4 Monday
4/13/20 7:00 pm
Day 5 Tuesday
4/14/20 7:00 pm
Day 6 Wednesday
4/15/20 7:00 pm
Day 7 Thursday
4/16/20 6-7:00 pm
Confession
Day 8 Friday
4/17/20 7:00 pm
Day 9 Saturday
4/18/20 2 pm

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2020

Rosary: 2:15 pm Chaplet: 2:45 pm Mass: 3:00 pm
Celebrant: Fr. Luke P. Uebler
Organist: Sue Loniewski
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* No Confession on Divine Mercy Sunday
* To receive your indulgence for the Novena you can go to confession 1 week prior OR 1 week after the Novena has been said.

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www.stleothegreatamherst.com/about-st-leo-the-great/live-feed/
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St. Gregory the Great
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St. Martha Parish
www.stmarthadepew.org/About-Us/Livestream
Daily 8:15am, Saturday 8:15am & 4:30pm and Sunday 9:00am, 11:30am, 7:00am

Our Lady of Pompeii
www.youtube.com/channel/UC3E-wkgwlnn8yAfLPKQqLpsQ?disable_polymer=true
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SS. Columba-Brigid
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July 15	Grand River Luncheon Cruise/Blaz. Fiddles
July 22	Presley/Perkins/Cash/Lewis - Walters Ranch/lunch
August 3	History of Country Music - Walters Ranch/lunch
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Oct. 20-26	Memphis/Graceland/Nashville/Grand Ole Opry
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Batavia	Mass (first Sunday of month)	WBTA-AM (1490)	Sunday	10:30am
	American Catholic Radio	WLOF-FM (101.7)	Sunday	1:30pm
	Bajo el Manto de Maria	WLOF-FM (101.7)	Sunday	4:00pm
	The Daily Mass from St. Joseph Cathedral	WLOF-FM (101.7)	Mon-Fri	9:00pm
	Father Justin Rosary Hour www.rosaryhour.net	WLOF-FM (101.7)	Sunday	7:00am
		CIAO-AM (530)	Saturday	8:00pm
		WXRL-AM (1300)	Sunday	3:00pm
	Mass at St. Stanislaus	WLOF-FM (101.7)	Sunday	Noon
	Mercy Times with Amy Betros	WLOF-FM (101.7)	Saturday	2:00pm
Buffalo	The Ukrainian Catholic Hour	WJLL-AM (1440)	Sunday	2:00pm
Dunkirk	Mass from Holy Trinity Church	WDOE-AM (1410)	Sunday	8:30am
Hornell	Marian Hour Radio Rosary	WLEA-AM (1480)	Sunday	7:00am
Jamestown	Catholic News and Views	WJTN-AM (1240)	Sunday	7:40am
Wellsville	Crossroads	WLSV-AM (790)	Sunday	9:00am
	Lift Your Heart	WLSV-AM (790)	Sunday	10:00am
WLOF-FM (101.7) Catholic programming 24 hours a day				



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Adoration

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

Arcade — Adoration is held at St. Mary Parish, 417 West Main St., Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 585-492-5330

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

Buffalo — SS. Columba-Brigid Parish, 75 Hickory St., offers Eucharistic adoration every First Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Kenmore — Eucharis-

tic adoration is held in the St. John Neumann Chapel at St. John the Baptist Parish, Englewood and Belmont Avenue, Monday through Friday, 2 to 4 p.m.; Holy Hour Fridays, 1 to 2 p.m.; Holy Hour Sundays, 3 to 4 p.m.

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

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

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

North Tonawanda — Our Lady of Czestochowa, 57 Center Ave, North Tonawanda 14120, every Tuesday From 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Adoration Room, in the Ministry Center.

Orchard Park — Eucharistic adoration

takes place at Nativity of Our Lord Church, 43 Argyle Place, 24/7. 716-998-0593 or 716-662-9339.

Orchard Park — St. Bernadette Church, 5930 South Abbott Road, offers 24/7 Eucharistic adoration. Entry code needed after 3 p.m. Everyone welcome. 716-649-3090.

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

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

Tonawanda — Night of Two Hearts, all night adoration, honoring the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, takes place at St. Amelia

Church, 2999 Eggert Road, from 8 p.m. each First Friday of the month to 8 a.m. Saturday.

Tonawanda — Blessed Sacrament Church in the Town of Tonawanda, at 263 Claremont Ave., offers Eucharistic adoration in the Divine Mercy Chapel every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. until 6:10 p.m., followed by a Mass. 716-834-4282.

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

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

Charismatic Prayer Meeting

Buffalo/Black Rock — A Charismatic prayer meeting, Prayer and Praise, will take place in the church hall at Assumption Parish, 435 Amherst St., (use the

Peter Street entrance) every Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Healing Mass

Boston — St. John the Baptist, 6895 Boston Cross Road, monthly Healing Mass, second Wednesday at 7 p.m. 716-941-3549.

Pilgrimages

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Sister Rosina Amicon, OSF

Sister Rosina Amicon, who served as a teacher and home health care aide, died March 2, 2020, in Columbus, Ohio. She was 90.

The former Jeannette Amicon was born to Rocco and Rose (Iacobucci) Amicon, on Feb. 17, 1930, in Columbus.

A graduate of St. Aloysius Academy, New Lexington, Ohio, she entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity on Sept. 25, 1948, at Stella Niagara. She professed her first vows Aug. 17, 1951, then her perpetual vows Aug. 18, 1954, at Stella Niagara.

She would earn as bachelor's degree in education from Rosary Hill (now Daemen) College, Amherst, in 1964.

Sister Rosina began her teaching ministry at Stella Niagara Elementary School in 1951. She went on to teach at Our Lady of the Rosary School, Buffalo; St. Peter School,



Lewiston; St. Anthony School, Greenville, S.C.; St. Joachim School, Buffalo; St. Leo School, Columbus; St. John School, Columbus; St. Aloysius Academy, New Lexington, Ohio; St. Mary School, New Monmouth,

N.J. In 1975, she became a nurse's aide, serving at Stella Niagara Health Center, before returning to teaching at Stella Niagara Education Park.

From 1986-1990, Sister served as latchkey director at St. Catharine School, Columbus, then became a trained home care aide for Olsten's Health Care Service until her retirement in 2005.

Sister Rosina is predeceased by her parents and siblings: Lillian Guyton, Billy Amicon, Irene Flaherty, Rosemary Amicon and Anne Corna.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Leo Church in Columbus, on March 6, with burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Lockbourne, Ohio.

Sister Barbara J. Joseph, OSF

Sister Barbara J. Joseph, who joined the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany later in life, died March 7, 2020, at St. Joseph Hospital, Tampa, Fla. She was 74.

The daughter of William and Helen Marie Craig Joseph was born on March 26, 1945, in Warren, Ohio. She attended Youngstown University, where she majored in Elementary Education.

Sister Barbara entered the order on Aug. 13, 1989, and professed her final religious vows on Sept. 19, 1998. For 31 years, Sister Barbara lived her commitment to Franciscan values through her ministry and life in community.

While she was a postulant, Sister Barbara worked as a bookkeeper for the Archdiocese of New York. After her novitiate, she ministered at St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia, then did retreat ministry at the Franciscan Center in Tampa and social ministry at Daystar in St. Petersburg and in Gulfport, Fla.

Sister Barbara was a talented writer and took some time to



devote to her writing. She was the editor of Allegany Connections and did editorial work for the booklets published by Allegany Art.

While living at St. Elizabeth Convent in Tampa, Sister Barbara volunteered at Metropolitan Ministries until

her health kept her from continuing to serve those who are poor for whom she had a special place in her heart.

Sister Barbara was predeceased by her parents; brothers William and David; and sister, Helen Hess. She is survived by her brother Paul.

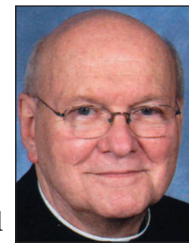
A funeral Mass was celebrated March 13 at the Motherhouse Chapel. Burial will be at a later date.

**Father Donald L. Measer**

Father Donald L. Measer, known for his work in campus ministry, died March 9, 2020. He was 88 years old.

Born Sept. 21, 1931, in Buffalo, he attended Blessed Trinity School and Bennett High School, both in Buffalo. He went on to attend the Diocesan Preparatory Seminary and then Our Lady of the Angels Seminary at Niagara University and St. John Vianney Seminary in East Aurora.

Bishop Leo Smith ordained Father Measer on March 9, 1963, at St. Joseph's New Cathedral in Buffalo. He went on to serve in the Missionary Apostolate at Holy Family, Machias. Then he served as assistant at Mother of Divine Grace, Cheektowaga, and Our Lady of Lourdes, Buffalo, while also serving as the chaplain of Bryant & Stratton Business Institute. Father Measer became chaplain of the Newman Club at Fredonia State Teachers College in 1976, then became campus minister of Daemen College, Amherst in 1981.



In July 1984, he began his only pastorate at St. Lawrence, Buffalo, retiring for health reasons April 1992.

He is predeceased by his parents, Stephen and Hazel (Fortkort) Measer, and a sister, Mary Schwert.

A funeral Mass was held March 12 at St. Amelia Church, celebrated by Bishop Edward M. Grosz.





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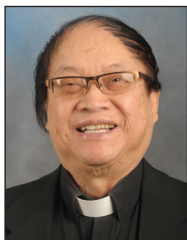
OBITUARIES

Father Andrew Tu Minh Nguyen

Father Andrew Tu Minh Nguyen, who has served the Vietnamese Community of Western New York since 2001, died March 3, 2020. He was 75.

Born May 2, 1944, in the Hung-Yen Province of Vietnam, Father Nguyen attended St. Joseph Seminary in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) and was ordained April 29, 1969.

Originally serving in Saigon, he came to Buffalo from the Diocese of



Arlington, Va. He began serving as chaplain for the Vietnamese community in 2001. In 2003, he was appointed administrator of Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Buffalo. Three years later, he was named pastor.

Father Nguyen was incardinated into the Diocese of Buffalo on July 29, 2009. He retired in 2014.

He is predeceased by his parents, Tuyen and Tao Nguyen.

A funeral Mass was celebrated on

March 5, at 10 a.m. at Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, 348 Dewitt

St., Buffalo. Burial took place at Holy Cross Cemetery, Culver City, Calif.

Sister Thomas Rose Redling, OSF

Sister Thomas Rose Redling died March 13, 2020, at St. Elizabeth Motherhouse, Allegany, having spent 76 years as a Franciscan Sister of Allegany.

Born Margaret Marie Redling on May 6, 1923, to Michael and Rose (Czernalabics) Redling, she attended Corpus Christi Elementary School in Mineola and Mineola High School. She went on to attend St. Elizabeth Teacher College in Allegany, receiving a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from St. Bonaventure University. Sister continued her studies at St. Bonaventure University and Malloy College in New York City to attain her advance certification in History.

Sister Thomas Rose entered the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, on Sept. 8, 1944, and professed her final religious vows on Aug. 16, 1952.

Sister began her ministry in the field of education in congregational schools in New York, New Jersey and Florida,



teaching mainly middle school grades. She served as principal and superior at Corpus Christi, Miami. In 1982, Sister became a parish ministry trainee for the sick and elderly at Espiritu Santo Parish in Safety Harbor, Fla. Later, she served as the

receptionist in the Pastoral Care Department at St. Joseph Hospital, Tampa, Fla. She continued her ministry in health care until she retired in 2007. Sister was warmly welcomed home to St. Elizabeth Motherhouse, Allegany in 2012.

Sister Thomas Rose was predeceased by her parents, four brothers – Joseph, Michael, John and Walter Redling; four sisters – Mary Regelmann, Theresa Abbondondelo, Rose Ciascio and Ann Ruis.

A wake service was held March 17, at 6:30 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Motherhouse Chapel. A funeral Mass was celebrated March 18, at 10 a.m. in the chapel. Burial followed in St. Bonaventure Cemetery.

Sister Charlotte Reilley, OSF

Sister Charlotte Reilley, OSF, who served for 77 years sharing in the life and mission of the Allegany Franciscan congregation, died March 14, 2020, at St. Elizabeth Motherhouse, Allegany.

Born Garneita Marie Reilley on Dec. 17, 1924, in Cortland, to Leo and Donalda (Corl) Reilley, Sister Charlotte attended Homer Central School and graduated from St. Mary High School, Lancaster. She attended St. Elizabeth Teacher College in Allegany, receiving a bachelor of science degree in Elementary Education from St. Bonaventure University. Sister also took graduate courses at Cortland State University.

Sister Charlotte entered the Franciscan congregation, on Feb. 2, 1943, and professed her final religious vows on Aug. 16, 1950. Sister began her ministry in the field of education in congregational schools in Virginia, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New



Jersey, Florida and New York, including teaching elementary and middle school at St. John, Olean. She was a religious education coordinator at several parishes in which she served. She was also involved in parish ministry and the choir. She later worked in the general treasury at St. Elizabeth Motherhouse.

Prior to retiring in 1995, Sister Charlotte was administrative secretary at St. Mary Hospital Convent, West Palm Beach, Fla. She was warmly welcomed home to St. Elizabeth Motherhouse, Allegany in 2013.

Sister Charlotte was predeceased by her parents and sister, Sister Natalina O'Neil, an Allegany Franciscan.

A wake service was held March 17, at 6:30 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Motherhouse Chapel. A funeral Mass was celebrated March 18, at 10 a.m. in the chapel. Burial followed in St. Bonaventure Cemetery.

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PROMISE TO PROTECT PLEDGE TO HEAL

Working Together To Create A Safe Environment For Our Children

A PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE

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

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

*Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters
who have been gravely harmed,
and the cries of those who love them.*

*Soothe their restless hearts with hope,
steady their shaken spirits with faith.*

*Grant them justice for their cause,
enlightened by your truth.*

*Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.*

*Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.*

Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.

*Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in
justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

PREVENTION MEASURES

AND
FOLLOW-UP
throughout the U.S.

**We train everyone to
prevent and report abuse.**
2,531,872 adults trained
4,117,869 children trained

We require background checks.
2,515,411 background checks
for clerics, employees
and volunteers

We report all allegations.
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require allegations of sexual abuse
to be reported to public
authorities

**We work with law
enforcement.**



PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN UPCOMING CLASSES

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

St. Leo the Great (Amherst)

May 16 at 9:00 am

Catholic Center (Buffalo)

April 7 at 12:30 pm

April 23 at 12:30 pm

May 21 at 12:30 pm

June 16 at 12:30 pm

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

Register online at:
www.buffalodiocese.org/protecting-gods-children

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

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

Contact: **Ms. Jacqueline Joy** Catholic Charities, 425 Main St., Dunkirk, NY 14048 **Report Hotline (716) 895-3010 jacqueline.joy@ccwny.org**

If you have questions about registering for Protecting God's Children workshop®, or about the Safe Environment Program, please call (716) 847-5532 or email safekids@buffalodiocese.org

This is the day the Lord has made

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple (the one that Jesus loved) and told them, "The Lord has been taken from the tomb! We don't know where they have put Him!" At that Peter and the other disciple started out on their way toward the tomb.

They were running side by side, but then the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He did not enter but bent down to peer in, and saw the wrappings lying on the ground. Presently, Simon Peter came along behind him and entered the tomb. He observed the wrappings on the ground and saw the piece of cloth which had covered the head not lying with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. (Remember, as yet they did not understand the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

—from the Gospel of Saint John



*Sacred Heart of Jesus stained glass,
Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna*

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*Crosses at Calvary Garden,
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